



Early Republic

# Early Republic/ Articles of the Confederation

- Articles of Confederation
  - Drafted 1777, adopted 1781
  - One Congress, one vote per state
  - No Executive branch
  - National government could not collect taxes
- Northwest Ordinance-1787
  - Area north of Ohio River and east of Mississippi would come in as 3-5 states

# New Constitution & Compromise

- Constitutional Convention—May 1787
  - Most delegates elite, wanted stronger national government
- New Constitution
  - 3 Branches (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial)
    - Only House of Representatives directly elected by the people
  - Much stronger national government
  - Slavery-not mentioned by name, 3/5 compromise, slave trade could not be abolished until 1808
  - Needed to be ratified by 9 (of 13) states



# Federalists/Anti-Federalists

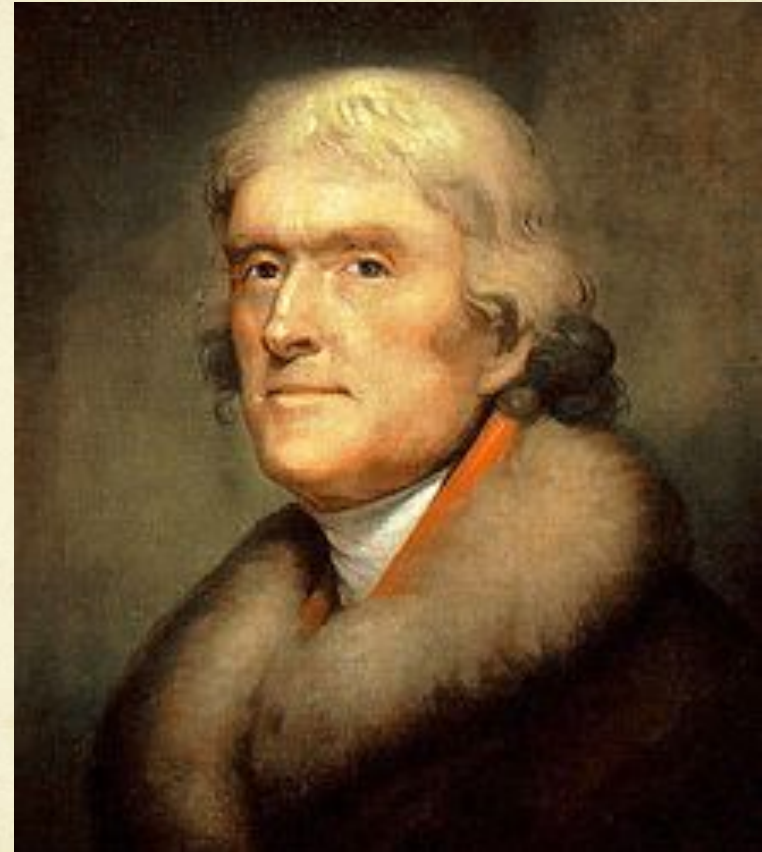
- Federalists—Pro Constitution
  - The Federalist Papers—1788—Written by Hamilton, Madison and Jay
  - Checks and Balances would protect people from government
- Anti-Federalists—Against ratification of Constitution
  - New constitution gives government too much power
  - Government would be too pro-business, too pro-urban centers
- Madison promises Congress will add a Bill of Rights to the Constitution to calm anti-federalist fears
- Constitution ratified by mid 1788, Bill of Rights in 1791

# Early Republic

- George Washington, first president (1789-1797)
  - Voluntarily steps down after 2 terms
  - Concerned about the development of political parties
- John Adams (Federalist), 2<sup>nd</sup> President, 1797-1801
  - Alien & Sedition Acts—1798
    - Alien Act—foreigners could be deported for any activity federal authorities deem dangerous
    - Sedition Act—allows for prosecution of people involved with any public assembly or publication critical of the government
    - Generates debate about free speech

# Election of 1800/Jefferson as President

- Thomas Jefferson (Republican) elected—1800
  - Tie breaker in Congress
  - “Peaceful Revolution”
  - Inaugural speech stressed unity
- Emphasis on “the people”
  - “Defined American union by the voluntary bonds of fellow citizens toward one another and toward the government”
- Reduced taxes, size of military and number of government employees
- Pardoned people imprisoned by Sedition Act



# Louisiana Purchase

- Louisiana Purchase—1803
  - Purchase from France doubled the size of the United States
  - Purchase not authorized by the Constitution
  - Lewis and Clark explored the new territory—1804-1806
    - Investigate natural life, geography, and possible economic uses



# Embargo

- Embargo—Dec. 1807
  - Congress, under pressure from Jefferson, bans American vessels from sailing to all foreign ports
    - Response to impressment of Americans by the British, blockades by both the French & British
  - Exports drop 80%, destroying economy of port cities
  - Jefferson signs Non-Intercourse Act in March 1809, which bans trades only with Britain & France