

The Early Republic

- Spirit of opportunism. Migrants flowed in three streams:
 - From Old South
 - From Blue Ridge Mountains
 - From New England
- Every state except South Carolina promised freedom to slaves that fought against the British.
- Politicians sought to suppress the volatile issue of slavery rather than confront it
- More focus on producing for regional markets; cotton prices soared, South grew more committed to plantations and slavery
- **Free enterprise was the keynote of the era.**
- New occupations: textiles, retailing, publishing, teaching, medicine, construction, engineering
- **Emergence of factory system**

Jeffersonian Simplicity

- Opted for unity
- Bill of Rights were fundamental

Jefferson in Office

- **Jefferson's cabinet**
 - **Secretary of State James Madison**
 - **Secretary of Treasury Albert Gallatin**
 - **Attorney general, secretary of war, postmaster general were New Englanders**
- Judiciary Act was repealed by Congress—it had allowed Adams' "midnight" appointments of Federalists in judiciary positions

Marbury V. Madison

- First case where Supreme Court declared a federal law unconstitutional
- Federalist William Marbury was appointed as justice by Adams. Jefferson withheld his letter of appointment.
- Supreme Court didn't formally have the power to declare laws unconstitutional and was thus not did not have a rule on the case
- **Results: Marbury didn't get the position, precedent was set for judicial review, Congress ousted some partisan Federalist justices in the Supreme Court.**

Domestic Reforms

- **Jefferson accepted the National Bank.**
- Repealed whiskey taxes.
- Began cutting down the national debt, fearing that large debt would bring high taxes and corruption
- **Frugality became important; income depended on tariffs and sale of western lands**
 - Cut back military expenses: standing army and navy were reduced
- Reforms culminated in an act that outlawed foreign slave trade as of January 1, 1808—earliest possible by Constitution

The Barbary Pirates

- In 1801 the pasha of Tripoli upped demands and declared war on the United States
- The pasha finally settled for a \$60,000 ransom for the release of the *Philadelphia* crew. Ended in 1805.

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803

- Threat of French control of Louisiana by Napoleon
 - Robert Livingston and James Monroe sent to negotiate
 - Talleyrand offered to sell Louisiana
 - Napoleon could not maintain North American territory; army in Haiti was struck with yellow fever
- **Constitutional dilemma**
 - Didn't mention purchase of territory explicitly
 - It was assumed that purchase of territory could be categorized as treaty making
 - Federalists and Republicans reversed their views on Constitutional interpretation temporarily!
 - Senate ratified
- American settlers in 1810 staged a rebellion in Baton Rouge and proclaimed the republic of West Florida, which was later fully annexed from Spain

Lewis and Clark

- Jefferson was curious about geography and resources available in the west.
- Congress approved mission
- Lewis and Clark, along with fifty **Corps of Discovery**, set out from St. Louis.
 - **Fort Mandan** was built in what would become North Dakota.
 - **Sacagawea**
 - **Fort Clatsop** was built in Oregon.
 - Split up on the way home: Clark followed Yellowstone River, Lewis followed same route by which they had come along Missouri River
 - **Their reports of friendly Indians and abundant beaver pelts quickly attracted traders and trappers**

Political Schemes

- Federalists recognized their insignificance in future political affairs; New England would be less significant
- **Thomas Pickering, Federalist Senator, and a group of Federalists called the Essex Junto considered ceding from the Union.**
 - Conspiracy relied on Aaron Burr election as governor of New York; failed
 - Hamilton criticized Burr; duel—Hamilton died
 - **Twelfth Amendment provided that electors use separate ballots to vote for president and vice president. Clinton replaced Burr under Jefferson.**

Divisions in the Republican Party

John Randolph and the Old Republicans

- Old Republicans were hardcore Republicans; more Jeffersonian than Jefferson.
 - **Mostly southerners**
 - **Defended state rights**
 - **Strict interpretation of the constitution**
 - **Promoted agrarian way of life**

The Burr Conspiracy

- Burr planned to carve out an empire for himself in the West
 - Met up with James Wilkinson
- Most likely explanation is that they conspired to get the Louisiana Territory to secede and set up an independent republic
- Burr was arrested for treason. The trial was seen by John Marshall.
 - **Two constitutional precedents were set:**
 - **Jefferson refused to submit papers to Congress on the grounds that the independence of the executive branch would be compromised if the president were subject to court writ**
 - **John Marshall's definition of treason: levying wars against the US or adhering to their enemies—but requires two witness**
 - Burr was acquitted because there weren't two witnesses

War in Europe

- Napoleon's wars developed into a France vs. Britain conflict.

