

**CHAPTER SEVEN: JEFFERSONIAN AMERICA:
AN EXPANDING EMPIRE OF LIBERTY, 1800–1824**

READING AND STUDY GUIDE

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In 1800, Republican Thomas Jefferson won the presidential election against his Federalist opponent John Adams. After nearly a decade in opposition, Republicans celebrated their presidential triumph with toasts and songs about “Jefferson and Liberty.” Federalists, however, feared that the new president—whom they had denounced as an atheist, a tool of the French, and a supporter of Thomas Paine’s radical democratic ideas—would undo all their work of the previous decade.

President Jefferson turned out to be a rather different person from Vice President Jefferson, the leader of the Republican opposition during the Adams administration. Rather than mount a full-scale attack on Federalist policy, Jefferson adopted a less confrontational approach. In his presidential inaugural, he struck a conciliatory tone and reminded Americans: “We are all republicans—we are all federalists.”

In his inaugural Jefferson also promised the nation “a wise and frugal government.” Implementing this vision of government, however, proved difficult as he took over the reigns of power in his first term of office. The opportunity to purchase the Louisiana Territory, thus doubling the size of the new nation, led him to cast aside scruples such as the idea of strict construction, which restricted the powers of the federal government to those explicitly delegated by the Constitution. By the end of Jefferson’s second term, some Americans came to believe that the Jeffersonian Republicans had become indistinguishable from their Federalist opponents. Jefferson’s anointed successor, James Madison, made compromises that some of his supporters believed amounted to a betrayal of the ideas he had championed as a member of the Republican opposition in the 1790s.

Foreign affairs proved especially vexing for both Jefferson and Madison. Each had tried to prevent American entanglement in the war raging between Britain and France. Despite their efforts, however, America was dragged into the European conflict, eventually going to war against Britain in 1812. Although the war had been fought against the British, the conspicuous losers in the conflict were the Indian tribes in the Northwest and Southwest, who lost a valuable ally in Britain and suffered military defeats by American troops. The demands of fighting the war also forced Republicans to reconsider the necessity of many aspects of Hamiltonian economic policy. By the end of the presidency of James Monroe, who became the fourth Virginian to become president, the old political labels of Republican and Federalist had become nearly meaningless, soon to be supplanted by two new political parties.

Learning Objectives

After a careful examination of Chapter 7, students should be able to do the following:

1. Explain the fundamentals of Jefferson’s stance on politics.
2. Describe the elements of Albert Gallatin’s fiscal program and contrast it with the fiscal program of Alexander Hamilton.
3. Explain the circumstances surrounding the Supreme Court case *Marbury v. Madison* and understand the historical significance of the court’s decision.
4. List the reasons why Jefferson was interested in securing the Louisiana Territory from France, and list the reasons why Napoleon was willing to part with it.
5. Outline the provisions of the Embargo Act of 1807 and explain its impact on the American economy.
6. Identify Tecumseh and the Prophet Tenkwatawa and explain their roles in the development of the pan-Indian resistance movement.

7. Identify William Henry Harrison and his role in the Battle of Tippecanoe.
8. Explain the emergence of the War Hawks and identify the leading figures within this Congressional faction.
9. Analyze the Congressional vote for war in 1812 and explain the extent to which party and region defined support or opposition for war.
10. Describe the provisions of the Treaty of Ghent of 1814.
11. List three examples of Congressional support for economic nationalism between 1816 and 1817.
12. Describe the judicial philosophy of Chief Justice John Marshall and identify three Marshall court decisions that reflected judicial nationalism.
13. Describe the foreign ministry of John Quincy Adams and identify three treaties negotiated by Adams that promoted diplomatic nationalism.
14. Identify and explain the historical significance of the Monroe Doctrine.
15. Explain the provisions of the Missouri Compromise and how it exacerbated sectionalism and institutionalized racial discrimination.
16. Explain how the election of 1824 signaled the end of the “era of good feelings.”
17. Explain how Americans were deeply divided over the War of 1812.

