Chapter 8

The Republican Ascendancy: The Jeffersonian Vision
John Marshall's Court
Visual Source Documents 1 & 2

Document 1

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-109756.

Document 2

Republican Identities in a New Republic

- An age of rapid population growth
  - 7.2 million in 1810; 2 million more than in 1800
  - 20% black slaves
  - Children under sixteen the largest single group

- Strong regional identities facilitated by transportation improvements and motivated by defensiveness

- Early secession movements threatened national unity
North America in 1800
Westward the Course of Empire

- Intense migration to West after 1790
- New states
  - Kentucky—1792
  - Tennessee—1796
  - Ohio—1803
- Western regional culture rootless, optimistic
Native American Resistance

- Settlers bought land fraudulently
- Native Americans resisted
  - **Tecumseh** led Shawnee; defeated in War of 1812
  - Creek defeated by Andrew Jackson at Battle of Horseshoe Bend
- Jefferson wanted Native Americans moved west of Mississippi and to become yeoman farmers with help of federal Indian agents
Commercial Life in the Cities

- U.S. economy based on agriculture and trade (84% of population in agriculture)
- American shipping prospered, 1793–1807
- Cities’ main function was international trade, otherwise marginal role in national life: only 7% of population was urban
- Commerce preferred, manufacturing seen as too risky
  - Samuel Slater an exception
- Industrialization and mechanization just beginning to frighten skilled craftsmen
Jefferson as President

Jefferson’s personal style
- Despised ceremonies and formality
- Dedicated to intellectual pursuits

Jefferson’s goals as president
- Reduce size and cost of government
- Repeal Federalist legislation like the Sedition Act
- Keep U.S. out of war

Jefferson was skillful politician
- Good relations with Congressional leaders, never had to veto a bill
- Picked talented, loyal men for his cabinet
Jeffersonian Reforms

- Cutting federal debt a priority
- Tax system re-structured, direct taxes eliminated, federal revenue from customs
- Military cut substantially
  - Cut government expenses
  - Republican ideology favored militia over standing army
  - Military professionalism kept by creating Army Corps of Engineers and West Point
Jeffersonian Reforms

- Federalists fell apart
  - Moderate Federalists allowed to remain bureaucracy and were co-opted by Republicans
  - Many leaders like Jay retired from public life
  - Campaigning to commoners seen as demeaning
  - Westward expansion favored Republicans
John Marshall's Court
Visual Source Documents 3 & 4

Document 1

Document 2

Both illustrations courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.
The Louisiana Purchase

- Spain gave Louisiana to France, New Orleans closed to American ships
- Jefferson saw New Orleans as vital to U.S.
  - Sent James Monroe to negotiate its purchase
- Napoleon offered to sell all of Louisiana for $15 million
- Importance: it would help make America a first-rank power
The Louisiana Purchase

- Constitution vague on power to acquire land inhabited by foreigners
- Louisiana’s French and Spanish inhabitants unfamiliar with Republican principles
- Louisiana Gov’t Act denied Louisiana self-rule
- Another Jeffersonian departure from Republicanism

Transfer of Louisiana by Ford P. Kaiser for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904)
The Lewis and Clark Expedition

- Lewis and Clark Expedition commissioned prior to purchase of Louisiana
- Goal to find if Missouri River goes to Pacific and to explore flora and fauna
- Sacagawea critical in helping expedition deal with nature and Native Americans whom they encountered
- Report on Louisiana’s economic promise confirmed Jefferson’s desire to purchase

Lewis and Clark Expedition with Sacagawea as guide.
Those Going on the Expedition

- Meriwether Lewis as botanists
- William Clark as cartographer
- Corps of Discovery consisted of: 30 soldiers (though not all made it back; one died, one went AWOL, several were dismissed for bad behavior)
- 2 interpreters: George Drouillard and Troussaint Charbonneau
- St. Louis boatmen
- Sacajawea (Shoshone wife of Troussaint Charbonneau)
- York (Clark’s Servant)
- Seaman (Lewis’ Newfoundland Dog)
Preparations for the Expedition

