Chapter 10 Key Terms

Cabinet: groups of officials who head government departments and advise the president

* Secretary of State – Thomas Jefferson
* Secretary of the Treasury – Alexander Hamilton
* Secretary of War – Henry Knox

Bill of Rights (1791): First tem amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The amendments secure key rights for individuals and reserve to the states all powers not explicitly delegated or prohibited by the Constitution.

* Protects rights of the individual from the power of the central government

Judiciary Act of 1789: Organized the federal legal system, established the Supreme Court, federal district and circuit courts, and the office of attorney general.

funding at par: Payment of debts, such as government bonds, at face value. In 1790, Alexander Hamilton proposed that the federal government pay its Revolutionary War debts in full in order to bolster the nation’s credit.

assumption: Transfer of debt from one party to another. In order to strengthen the union, the federal government assumed states’ Revolutionary War debts in 1790, thereby tying the interests of wealthy lenders with those of the national government.

Tariff: Tax levied on imports. Traditionally, manufacturers support tariffs as protective and revenue-raising measures, while agricultural interests, dependent on world markets, oppose high tariffs.

excise tax: Tax on goods produced domestically. Excise taxes, particularly the 1791 tax on whiskey, were a highly controversial component of Alexander Hamilton’s financial program.

Bank of the United States (1791): Chartered by Congress as part of Alexander Hamilton’s financial program, the bank printed paper money and served as a depository for Treasury funds. It drew opposition from Jeffersonian Republicans, who argued that the bank was unconstitutional.

Whiskey Rebellion (1794): Popular uprising of whiskey distillers in southwestern Pennsylvania in opposition to an excise tax on whiskey. In a show of strength and resolve by the new central government, Washington put down the rebellion with militia drawn from several states.

Reign of Terror (1793-1794): Ten-month period of brutal repression when some 40,000 individuals were executed as enemies of the French Revolution. While many Jeffersonians maintained their faith in the French Republic, Federalists withdrew their already lukewarm support once the Reign of Terror commenced.

Neutrality Proclamation (1793): Issued by George Washington, it proclaimed America’s formal neutrality in the escalating conflict between England and France, a statement that enraged pro-French Jeffersonians.

Edmond Genet: “Citizen” Genet contributed to polarization of the new nation by trying to recruit American privateers to attack the British and Americans to attack Britain’s Spanish allies in Florida. His actions threatened American neutrality in the war between France and Britain

Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794): Decisive battle between the Miami Confederacy and the U.S. Army. British forces refused to shelter the routed Indians, forcing the latter to attain a peace settlement with the United States.

“Mad Anthony” Wayne: recalled from civilian life by President Washington to lead the expedition against the Miami Confederacy; led the U.S. army in a decisive victory over the Miami at the Battle of Fallen Timbers that resulted in the Treaty of Greenville.

Treaty of Greenville (1795): Under the terms of the treaty, the Miami Confederacy agreed to cede territory in the Old Northwest to the United States in exchange for cash payment, hunting rights, and formal recognition of their sovereign status.

Jay’s Treaty: Negotiated by Chief Justice John Jay in an effort to avoid war with Britain, the treaty included a British promise to evacuate outposts on U.S. soil and pay damages for seized American vessels, in exchange for which Jay bound the United States to repay pre-Revolutionary War debts and to abide by Britain’s restrictive trading policies toward France.

Pinckney’s Treaty (1795): Signed with Spain which, fearing an Anglo-American alliance, granted Americans free navigation of the Mississippi River and the disputed territory of Florida.

Farewell Address (1796): George Washington’s address at the end of his presidency, warning against “permanent alliances” with other nations. Washington did not oppose all alliances, but believed that the young, fledgling nation should forge alliances only on a temporary basis, in extraordinary circumstances.

XYZ Affair (1797): Diplomatic conflict between France and the United States when American envoys to France were asked to pay a hefty bribe for the privilege of meeting with the French foreign minister (Charles Maurice de Talleyrand). Many in the U.S. called for war against France, while American sailors and privateers waged an undeclared war against French merchants in the Caribbean.

* XY & Z demanded that the U.S. loan France $12 million and a $250,000 bribe to French Foreign Minister Talleyrand
* American delegates found these demands unacceptable and answered “not a sixpence” – but in the inflated rhetoric of the day, the response became “Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute!”

**Quasi-War**: Undeclared war fought mostly at sea between the United States and French Republic from 1798-1800.

Convention of 1800: Agreement to formally dissolve the United States’ treaty with France, originally signed during the Revolutionary War. The difficulties posed by America’s peacetime alliance with France contributed to Americans’ longstanding opposition to entangling alliances with foreign powers.

* Alliance had no expiration date
* France and Britain at war – if U.S. allied with France, the U.S. navy could possibly be crushed by Britain’s strong navy
* But a neutral U.S. would be able to supply France with desperately needed grain
* Both nations had the same goal in mind
* Resulted in peaceful cessation of the alliance between both nations

Alien Laws (1798): Acts passed by a Federalist Congress raising the residency requirement for citizenship to fourteen years and granting the president the power to deport dangerous foreigners in times of peace

Sedition Act (1798): Enacted by the Federalist Congress in an effort to clamp down on Jeffersonian opposition, the law made anyone convicted of defaming government officials or interfering with government policies liable to imprisonment and a heavy fine. The act drew heavy criticism from Republicans, who let the act expire in 1801.

Virginia and Kentucky resolutions (1798-1799): Statements secretly drafted by Jefferson and Madison for the legislatures of Kentucky and Virginia. Argued that states were the final arbiters of whether the federal government overstepped its boundaries and could therefore nullify, or refuse to accept, national legislation they deemed unconstitutional.