Key Terms & Definitions:

Louisiana Purchase The acquisition by the United States of the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803, thereby securing control of the Mississippi River and nearly doubling the size of the nation. (198)

pan-Indian resistance movement Shawnee leaders Tenskwatawa and Tecumseh’s plan to unite Indian tribes to repel white encroachments in Ohio and Indiana, thus defending indigenous lands and reasserting the traditional values of Indian culture. (200)

impressment The practice of forcing merchant seamen to serve in the British navy. (202)

Chesapeake Affair An incident in 1807 when the British ship the *Leopard* fired at an American navy ship, the *Chesapeake*. The British abducted four American sailors, whom they charged were deserters from the Royal Navy. (202)

Embargo Act of 1807 The cornerstone of Jefferson's plan of peaceable coercion that attempted to block U.S. trade with England and France to force them to respect American neutrality. (202)

War Hawks Young Republican congressmen from the South and Western regions of the country who favored Western expansion and war with Britain. (204)

War of 1812 The war fought between Britain and America over restrictions on American trade. British trade with American Indians, particularly trade in weapons, was also an issue. (204)

Hartford Convention A meeting of Federalists in Hartford, Connecticut, to protest the War of 1812. The convention proposed several constitutional amendments intended to weaken the powers of the slave states and protect New England interests. (207)

Era of Good Feelings A term that the press coined to describe the absence of bitter partisan conflict during the presidency of James Monroe. (209)

Monroe Doctrine A foreign policy statement by President Monroe declaring that the Americas were no longer open to colonization and that the United States would view any effort to reassert colonial control over independent nations in the Western Hemisphere as a threat to America. (212)

cotton gin Eli Whitney's invention for removing seeds from cotton. (212)

Panic of 1819 A downturn in the American economy in 1819 that plunged the nation into depression and economic hardship. (214)

Missouri Compromise The congressional compromise in which Missouri entered the Union as a slave state, and Maine was admitted as a free state to preserve the balance of slave and free states in Congress. The law also drew an imaginary line at 36° 30' through the Louisiana Territory. Slavery was prohibited north of this line. (215)

Denmark Vesey Uprising An alleged plot led by a free black man, Denmark Vesey, to free slaves in Charleston and kill their masters. (216)

Study Questions:

What does the image of *Mad Tom in a Rage* tell us about the meaning of the Election of 1800? (190)

What was the essence of Jefferson's vision of government? (192)

What does Monticello reveal about Thomas Jefferson's ideas and values? (193)

Is it possible to reconcile Jefferson's support for slavery with his political values? (194)

What role did honor play in the political culture of Jeffersonian America? (195)

Did Jefferson's actions as president justify his view that his election was a genuine revolution? (196)

How did John Marshall avoid a showdown with Jefferson in *Marbury v. Madison*? (197)

Was the Louisiana Purchase consistent with Jefferson's ideals? (198)

What role did Sacagawea play in the Lewis and Clark Expedition? (199)

What were the central beliefs of Handsome Lake's religious revival? (200)

Why did Jefferson target the federal judiciary and seek to limit its power? (201)

What was the policy of peaceable coercion? (202)

How did British relations with Indians in the Northwest exacerbate political tensions between American and Britain? (203)

Who were the War Hawks? (204)

Why did Westerners believe that the British were encouraging Indian violence against Americans? (205)

What were the main military consequences of the War of 1812? (206)

What were the main goals of the Hartford Convention? (207)

How are the actions of New England states represented in the political cartoon on the Hartford Convention above? (208)

Why was Monroe's presidency described as an "Era of Good Feelings"? (209)

What were the major ideas associated with the Monroe Doctrine? (210)

Why did Morse highlight architecture and minimize the people in his painting? (211)

What was the economic significance of Whitney's cotton gin? (212)

Which Marshall Court decisions best illustrate the Court's nationalism? (213)

What was the Missouri crisis? (214)

Who was Denmark Vesey? (215)

How did the Missouri crisis contribute to the climate of fear in Charleston during the Vesey trial?
(216)