Washington’s Presidency

Election as President

* He was beloved because of his leadership ability, he was thoughtful, honest, and strong
* Our country needed someone who could lead us into the future

Electoral College and the Election of 1789

* Electoral college is a group of representative electors who represent the people’s choices for the president.
* The Electoral college had 11 states represented and they unanimously (all of them) voted for Washington as President and John Adams as Vice President

Setting up his Cabinet

* Washington hand-picked men he trusted with being his advisors in different areas of government
  + Alexander Hamilton – Secretary of Treasury (Money)
  + Thomas Jefferson – Secretary of State (Foreign Relations)
  + Henry Knox – Secretary of War (military)
  + Samuel Osgood – Postmaster General (mail)

Precedents for Washington

* Precedent – an action or decision (like a tradition) that serves as an example for others to follow
* Washington did several things that set precedents for future presidents. One, he believed they were right, and two, no one actually knew how the job as president was supposed to run.
  + First to swear in with his hand on Bible
  + First to have a Presidential cabinet
  + Served only two terms as President
  + First to be called “Mr. President”

Judiciary Act of 1789

* Set up the federal court system, shaping their powers and roles and their relationship with state courts
* This set up circuit courts (trials) and courts of appeals (appeals court)
* Washington nominated many judges to serve and they had to be approved by the Senate

U.S.’s Financial Issues

* We owed about $11 million to foreign countries
* We owed about $40 million to U.S. citizens
  + Bonds – certificates (like IOUs) that promise to pay a debt at a later date. The U.S. issued lots of these during the Revolution
* U.S. government didn’t have the funds to pay back the bonds

Hamilton and his Financial Plan and the

National Bank

* Hamilton wanted to sell the bonds to speculators (to make back some money at least
* Speculator – someone who would buy the bond at a lower cost in hopes to make a profit later
* Hamilton wanted to payoff foreign debt immediately and other debts gradually
* Thomas Jefferson totally DISAGREED with Hamilton’s financial plan saying it potentially cheated people who sold their bonds off at lower prices
* Some states already paid their debts, why should they be responsible for more debts by getting taxed?
* **Hamilton wanted to create a National Bank to:**
  + **Buy off all state debt to pay off**
  + **Hold the money of the government (think taxes)**
  + **Loan money to government and businesses**
  + **To create ONE common form of currency for the country**

Remaining Neutral in a Hostile World

* France wanted us to help them in conflict with Great Britain because they helped us during our Revolution
* Britain wanted us to side with them because we were their greatest trading partner
* Jefferson and the Anti-federalists supported France
* Hamilton and the Federalists supported Great Britain
* Washington made a **Proclamation of Neutrality**:
  + - U.S. would not take sides in a European war
    - We could not afford to be dragged into war

The French Revolution

* The French people decided they wanted a government like the American style republic.
* A Revolution took place where they beheaded the king and queen

France and Britain at War

* France wants the U.S’s help because they helped them win their war against Britain
  + Jefferson believed we owed it to the French to help them
* Britain wants the U.S.’s help against France.
  + Hamilton wants to help them because he wants to strengthen ties with a strong trading partner

Jay’s Treaty

* Named after Supreme Court Chief Justice John Jay
* Britain was seizing American Ships in French West Indies
  + Our ships were neutral merchant ships
* Settlement
  + British agreed to pay damages
  + Remove British troops in Northwest
  + U.S. agreed to pay debts owed to Britain
  + Many U.S. citizens were upset it didn’t punish the British more

Pinckney’s Treaty

* Named after Ambassador Thomas Pinckney
* Spain disputed border between Florida and U.S.
* Spain closed New Orleans to trade hurting U.S. economy
* U.S. wanted official border recognized and right to move goods in New Orleans
* Settlement
  + Official border was officially recognized and Port of New Orleans was opened back up to U.S. ships
  + Opened up the U.S. to more expansion to it was deemed a successful treaty

Treaty of Greenville

* American forces fought Native Americans at Battle of Fallen Timbers and won
* Treaty of Greenville gave ownership of most Indian lands in the Northwest Territory
* Gave Natives $20,000 in goods and recognized lands they still owned

Whiskey Rebellion 1794

* Congress passed a tax on whiskey as a way to help pay back U.S. debt (Hamilton’s plan)
* Pennsylvania farmers were disgusted because their corn was used to make whiskey and they believed they were being abused
* Protests broke out
* Washington told farmers they had to pay the tax
* Violence erupted, tarring and feathering of tax collectors
* Washington personally led troops into battle
* Protesters surrendered before a battle happened

**THIS ACTION SHOWED THE SUPREMACY AND THE POWER, FINALLY, OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OVER ITS CITIZENS AND STATES**

**Shay’s Rebellion……………..WEAK CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**

**Whiskey Rebellion…………..STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**

Washington Says Goodbye

* Farewell Address to the Nation
  + After two terms, he decides to bid farewell to the nation
  + He leaves with words of warning to the country
* **Warnings**

1. Avoid political parties, they will just divide the country and tear our relationship apart
2. Remain neutral at ALL COSTS
3. Avoid permanent foreign alliances, they will just get us dragged into war
4. Avoid running up a high national debt