

The Age of Jefferson: 1800-1816

Jefferson's Presidency: overview

Louisiana Purchase

Lewis & Clark Expedition

Foreign Policies

Madison's Presidency

War of 1812





Let us then, fellow-citizens, unite with one heart and one mind. Let us restore to social intercourse that harmony and affection without which liberty and even life itself are but dreary things... But every difference of opinions is not a difference of principle. We have called by different names brethren of the same principles. We are all Republicans, we are all Federalist.

-Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address, 1801

Source: AMSCO- United States History

Jefferson's Presidency

- ⚙ Jefferson attempted to balance the desires of Federalists w/ that of Dem. Republicans
- ⚙ Neutrality w/ Britain and France carried on
- ⚙ Maintained a National Bank and Hamilton's debt repayment plan
- ⚙ Adhered to Dem. Republican's principle of less gov't
 - ⚙ Reduced size of military
 - ⚙ Repealed the excise tax
 - ⚙ Only Republicans named to his Cabinet

Louisiana Purchase

- ✧ Territory was vastly unknown, unexplored
- ✧ French able to get Louisiana territory from Spain in 1800
- ✧ Napoleon wanted to restore French Empire in America
- ✧ Napoleon's plan ran into two problems:
 - ✧ War w/ England limited his resources
 - ✧ Rebellion against French rule in Santo Domingo resulted in heavy French losses





U.S. Interest in Territory

- ⚙ Western frontier extended into Indiana territory- going beyond Ohio
- ⚙ Settlers depended on Mississippi River for commerce
- ⚙ Spanish authorities closed Port of New Orleans to Americans (1802)– Pinckney Treaty revoked
- ⚙ Jefferson feared that if foreign power controlled river at New Orleans, U.S. would be entangled in foreign affairs
- ⚙ Farmers & settlers wanted gov't action to intervene in Port debate

⚙ Negotiations for Territory:

- ⚙ Ministers sent to France to negotiate a sale of New Orleans & land extending from the port to Florida
- ⚙ Ministers were instructed to commence negotiations w/ Brits if French would not yield
- ⚙ Napoleon needed \$ for war against Britain- sold the entire territory for \$15 mill
- ⚙ Ministers accepted w/out President authority



