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The Triumphs and Travails of Jeffersonian Democracy, 1800–1812

PART I: Reviewing the Chapter

A. Checklist of Learning Objectives

After mastering this chapter, you should be able to

1. explain how Jefferson's moderation and compromises turned the "Revolution of 1800" into a relatively smooth transition of party control from Federalists to Republicans.
2. describe the conflicts between Federalists and Republicans over the judiciary and the important legal precedents that developed from these conflicts.
3. describe Jefferson's basic foreign-policy goals and how he attempted to achieve them.
4. analyze the causes and effects of the Louisiana Purchase.
5. describe how America became entangled against its will in the turbulent international crisis of the Napoleonic Wars.
6. describe the original intentions and actual results of Jefferson's embargo and explain why it failed.
7. explain the complex causes of the War of 1812.

B. Glossary

To build your social science vocabulary, familiarize yourself with the following terms.

1. **patronage** "Denied the power to dispense patronage, the Democratic-Republicans could not build a loyal political following."
2. **writ** A formal legal document ordering or prohibiting some act. "... his Jeffersonian rivals ... would hardly enforce a writ to deliver the commission. ..."
3. **tribunal** A court of justice of the place where it renders judgment. "... the black-robed tribunal of the Supreme Court had the last word on the question of constitutionality."
4. **impeachment** "Jefferson urged the impeachment of an arrogant and tart-tongued Supreme Court justice. ..."
5. **pacifist** Characterized by principled opposition to all war and belief in nonviolent solutions to conflict. "A challenge was thus thrown squarely into the face of Jefferson—the non-interventionist, the pacifist. ..."
6. **frigate** A fast, heavily armed warship, usually with two decks and high rigging. "The money could have been much more wisely invested in a few frigates of the Constitution class."
7. **cede** To yield or grant something, often upon request or under pressure. (Anything ceded is a *cession*.) "Napoleon Bonaparte induced the king of Spain to cede to France ... the immense trans-Mississippi region. ..."
8. **precedent** In law and government, a decision or action that establishes a sanctioned rule for determining similar cases in the future. "... the transfer established a precedent that was to be followed repeatedly. ..."

9. **sectionalist** Person devoted to the cause of a particular section of the country, as opposed to the nation as a whole. "Once-proud Federalists, now mere sectionals, sank even lower in public esteem. . . ."
10. **conscription** Compulsory enrollment of men and women into the armed forces. "Impressment . . . was a crude form of conscription. . . ."
11. **broadside** The simultaneous firing of all guns on one side of a ship. "The British warship thereupon fired three devastating broadsides. . . ."
12. **embargo** A government order prohibiting commerce in or out of a port. ". . . enacting the embargo was like cutting off one's toes to cure one's corns."

PART II: Checking Your Progress

A. True-False

Where the statement is true, mark **T**. Where it is false, mark **F**, and correct it in the space immediately below.

- ___ 1. The "Revolution of 1800" involved a radical transformation in working class power over the Federalist merchant class.
- ___ 2. An unexpected deadlock with Aaron Burr meant that Jefferson had to be elected by the House of Representatives.
- ___ 3. Jefferson and his Treasury Secretary, Gallatin, kept most Federalist financial policies—such as funding, assumption, and the Bank of the United States—in place.
- ___ 4. The Jeffersonian Republicans showed their hostility to the Federalist Supreme Court by impeaching Chief Justice John Marshall.
- ___ 5. The case of *Marbury v. Madison* established the principle that the president could appoint but not remove Supreme Court justices.
- ___ 6. Jefferson cut the United States Army to twenty-five hundred men because he believed that a large standing army was a threat to liberty and economy.
- ___ 7. Jefferson's envoys to Paris initially intended to buy only New Orleans and the immediate vicinity in order to keep the mouth of the Mississippi out of French hands.
- ___ 8. Jefferson's deepest doubt about the Louisiana Purchase was that the price of \$15 million was too high.
- ___ 9. The Lewis and Clark expedition demonstrated the viability of an overland American route to the Pacific.
- ___ 10. After 1805, American shipping was severely hurt by trade restrictions imposed by both the British and the French.
- ___ 11. The most explosive issue between Britain and the United States was the British blockade of American shipments to Europe.
- ___ 12. After the *Chesapeake* affair, Jefferson could easily have declared war on Britain with the enthusiastic support of both Federalists and Republicans.