The main Ohio and Missouri River transportation that the Corps used was a 55 foot Keelboat, which could be sailed, rowed, poled like a raft, or towed from the riverbank. In addition to the Keelboat, two wooden row boats called Pirogues were taken to hold men and supplies.
The Louisiana Purchase and the Route of Lewis & Clark
Events of Note

- Nov. 4, 1804 Fort Mandan, ND Toussaint Chabonneau was signed as an interpreter along with his Shoshoni wife, Sacagawea
- Feb. 11, 1805 Sacagawea gave birth to Jean Baptiste Charbonneau
- Aug. 17, 1805 Sacagawea is reunited with her brother
- Nov. 15, 1805 reached the Pacific
- Nov. 23, 1805 vote on where to winter
Conflict with the Barbary States

- North African states demanded tribute from ships sailing in Mediterranean
- Jefferson refused and dispatched U.S. fleet to intimidate Barbary states
- Attacks failed and U.S. ended up paying ransom for crew of *U.S.S. Philadelphia*
- U.S. finally forced negotiation with a blockade
- Jefferson won re-election overwhelmingly

*Burning of the frigate *Philadelphiain the harbor of Tripoli, February 16, 1804*, by Edward Moran, painted 1897.*
The Barbary States

- Strait of Gibraltar
- Tangier
- Algiers
- Tunis
- Tripoli
- U.S.S. Philadelphia captured Oct. 31, 1803
- Burned by U.S. Feb. 16, 1804
- Derna April 27, 1805
# The Election of 1804

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Electoral Vote</th>
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<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Republican</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Pinckney</td>
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</table>
Jefferson’s Critics

- Dispute over Jefferson’s reforms of federal judiciary
- Conflicts between Republicans
- Burr’s plot to separate the West
- Sectional dispute over the slave trade
The PRAIRIE DOG sickened at the sting of the HORNET or a Diplomatic Puppet exhibiting his Deceptions!
Attack on the Judges: Judiciary Act

- Judiciary Act of 1801 created new circuit courts filled with loyal Federalists
  - “Midnight judges”

- 1802—Jeffersonians repealed Judiciary Act of 1801 to abolish courts and save money

- Federalists charged violation of judges’ constitutional right of tenure
Attack on the Judges: *Marbury v. Madison*

- *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) ruled Judiciary Act of 1789 unconstitutional
- Federalist Marbury denied his judgeship
- Republicans claimed victory
- Chief Justice John Marshall ensured Federalist influence through judicial review
Attack on the Judges: Impeachments

- 1803—Federalist John Pickering impeached, removed for alcoholism, insanity, but no “high crimes”
- Republicans began fearing the destruction of an independent judiciary
- Jefferson exacerbated fears by seeking to impeach Federalist Samuel Chase
- Republican Senate refused to convict
Politics of Desperation: “Tertium Quids”

- “Tertium Quids” claimed pure Republicanism
- Attacked Jefferson as sacrificing virtue for pragmatism
Politics of Desperation: The Yazoo Controversy

- **Yazoo controversy**
  - Fraudulent land case in Georgia
  - Jefferson attempted to settle by providing land to innocent parties
  - Quids complained settlement condoned fraud

- **Fletcher v. Peck (1810)**
  - Marshall Court upheld Jefferson’s settlement
  - Court may nullify unconstitutional state laws
Murder and Conspiracy: The Curious Career of Aaron Burr

- Vice-President Aaron Burr broke with Jefferson
- Burr sought Federalist support in 1804 New York governor’s race
- Alexander Hamilton blocked Burr’s efforts
- Burr killed Hamilton in a duel

An artistic rendering of the July 11, 1804 duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton by J. Mund.
The Burr Conspiracy

- Burr fled West after Hamilton duel
- Schemed to invade Spanish territory, separate Louisiana from U.S.
- Burr arrested, tried for treason
- Acquitted on constitutional grounds of insufficient evidence
- Precedent made it difficult for presidents to use charge of treason as a political tool, especially hearsay and circumstantial evidence