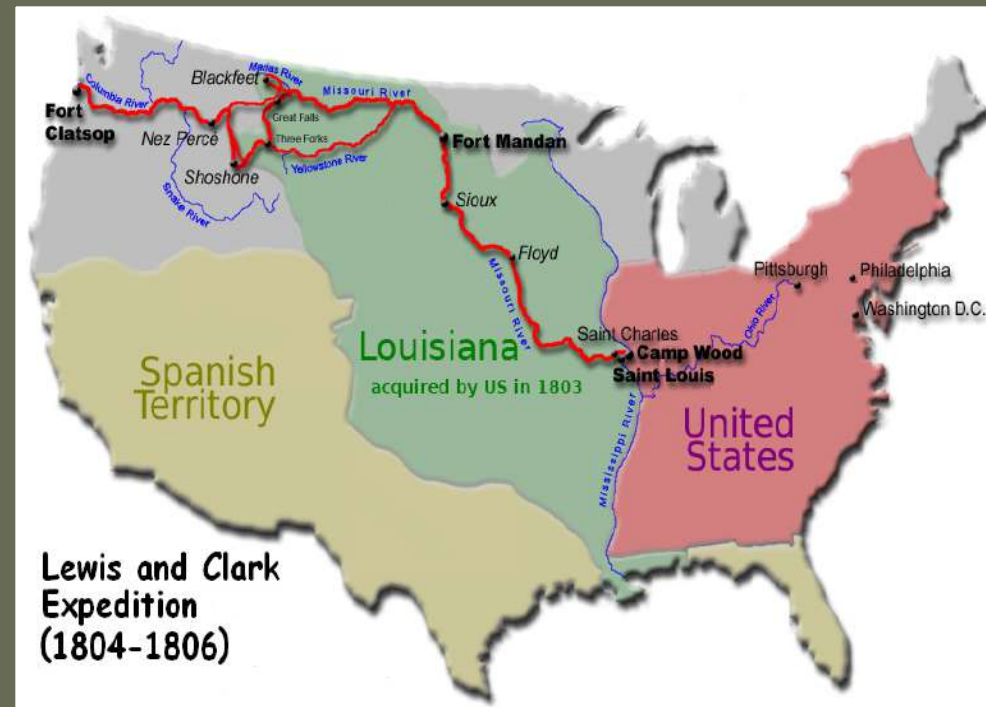
Constitutionality of Purchase

- ⚙ Jefferson argued a strict interpretation of Constitution
 - ⚙ Jefferson rejected Hamilton's argument that certain powers are implied
 - ⚙ BUT... Americans and Jefferson favored the purchase
 - ⚙ No clause in Constitution stated that President could purchase land- BUT... no clause said he couldn't
 - ⚙ Jefferson submitted the purchase to Senate: argued that the land falls into the President's ability to make treaties
- ⚙ Consequences of Purchase:
 - ⚙ Purchase more than doubled U.S. territory
 - ⚙ Removed a foreign presence from immediate borders
 - ⚙ Jefferson also hoped that land acquisition made his vision of an agrarian society more formable
 - ⚙ Strengthened the Dem. Republicans popularity
 - ⚙ Federalists were viewed as Sectional elitists (New England) w/ an unwilling resolve better the country as a whole

Lewis and Clark



- ✧ Jefferson persuaded Congress to fund a scientific expedition west of the Mississippi
- ✧ Jefferson explicitly wanted a trade route to the Pacific found
- ✧ More than that- Jefferson wanted to expand U.S. interests in that area
 - ✧ In the process, he wanted a collection of data highlighting the people (Natives), vegetation and climate of the regions being explored
- ✧ Lewis and Clark set out in 1804 (St. Louis)- set out past the Rockies, reached the Pacific on the Oregon Coast- returned in 1806



Jefferson & Foreign Policy

☼ Barbary Pirates:

- ☼ Pirates raided U.S. merchant ships along Northern African coast
- ☼ Not unique to Jefferson: Adams & Washington paid \$ to Barbary gov'ts
- ☼ The ruler of the state at Tripoli wanted more money when Jefferson became President
- ☼ Rather than pay the sum, Jefferson sent U.S. naval vessels to the area
- ☼ Fighting w/ Tripoli went on during 1801-1805
- ☼ No clear cut winner, but U.S. navy provided some protection for merchants

☼ France and Britain:

- ☼ Both countries tried to blockade American goods from their shores
- ☼ Both countries seized ships of neutral country and took the cargo
- ☼ U.S. gov't viewed Britain as the chief instigator (seeing as they ruled the oceans)

Chesapeake & Embargo

- ✧ British ship Leopard fired on U.S. ship Chesapeake (1807)
- ✧ Americans killed & other taken captive
- ✧ Anti-British sentiment ran high afterwards
- ✧ Jefferson maintained the course of peace & neutrality
- ✧ Diplomacy & economic pressure would be Jefferson's response
- ✧ Embargo Act (1807):
 - ✧ Jefferson persuaded Republican majority in Congress to pass the Embargo Act
 - ✧ American merchants prohibited from sailing to foreign ports
 - ✧ Embargo backfired- Brits traded w/ other regions of the world (primarily their empire)
 - ✧ Shipbuilders and merchants were devastated economically
 - ✧ Secession movement developed in New England states as a result of Embargo

Jefferson's Presidency

- ✧ Jefferson lifted the embargo by 1809
- ✧ Jefferson's popularity weakened as the Embargo dragged on
- ✧ Nonetheless, James Madison (Democratic-Republican) won the election of 1808
- ✧ Jefferson's presidency does not define him, nor did he see it as a great achievement in his own life
- ✧ Jefferson was a statesman, but regarded himself as a thinker, a scientist, a mathematician, an engineer, a planter, a reader
- ✧ He advocated personal liberty and freedom and believed in the fervor of opposition that existed in every man
- ✧ His actions may not have always been in concert with his writing and ideas, but the United States was built on his legacy, his words. But not necessarily his presidency
- ✧ [Ken Burns' America: Thomas Jefferson](#)