- ___ 13. Jefferson's embargo badly hurt Federalist New England as well as southern and western farmers.
- ___ 14. New Englanders overcame the effects of the embargo by trading illicitly with Canada and developing more domestic manufacturing.
- ___ 15. The War of 1812 was caused largely by New Englanders angry over British violation of American freedom of the seas.

B. Multiple Choice

Select the best answer and write the proper letter in the space provided.

- ___ 1. The most "revolutionary" development in the critical election of 1800 was
 - a. the nasty campaign smears against Jefferson.
 - b. Jefferson's radical proposals for overturning the existing political system.
 - c. the peaceful transition of power from one political party to its opponent.
 - d. the electoral stalemate between Jefferson and his running mate, Burr.
- ___ 2. One Federalist policy that Jefferson quickly overturned was
 - a. funding and assumption.
 - b. the excise tax.
 - c. the Bank of the United States.
 - d. the protective tariff.
- ___ 3. The case of *Marbury v. Madison* established the principle that
 - a. the Supreme Court has the right to determine the constitutionality of legislation.
 - b. federal laws take precedence over state legislation.
 - c. the president has the right to appoint the federal judiciary.
 - d. federal judges cannot be impeached.
- ___ 4. Jefferson was forced to reverse his strong opposition to substantial military forces because of
 - a. growing French intervention in Santo Domingo and Louisiana.
 - b. the plunder and blackmailing of American shipping by North African states.
 - c. the threat to America posed by the British-French wars.
 - d. the political attacks by his Federalist opponents.
- ___ 5. Jefferson's greatest concern in purchasing Louisiana was
 - a. whether it was in America's interest to acquire the territory.
 - b. whether the cost was excessive for his small-government philosophy.
 - c. whether the purchase was permissible under the Constitution.
 - d. how to defend and govern the territory once it was part of the United States.
- ___ 6. The greatest political beneficiary of the Louisiana Purchase was
 - a. Thomas Jefferson.
 - b. Aaron Burr.
 - c. the Federalist party.
 - d. Napoleon.

- ___ 7. Although greatly weakened after Jefferson's election, the Federalist party's philosophy continued to have great influence through
- the propaganda efforts of Federalist agitators.
 - the Federalist control of the U.S. Senate.
 - the Federalist judicial rulings of John Marshall.
 - Federalist sympathies in the U.S. army and navy.
- ___ 8. The term "midnight judges" refers to
- Federalist judges appointed by President John Adams at the last moments of his administration.
 - federal judges who held late-night court sessions to hear controversial cases.
 - judges like William Marbury who sued to have their late-night appointment commissions confirmed.
 - states' rights judges appointed by President Jefferson immediately after his election.
- ___ 9. The Republicans' failure to impeach Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase established the principle that
- the Supreme Court had the power to declare laws unconstitutional.
 - presidents could appoint but not remove federal justices.
 - impeachment should be used only for "high crimes and misdemeanors" and not as a political weapon.
 - the constitutional power of impeachment was in effect impossible to carry out.
- ___ 10. Jefferson focused his military construction policy primarily on
- building large naval frigates like the *Constitution*.
 - building several hundred small gunboats.
 - building up coastal forts and defense works.
 - constructing light and medium artillery capable of use on land or sea.
- ___ 11. Which of the following was *not* among the consequences of the Louisiana Purchase?
- the geographical and scientific discoveries of the Lewis and Clark expedition
 - a weakening of the power of the presidency in foreign affairs
 - preservation of a neutralist foreign policy and avoidance of conflict with France
 - growth in national unity and decline of the Federalist party
- ___ 12. Jefferson's Embargo Act provided that
- America would not trade with Britain until it ended impressment.
 - American goods could be carried only in American ships.
 - America would sell no military supplies to either warring nation, Britain or France.
 - America would prohibit all foreign trade.
- ___ 13. A crucial foreign goal for many "war hawks" in the War of 1812 was
- the restoration of trade with Britain.
 - the capture and annexation of Canada.
 - the conquest and settlement of Texas.
 - the destruction of the British navy.

