The Age of Jefferson
Ch. 6 Section 3

Focus Question?
• What were the successes and failures of the Jefferson administrations?

Republican Principals
• Thomas Jefferson viewed his election as a revolution in the principals of government.

➢ Federalists held expensive public displays to gain respect for the government. Jefferson ended these aristocratic threats to the republic.

➢ Where the Federalists discouraged public criticism, Jefferson invited debate and discussion.

➢ New Government Policies

• In office, Jefferson reduced the national debt, the government bureaucracy, and the size of the military. He also cut unpopular taxes on land and whiskey.

• Unlike some Federalists, Jefferson wanted to pay down the debt.

• Despite cutting taxes, he reduced the national debt from $80 million to $57 million.

John Marshall’s Supreme Court

• In 1801, John Marshall became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

• A last-minute appointee, (a federalist appointed by Adams) Marshall eventually served 35 years and participated in over a thousand court decisions.

• Marshall wrote over half of those decisions himself, more than any other Supreme Court Justice.
Marshall applied four federalists principals to his decisions:

1. The Court’s role is to determine if acts of Congress or the President are constitutional, a concept known as judicial review.
2. Federal laws are superior to state laws.
3. The Constitution is to be interpreted broadly based on the government’s implied powers.
4. Contracts should be strictly enforced.

Marbury v. Madison

• In 1803, Marshall first asserted the power of judicial review in the case *Marbury v. Madison*.

• In 1801, outgoing President John Adams appointed William Marbury (Federalist) to be a judge.

• Incoming Secretary of State James Madison (Democratic Republican) refused to give Marbury his appointment, so Marbury sued.

• Marshall ruled against Marbury stating that the Judiciary Act of 1789 was unconstitutional.

Establishing Precedents

• Marshall’s ruling was a stroke of genius that gave the court more power which was a Federalist goal.

• Because Madison and the Democratic Republicans won the case, he could not appeal.

• Marshall’s decision set the precedent that the Supreme Court is the institution that determines the constitutionality of laws (judicial review).

• Like Hamilton, Marshall interpreted the Constitution broadly to find implied powers needed for a strong government.
The Nation Expands

• Jefferson saw farm ownership as an ideal that freed citizens from a landlord or employer.

• He wanted to expand the U.S. westward so more Americans could be free farmers.

• But, French Emperor Napoleon owned Louisiana and threatened to forbid American farmers from using the port of New Orleans.

The Louisiana Purchase

• To avoid a possible war with France, Jefferson offered to purchase the city of New Orleans.

• James Monroe & Robert Livingston approached Napoleon and were surprised when he offered the entire Louisiana Territory.

• Jefferson decided to contradict his “strict construction” principles. (The power to purchase foreign territory is not specifically granted by the Constitution.)

• The Louisiana Purchase added 828,000 square miles and doubled the U.S. for only $15 million.

Lewis & Clark

• Jefferson sent a “Corps of Discovery” led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the territory.

• The corps was tasked with learning about the climate, plants, seeds, animals, and native people.

• The Lewis and Clark Expedition was aided by Sacajawea, a Shoshone woman.

Jefferson’s Foreign Troubles

• The Barbary States of North Africa- Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli- were profiting by seizing American ships and sailors.
• Washington & Adams both paid for protection from these pirates. Jefferson was willing to do the same until Tripoli increased their price.

• In 1801, Jefferson sent a small American fleet to Tripoli and winning a favorable peace in 1805- known as the Barbary War.

**British Impressment**

• War between France and Britain brought profits for American merchants but also led to trouble.

• The British Navy began stopping American ships and confiscating their cargo.

• To meet a shortage of sailors, they also began to force or “press” American sailors to serve in the British Navy, a practice called impressment.

• By 1812, 6,000 American had been “impressed” for the duty on serving on a British warship.

• At first Federalists accepted this as part of the risk of business on the seas, however, Democrat-Republicans were insulted.

• In 1807, the British took the warship Chesapeake-American became outraged. Jefferson Asks for Embargo.

• The American Navy could not compete with the British fleet.

• As an alternative to building a navy and war, Jefferson asked Congress for an embargo, hoping a loss of American goods would change Britain’s policies.

• The embargo failed to hurt Britain, but American merchants and farmers suffered from unemployment, bankruptcy, and loss of profits.

• Jefferson admitted failure and lifted the embargo just before he retired in 1809.

• Jefferson would be succeeded by his friend James Madison