

## President Washington and International Relations

PAGE 1

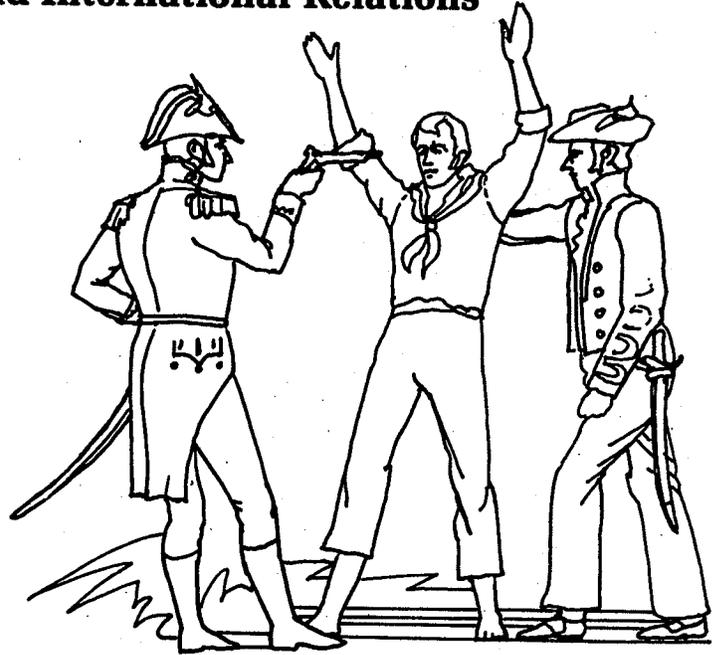
During Washington's first term as President, the government's primary concern had been **domestic affairs**, or problems at home. Beginning early in his second term, the President had begun to face tough problems overseas.

In 1793, England and France were at war. Americans differed over which nation they supported. There was even division within Washington's own Cabinet. Most Americans wanted to keep trading with England, yet they feared that Great Britain, aided by Spain, would turn on America once France was defeated.

Washington's course of action was to proclaim the United States to be **neutral**, that is, to refuse to take sides in a dispute. As the young nation was not strong enough to go to war, this decision, the first of its kind, seemed a wise one.

The resulting "Neutrality Proclamation" was tested by Edmond Genêt, a French representative who came to the United States to raise money and volunteers for France's revolutionary war effort. Both Jefferson and Hamilton advised Washington not to take sides in the European conflict. The Neutrality Proclamation was upheld by the government with a statement claiming that America's policy would remain "friendly and impartial."

Two important treaties were drawn up during Washington's second term: Jay's Treaty and Pinckney's Treaty. John Jay, Supreme Court Chief Justice, negotiated with the British in 1794 to evacuate the forts England still held in the Northwest Territory. This treaty failed to get a promise from the British to stop its practice of **impressment**, which was the seizing of another



nation's sailors to serve in the British navy. The issue continued to burn in the minds of Americans.

In 1795, Thomas Pinckney from South Carolina negotiated a treaty with Spain which gave the young nation unrestricted use of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans. This was an important economic boost to the West and the South. The Pinckney Treaty also set the boundary between Georgia and Spanish Florida at the 31st parallel.

Washington declined a third term. He chose to retire to Mt. Vernon. In his Farewell Address, he warned the nation and its leaders not to become entangled in "permanent alliances" with foreign powers. His advice and his precedents set the course for American history for many years.

### Review and Write

1. Describe how the United States dealt with foreign nations during the Washington Administration.

England \_\_\_\_\_

France \_\_\_\_\_

Spain \_\_\_\_\_

2. Judging from examples given on this page, do you think the nations of Europe respected the young United States? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

# Trouble with France

During John Adams' single term as President, the primary foreign affairs problem was with France. The United States had signed the Treaty of Alliance with the French government in 1778. Although France aided the United States in their revolution, when the French Revolution broke out in 1789, Washington kept the young nation out of the civil conflict. When war developed between France and England, America refused to become involved on France's side. The United States simply could not withstand another war. The country's neutrality angered the French. Their anger grew when the Americans concluded the Jay Treaty with England in 1794.

Adams, trying to smooth relations between the two nations, sent an American minister to France in 1797. The French, however, refused to see him. Later, Adams tried to send a delegation to negotiate a treaty. The French agents involved responded by demanding a bribe of \$240,000. The American delegation refused. Back in the United States, Americans were now furious at France.

The incident, known as the XYZ Affair (Adams called the French agents X, Y, and Z instead of publicly naming them), caused many Americans to call for war against France. Led by the Federalist leader, Alexander Hamilton, the war advocates found Adams unprepared to take America into another costly confrontation. Instead, he halted all trade with France. The French responded by seizing American ships on the high seas. Adams replied by encouraging American private shippers to respond likewise. This undeclared naval war went on between the two powers from 1798-1800.