A later portrait of Burr
The Slave Trade

- Constitution had said Congress could consider banning importation of slaves after 1808
- Jefferson asked for and Congress approved such a ban
- Sectional conflict over what to do with captured slaves
  - Northerners could not agree
  - Southerners demanded states regulate slavery
  - Law said states deal with captured smuggled slaves
Embarrassments Overseas

- 1803—England and France resumed war
- American ships subject to seizure
  - By England through “Orders in Council”
  - By Napoleon through Berlin, Milan Decrees
- *Chesapeake vs. Leopard*: public demanded war
- Jefferson refused war to preserve financial reform and recognized that his military cuts had left nation ill-prepared for war
Embargo Divides the Nation

- 1807—Congress prohibited U.S. ships from leaving port
- Purpose: to win English, French respect for American rights
- Embargo unpopular at home
  - Detailed government oversight of commerce
  - Army suppressed smuggling
  - New England economy damaged
The Election of 1808

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A New Administration Goes to War

- 1808—James Madison elected president
- 1809—Embargo repealed in favor of Non-Intercourse Act
  - U.S. would resume trade with England and France on promise to cease seizure of U.S. vessels
- British official promised to comply
Prime Minister Canning changed his mind; English seized U.S. ships that had opened trade with England

Macon’s Bill Number Two replaced the Non-Intercourse Act

- Trade with both England and France re-established
- First nation to respect American rights won halt of U.S. trade with the other

Nathaniel Macon
A New Administration Goes to War

- Napoleon promised to observe U.S. rights but reneged when trade re-opened.

- Frontier people believed British were encouraging Tecumseh, but he was defeated at Battle of Tippecanoe, forcing him to turn to Britain.
Fumbling Toward Conflict

- Congressional War Hawks demanded war with England to preserve American honor.
- British repealed Orders-in-Council as Madison was asking for declaration of war.
- War aims somewhat vague.
- Difference between War Hawks and Madison administration over purpose of invading Canada.
- Election of 1812 showed division over war.
The Election of 1812

**The Election of 1812**

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<td></td>
<td>(antiwar faction)</td>
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*Clinton was nominated by a convention of antiwar Republicans and endorsed by the Federalists.
The Strange War of 1812: Early Course

- Americans unprepared for war
  - Congress refused to raise wartime taxes
  - New England refused to support war effort
  - United States Army small
  - State militias inadequate

- Most attacks against Canada failed

- Two key exceptions in 1813:
  - Oliver Hazard Perry won control of Great Lakes for U.S. in Battle of Put-In Bay
  - William Henry Harrison defeated British and Indians at Battle of Thames
The Strange War of 1812: Three-Pronged English Attack, 1814

- British invasion of New York from Canada stopped at Lake Champlain
- Campaign in the Chesapeake
  - Washington, D.C. burned in retaliation for American burning of York earlier
  - Baltimore saved by defense of Fort McHenry
The Strange War of 1812: Three-Pronged English Attack, 1814

- Attempt to capture New Orleans thwarted by Andrew Jackson, January, 1815
  - War already over, communication lag
  - Gave Americans source of pride
  - Made Jackson a national hero

The Battle of New Orleans. General Andrew Jackson stands on the parapet of his makeshift defenses as his troops repulse attacking Highlanders, by painter Edward Percy Moran in 1910
The Hartford Convention: The Demise of the Federalists

- Federalists convened in December, 1814
- Proposed constitutional changes to lessen power of South and West
- Treaty of Ghent, victory of New Orleans made Convention appear disloyal
- Federalist party never recovered

The Secret Journal of the Hartford Convention, published 1823
The Hartford Convention or LEAP NO LEAP, by William Charles.
Treaty of Ghent Ends the War

- Most problems left unaddressed
- Senate unanimously ratified Treaty of Ghent
- Americans portrayed it as victory and it stimulated American nationalism

Signing of the Treaty of Ghent.
Republican Legacy

- Founders began to pass away in 1820s
- Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died July 4, 1826
- James Madison died in 1836 despairing that slavery’s continuation undermined legacy of republican egalitarianism of Founders

Gilbert Stuart Portrait of James Madison c. 1821