- ___ 14. Besides creating a pan-Indian military alliance against white expansion, Tecumseh and the Prophet urged Native Americans to
 - a. resist white ways and revive their traditional culture.
 - b. demonstrate their legal ownership of the lands that whites were entering.
 - c. adopt the whites' culture and technology as a way of resisting their further expansion.
 - d. declare independence and form an alliance with Spain.

- ___ 15. Native American resistance east of the Mississippi River was effectively crushed in the two battles of
 - a. the Thames and Lake Erie.
 - b. Fort McHenry and New Orleans.
 - c. Tippecanoe and Horseshoe Bend
 - d. Plattsburgh and Bladensburg.

C. Identification

Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

- _____ 1. Hamiltonian economic measure repealed by Jefferson and Gallatin
- _____ 2. Action Jefferson took toward Republican "martyrs" convicted under the Federalist Sedition Law
- _____ 3. Derogatory Republican term for Federalist judges appointed at the last minute by President Adams.
- _____ 4. Precedent-setting Supreme Court case in which Marshall dismissed a Federalist judge's suit but also declared part of the Judiciary Act of 1789 unconstitutional
- _____ 5. The principle, established by Chief Justice Marshall in a famous case, that the Supreme Court can declare laws unconstitutional
- _____ 6. Action voted by the House of Representatives against Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase and feared by Chief Justice Marshall
- _____ 7. Branch of military service that Jefferson considered least threatening to liberty and most necessary to suppressing the Barbary states
- _____ 8. Sugar-rich island where Toussaint L'Ouverture's slave rebellion disrupted Napoleon's dreams of a vast New World empire
- _____ 9. Territory beyond Louisiana, along the Columbia River, explored by Lewis and Clark
- _____ 10. Price paid by the United States for the Louisiana Purchase
- _____ 11. American ship fired on by British in 1807, nearly leading to war between the two countries
- _____ 12. Jefferson's policy of forbidding the shipment of any goods in or out of the United States
- _____ 13. Militantly nationalistic western congressmen who were eager for hostilities with the Indians, Canadians, and British
- _____ 14. Battle in 1811 where General Harrison defeated the Indian warriors Tecumseh and the Prophet
- _____ 15. Derisive Federalist name for the War of 1812 that blamed it on the Republican president

D. Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|----|---|
| ___ | 1. Thomas Jefferson | A. | Former vice-president, killer of Alexander Hamilton, and plotter of mysterious secessionist schemes |
| ___ | 2. Albert Gallatin | B. | Leader of Congressional "War Hawks" who pushed for the War of 1812 |
| ___ | 3. John Marshall | C. | Swiss-born treasury secretary who disliked national debt but kept most Hamiltonian economic measures in effect |
| ___ | 4. <i>Marbury v. Madison</i> | D. | American minister to Paris who joined James Monroe in making a magnificent real estate deal |
| ___ | 5. Samuel Chase | E. | Strong believer in strict construction, weak government, and antimilitarism who was forced to modify some of his principles in office |
| ___ | 6. Pasha of Tripoli | F. | Shawnee leader who organized a major Indian confederation against U.S. expansion |
| ___ | 7. Napoleon Bonaparte | G. | Federalist Supreme Court justice impeached by the House in 1804 but acquitted by the Senate |
| ___ | 8. Robert Livingston | H. | British attack on American sailors that aroused angry demands for war |
| ___ | 9. Toussaint L'Ouverture | I. | Explorers who crossed the Louisiana Purchase territory and went on to Oregon and the Pacific coast |
| ___ | 10. Lewis and Clark | J. | Restrictive trade policy that hurt Britain but hurt American shippers and farmers even more |
| ___ | 11. Aaron Burr | K. | Ruling based on a "midnight judge" case that established the right of the Supreme Court to declare laws unconstitutional |
| ___ | 12. <i>Chesapeake</i> affair | L. | North African leader who fought an undeclared war with the United States from 1801 to 1805 |
| ___ | 13. Embargo Act of 1807 | M. | Gifted black revolutionary whose successful slave revolution indirectly led to Napoleon's sale of Louisiana |
| ___ | 14. Tecumseh | N. | French ruler who acquired Louisiana from Spain only to sell it to the United States |
| ___ | 15. Henry Clay | O. | Federalist Supreme Court justice whose brilliant legal efforts established the principle of judicial review |

E. Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

- ___ Rather than declare war after a British attack on an American ship, Jefferson imposes a ban on all American trade.
- ___ President Adams appoints a host of "midnight judges" just before leaving office, outraging Republicans.
- ___ The foreign difficulties of a French dictator lead him to offer a fabulous real estate bargain to the United States.
- ___ After four years of naval war, the Barbary state of Tripoli signs a peace treaty with the United States.
- ___ A deceitful French dictator and aggressive western Congressmen maneuver a reluctant president into a war with Britain.

F. Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause	Effect
___ 1. Jefferson's moderation and continuation of many Federalist policies	A. Provoked Federalists to charge Jefferson with unconstitutional expansionism
___ 2. Adams's appointment of "midnight judges"	B. Aroused Jeffersonian hostility to the Federalist judiciary and led to repeal of the Judiciary Act of 1801
___ 3. Marshall's ruling in <i>Marbury v. Madison</i>	C. Forced Madison to declare a policy of nonimportation that accelerated the drift toward war
___ 4. The Barbary pirates' attacks on American shipping	D. Led to an aggressive and deadly assault on the American ship <i>Chesapeake</i>
___ 5. France's acquisition of Louisiana from Spain	E. Created stability and continuity in the transition of power from one party to another
___ 6. Napoleon's foreign troubles with Britain and Santo Domingo	F. Caused Harrison's and Jackson's military ventures and contributed to the declaration of war in 1812
___ 7. The Louisiana Purchase	G. Established the principle of "judicial review" of laws by the Supreme Court
___ 8. British impressment of American sailors and anger at American harboring of British deserters	H. Made Americans eager to purchase New Orleans in order to protect their Mississippi River shipping
___ 9. French compliance with Macon's Bill No. 2	I. Led to a surprise offer to sell Louisiana to the United States for \$15 million
___ 10. Western war hawks' fervor for acquiring Canada and removing resisting Indians	J. Forced a reluctant Jefferson to send the U.S. Navy into military action

PART III: Applying What You Have Learned

1. How did Jefferson end up modifying some of his Republican beliefs in strict constructionism, limited federal government, and militarism in the face of events during his presidency?
2. How did the conflict between Federalists and Republicans over the judiciary lead to a balance of power among political interests and different branches of government?
3. What were the political and economic consequences of the Louisiana Purchase? Why is the purchase considered “Jefferson’s most glorious achievement as president” (p. 220)?
4. Why did Jefferson impose the embargo, and why did it fail?
5. What were the real causes of the War of 1812? Was the declaration of war a “mistake,” or the result of deliberate policies by new American political forces?
6. What was the significance of the Jeffersonian “Revolution of 1800” in relation to the new republican experiment and the fierce political battles of the 1790s (see Chapter 10)?