USE THIS CHART TO COMPARE WITH PAGE 4.

ELECTION OF 1796 RESULTS	Federalist Adams	Republican Jefferson
Connecticut	all	
Delaware	all	
Maryland	7	4
Massachusetts	all	
New Hampshire	all	
New Jersey	all	
New York	all	
Rhode Island	all	
Vermont	all	
North Carolina	1	11
Pennsylvania	1	14
Virginia	1	20
Georgia		all
Kentucky		all
South Carolina		all
Tennessee		all

### Review and Write

- Both the United States and France became angered by the actions of the other. What did each nation do to incur this anger?

France: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

United States: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Which nation do you feel was more justified in its anger? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Domestic Politics Under Adams

During the undeclared naval war with France, President Adams faced political problems at home. In his own party, Federalists were angry that he had not declared war on France. When criticized, Adams fired two Cabinet members. As one might expect, Frenchmen in America also spoke out against the President.

In response to the rising criticism, Adams proposed three laws to bring domestic protests to an end. Congress passed the suggested acts.

Two of the acts, the Naturalization Act and the Alien Act, put limits on recent immigrants to the United States. The **Naturalization Act** lengthened from five to fourteen years the time required for a foreign immigrant to gain U.S. citizenship. Thus, foreigners were kept from voting and from involvement in government for a stated period of time.

The **Alien Act** gave the President power to deport, or send out of the United States, any non-

citizen he considered "dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States." Thus, Republican newspaper editors who were aliens could be forced out of the country.

The third act, the **Sedition Act**, was enforced most frequently. The law made statements critical of the President or the Congress a crime. The act was particularly aimed at those Republican newspaper editors who were highly critical of the President. Enforcement of the law led to the conviction of ten people who were then either fined or jailed.

Among public critics of the three acts were Thomas Jefferson and James Madison who, in 1798, authored the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions. These papers declared that all laws passed must be in agreement with the Constitution and that states had the right to decide whether or not a law was unconstitutional.

### Review and Write

1. Read the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and answer the following:  
Were the Alien and Sedition Acts constitutional? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How did the Sedition Act differ from the other two? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why were the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions so important? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Would you have supported the three acts had you been a citizen in America at the time? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you had been a recent immigrant? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you think the laws were fair? Explain your answer(s).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Election of 1800: Jefferson Takes Office

With the election of 1800, Congress repeated the process used in 1796 to select candidates. The Federalists renominated President Adams for a second term and chose Charles Cotesworth Pinckney for Vice-President.

The Republicans, to no one's surprise, selected Thomas Jefferson as their candidate and Aaron Burr, a leader in the party from New York, as the vice-presidential nominee. When the votes were counted in the electoral college, the Republicans won by a count of 73-65. Not only did they win the presidential election, but they also gained control of both houses of Congress. Still, there was a problem.

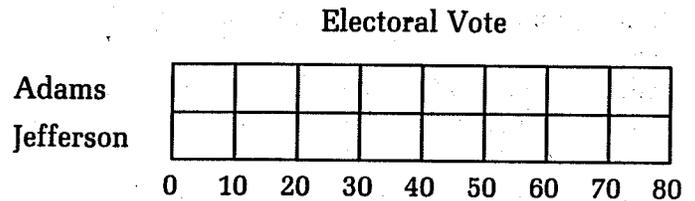
Both Jefferson and Burr received an equal number of votes. Under the Constitution, the candidate with the largest number of votes would be President. With the tie, the decision was thrown to the House of Representatives. Thirty-five ballots were cast with no resolution to the deadlock.

Finally, on February 17, 1801, Alexander Hamilton threw his support to Jefferson, and the deadlock was broken. On the thirty-sixth ballot, Jefferson became the President. Defeated, Burr never forgave his fellow New Yorker, Hamilton, for his actions. In 1804, an amendment was added to the Constitution stating that electors would vote separately for President and Vice-President.



### Complete the Graph

- Show the electoral results in a bar graph.



- Compare this vote to the election of 1796.

(See page 2.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Use the Map

- Label the states and color those won by Adams in blue and those won by Jefferson in red.

(Use any two colors you have... even pencil vs. pen)

	Federalist Adams	Republican Jefferson
--	---------------------	-------------------------

	Federalist Adams	Republican Jefferson
Connecticut	all	
Delaware	all	
Maryland	5	5
Massachusetts	all	
New Hampshire	all	
New Jersey	all	
North Carolina	4	8
Pennsylvania	7	8
Rhode Island	all	
Vermont	all	
Georgia		all
Kentucky		all
New York		all
South Carolina		all
Tennessee		all
Virginia		all

- What changes do you see in the state alignments when compared to the 1796 election? (See page 2.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- The electoral college has been criticized over the years. Do you think we should keep it or not? Why? In your answer, be sure you explain the purpose it serves. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_