Harassment by Britain and France

- **British court ruled that the practice of shipping French and Spanish goods through US ports on their way elsewhere did not neutralize enemy goods. Goods shipped in violation were subject to seizure.**
- Commercial provisions of Jay's Treaty expired
- **British intervened in American shipping to weaken Napoleon and hobble competition with British ships**
- **British government set up "paper blockade:"** barred all trade between England and continental Europe. Vessels headed for European ports were required to get British licenses and were subject to inspection.
 - Paper blockade because Navy could enforce completely
 - Napoleon retaliated with **Continental System proclaimed by Berlin and Milan Decree**
 - Neutral ships that complied with British regulations were subject to seizure.
- **Renewal of impressments**
 - Seizure of British subjects from American vessels
 - Confined mostly to merchant vessels
 - American ship *Chesapeake* was attacked by British *Leopard*
 - British thirst for revenge
 - Public wrath against Britain

The Embargo

- Congress passed **Embargo Act:** all exports of American goods were prohibited, American ships could not leave for foreign ports
 - Constitutional basis: regulate commerce
- **Failed because:**
 - Americans were not willing to sacrifice: smuggling
 - Idealistic spirit from pre-Revolution was absent
 - France and Britain were not hurt significantly
 - British found new trade with Latin America
 - New England was hurt most
 - **Resistance to embargo revived the Federalist party.**

- South and West suffered for want of foreign outlets for grain, cotton, tobacco
- Jefferson repealed embargo in 1809.
- **Madison became President after Jefferson in 1808**

The Drift to War

- Madison pursued Jefferson's policy of peaceable coercion.
- **Congress established Nonintercourse Act:** reopened trade with all countries except Britain and France, authorized president to reopen trade with whichever gave up restrictions
- **Congress in 1810 adopted Macon's bill number 2: reopened trade with warring powers but provided that if either dropped its restrictions, nonintercourse would be restored with the other.**
- **Napoleon's foreign minister Cadore informed US minister that Berlin and Milan Decrees had been dropped.**
 - **Strings were attached:**
 - Revocation of decrees depended on British withdrawal
 - Madison realized need to put pressure on the British but was hesitant
 - Congress reluctantly declared war
 - British didn't want to risk war with US and France and withdrew
 - **Message of British withdrawal was not conveyed—war order was carried out**

The War of 1812

Causes

- **Main cause: demand for neutral shipping rights**
- **Anomaly:**
 - **Southerners voted FOR WAR**
 - **New Englanders voted AGAINST WAR**
 - **Reason:** Farming regions suffered damage to their markets for grain, cotton, and tobacco while New England shippers made profits from smuggling in spite of the British restrictions
 - Frontier Indian attacks blamed on the British
- **Tecumseh tried to unite Indian tribes in defense of their land.**
 - **His plan failed when William Harrison destroyed tribes in Battle of Tippecanoe.**
 - Reinforced suspicions that British were inciting Indians.
- To eliminate Indian menace, frontiersmen decided that Ontario needed to be removed.
- **Conquest of Canada would accomplish two purposes:**
 - **Eliminate British influence among Indians**
 - **Open a new empire for land-hungry Americans**

Preparations

- Madison was ill prepared to go to war.
- Strict Republicans ended the Bank of the United States
- Trade had dried up, tariff revenues had declined
- Military was weak, poorly-funded, leaderless; Navy was suitable

The War in the North

- **Three pronged attack:**
 - Along route to Montreal w/ General Henry Dearborn—**failed, refusal to cross border**

- Along Niagara River w/ General Stephen Rensselaer—**failed, New York militia refused to cross US-Canada border**
- Into Upper Canada from Detroit w/ General Will Hull—**failed, British repulsed with threat of Indian support**
- Commodore Perry's *Lawrence* won against British ships—**Control of Lake Erie was secured and British were forced out. Tecumseh also died.**

The War in the South

- In **Battle of Horseshoe Bend (Alabama), Andrew Jackson destroyed Creek-British forces**
 - **Treaty of Fort Jackson:** Creeks ceded two thirds of their land to the US
- Napoleon's empire collapsed
 - British was open to focus on the US alone
 - **British developed three-fold plan:**
 - Two invasions of America from Canada
 - Extend naval blockade to New England—coastal raids
 - Seize New Orleans to cut the Mississippi River lifeline

Macdonough's Victory

- **General George Prevost** British general of Canada
- **Commodore Thomas Macdonough** commander of US naval squadron
- **British were defeated on Lake Champlain**

Fighting in Chesapeake

- **British captured Washington D.C.**
- British attack on Baltimore failed
 - Star-Spangled Banner written by Francis Scott Key

The Battle of New Orleans

- Jackson took Pensacola in Spanish Florida—put end to British intrigues there
- Jackson vs. Pakenham
 - **British got destroyed**

The Treaty of Ghent

- American delegates were instructed to demand that the British abandon impressments and paper blockades and to get payment for the seizure of ships
- British demanded territory in New York and Main, removal of US warships from the Great Lakes, an autonomous Indian buffer state in the Northwest, access to the Mississippi, and abandonment of US fishing rights off Labrador and Newfoundland
- British finally decided that war wasn't worth the cost
- Demands were dropped on both sides
- **Agreed to end the war, return prisoners, restore previous boundaries, settled nothing else.**

The Hartford Convention

- Convention proposed seven constitutional amendments designed to limit Republican (and southern) influence: **abolishing the counting of slaves in apportioning state representation, prohibiting embargoes lasting more**

than 60 days, excluding foreign-born individuals from holding office, limiting president to one term, and forbidding successive presidents from the same state.

- Demands quickly evaporated when news of Treaty of Ghent reached Washington D.C. **Federalists were severely weakened and seen as traitors.**

The Aftermath

- Nationalism
- Economic independence—American manufactures grew
- **Captain Decatur** finished off the pirates
- **Reversal of roles by Republicans and Federalists**
 - **Republicans realized that nationalism and standing army were necessary.**
 - **Lack of national bank had added to problems to war finance**
 - **New industries wanted more tariffs**
 - **Federalists saw benefits in state's rights**