**10 The “Revolution” of 1800 and the War of 1812**

Election of 1800

* Election of 1800, was the first with two political parties (Federalists v. Demo-Reps)
* Conflicts b/w Federalists and Democratic-Republicans over such issues as:
	+ The National Bank
	+ Alien & Sedition Acts
	+ British & French politics
	+ The build-up of the Navy (due to potential French conflict) and subsequent taxes imposed
		- Federalists had lost public favor by preparing for a war with France that never came (during the Adams administration – post X, Y, and Z affair)
* Federalists divided amongst themselves due to a lack of support for President Adams
* Jefferson was attacked directly for his relationship w/ Sally Hemmings (slave), perceived atheism (desire to separate church and state) and support of the French

The “Revolution” of 1800:

* Tie in Electoral College bw TJ and Aaron Burr
	+ TJ is chosen in special election in house of reps.
		- Alex Hamilton swayed his party toward Jefferson, because he felt he was less dangerous than Burr
		- Burr becomes V.P. (in 1804, 12th amendment passed to say pres and vp run as a team)
* ‘revolutionary’ in that there was a peaceful transfer of power b/w two political parties
* Jefferson saw his mission as restoring republicanism & limiting the power of the federal gov’t
	+ Wanted to promote a peaceful, agrarian society where people were largely self-sufficient and non-dependent on the government

**Jefferson Administration 1800-1808**

"We are all republicans, we are all federalists” – TJ inaugural address

* First presidency from the new capital of Washington, D.C.
* Maintained Federalist National bank and debt-repayment plan (to win support of opponents)
* Reduced the size of the military
* Lowered National debt
* Jefferson reformed the Alien laws, with the **Naturalization law of 1802**
* Democratic-Republican held Congress repealed the excise taxes (incl. whiskey tax)
	+ Relied on James Madison (Sec. of State), Albert Gallatin (Sec. of Treasury) to make the smooth transition from the Federalist regime, but limited the influence of Aaron Burr (VP)

The Louisiana Purchase

* In 1800, Napoleon acquired the largely unexplored Louisiana territory from Spain which he then sold to the U.S. for $15 million; which included:
	+ - Port of New Orleans, control of the Mississippi, Louisiana territory and all land west of the Mississippi
	+ Despite Jefferson’s strict interpretation of the Constitution, he decided to go ahead with purchasing land from the French (extends Presidential power)
	+ Impacts:
		- Doubles size of US: Extends Western frontier beyond the Mississippi
		- Removes European presence in US
		- Increased Jefferson’s popularity
* Jefferson commissioned the **Corps of Discovery** led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the newly acquired land
	+ They mapped the first overland route from the Missouri River to the Pacific w/ aid of Sacagawea
	+ Later explorer, Zebulon Pike (Pike’s Peak of Colo.) mapped the headwaters of the Mississippi and the Southern western Louisiana territory

Aaron Burr

* 3rd Vice-President, tried to manipulate the House of Representatives to win the Election of 1800
* Shut out of the Jefferson White House after 1 term, due to political intrigues
	+ Involved in a plot to create a confederacy of states who would secede from the union both in N.E. and in newly acquired western lands
	+ leading to the killing of Hamilton (Burr challenged pacifist Hamilton to a duel, which he won)
* Tried for treason, but acquitted by SC under John Marshall, lived abroad in disgrace

**More difficult second term (1804-1808)**

* Pirates in Mediterranean
	+ Barbary Pirates of the N. African coast required American merchants to pay tributes (essentially taxes) for safe passage
		- Sporadic fighting with Tripoli helps small navy gain respect
* Continuing of impressments primarily by British
* Embargo Act of 1807 or “Jefferson Embargo”
	+ Passed as an alternative to war
	+ Prohibits American ships from sailing to any foreign port
		- Hope was for British to stop impressment, since they were so economically dependent on American goods
	+ Backfires: hurts American economy as England is easily able to substitute American goods with Central and South American
		- Jefferson calls for repeal as he exits the presidency
		- Federalists gain back popularity
		- New law in its stead: **Nonintercourse Act**: all trade open, except for with Britain and France
			* Passed during Madison’s early presidency

War of 1812 and James Madison Administration

* **James Madison**, 4th president the “*Father of the Constitution*”
	+ Domestic/Foreign policy of US from 1789 – 1811
		- To set a course of neutrality
			* War in Europe made this a challenge… due to Napoleonic Wars
		- Whites losing in Indian conflicts (British were arming Indians in the west)
* Madison felt pressure to declare war on GB to keep the republic intact
* Causes of the War of 1812
	+ Free seas and trade: both French and British violated American neutrality of the seas; however, British impressment caused more resentment
	+ The West: Native Conflicts
		- **Tecumseh & “the Prophet”** – brothers who attempted to stop trans Allegheny & Appalachian white settlement by uniting native tribes
			* Began the creation of a confederacy of all tribes east of the Mississippi
			* Followers gave up white dress & alcohol
			* Est. policy to never give land to whites unless all natives agreed
		- **Battle of Tippecanoe** -Tecumseh’s headquarters attacked in 1811 by Gov. William Henry Harrison’s army, destroyed “the Prophet’s” much smaller Shawnee force
			* Tecumseh will die in 1813 fighting for the British
		- British aided the Natives
	+ Division w/in the **Democratic-Republicans**
		- **War Hawks** –new generation of DR’s from the West & South
		- Sided with the French
		- War with British to defend American honor, gain Canada, and destroy Indian resistance
* Declaration of War “Mr. Madison’s War”
	+ War Hawks pressured congress to declare war in 1812
	+ Most northern states and representatives voted against war
		- Northern merchants were benefitting from profitable European trade due to Napoleonic Wars
		- “Quids” vs. “War Hawks”
			* Quids were classical D-R’s. Didn’t want to pursue war bc belief in small gov’t
		- Federalists viewed war as a D-R attempt to conquer Canada and Florida, thus expanding D-R voting base
* Treaty of Ghent (in Belgium) Dec 24, 1814
	+ British weary of war bw French for 10+ years and now Americans
		- Halted fighting
		- Returned all conquered land to prewar lines (incl. Canadian and American borders)
	+ Essentially, ends the war in a stalemate
	+ Battle of New Orleans is fought in Jan. 1815 – meaningless victory of Americans led by Gen. Andrew Jackson

The Hartford Convention (Dec. 1814 – Connecticut)

* Group of New England federalists threatened to secede due to opposition to war against Eng. and D-R control of Congress
* Shortly after, the end of the war and the victory at New Orleans ended criticisms of war

Results of the War

* Although the war is essentially meaningless, and did little in terms of its initial purpose there were a few notable results:
	+ US foreign respect
	+ US accepts Canada as part of GB
	+ Federalist party downfall as a result of Hartford Convention
	+ Secession talk in N.E. sets precedent for future south
	+ American Indians forced to surrender land to encroaching Americans (lose British support)
	+ Americans moved toward industrial self-sufficiency as a result of decreased British trade
	+ War Heroes: Jackson and William Henry Harrison come to the forefront of politics
	+ The “Era of Good Feelings” begins: American Nationalism