Adams and TJ Test Review

**A look back at GW 1789-1797: Political Party-None (but leaned Federalist)**

We first studied George Washington’s presidency. President Washington created many **precedents** during his presidency. Ex: Selected Cabinet, forceful use of laws, and first to be called President. Once President Washington began his job the main problem was the economy. The decision on how to fix the economy fell to Alexander Hamilton. He proposed **tariffs** on imported goods, and the creation of a national bank. This led to the creation of two political groups: *Federalists (Hamilton)* and the *Democratic Republicans (Jefferson)*. These two butted heads over the interpretation of the constitution. Feds were loose and believed in implied powers and DR’s were strict readers. Feds favored northern industrialists, and the DR’s southern agrarians. We also studied **foreign** and **domestic** problems during his term with *Jay’s Treaty* and the *Whiskey rebellion*. GW also adopted the policy of **neutrality** during his term (Not taking sides in the war between France and Britain).

**Adams Presidency 1797-1801:**  **Political Party-Federalist**

John Adams became president after two terms as GW’s vice president. He began office dealing with French problems. The Jay Treaty fixed our issues with Britain, but France still held a grudge. They began attacking our ships and **impressing** our sailors. This led to the *XYZ* affair where three American diplomats were asked to pay **tribute** for peace talks. “Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute.” The Americans refused to pay tribute, and anti- French feelings in America were high. President Adams built up the Navy, but he did lose support from the Federalist Party who wanted war with France. The Convention of 1800 solved the problems with France. The XYZ affair caused the Adams administration to distrust foreigners in America. The Alien and Sedition Acts were created in response. *(Study all four definitions in your spiral).* These acts were passed to protect national security, protect against foreign threats, and target immigrants who supported the DR’s. Jefferson and Madison led the DR response to the Alien Sedition acts by writing the Kentucky and Virginia **Resolutions**. Both states argued and passed legal documents that **nullified** these federal laws in the states. Both states argued that the Sedition Act violated states rights.

**Election of 1800:** The Election of 1800 was between John Adams (Fed) and Thomas Jefferson (DR). This was also an election between the current President and Vice President. Jefferson defeated Adams but ended up tied with fellow DR Aaron Burr. The tie was decided by the Federalist House of Representatives. They voted 35 times and finally on the 36th (with support from Hamilton surprisingly) Jefferson was elected. This also led to the famous Burr vs. Hamilton duel where Hamilton died. The 12th amendment was passed to prevent future ties for president. (Now the people voted for a party ticket, not 1st place=Pres and 2nd=Vice anymore). This election is known for being a peaceful exchanging of political power.

**Midnight Judges:** Even though Thomas Jefferson was elected President, John Adams and the Federalist Congress still held power from November of 1800- March of 1801. This is often referred to as a lame duck period. Adams took advantage of this and passed the Judiciary Act of 1801, creating 42 new judicial positions appointed by **commission.**  All were Federalist judges including Chief Justice John Marshall. He did this until the very end of his Presidency. Marshall would decide the famous court case Marbury vs. Madison.

**Marbury vs. Madison:** Not all of the midnight judges received their commissions. President Jefferson told James Madison not to deliver the remaining commissions, and Marbury sued for his appointment. The decision was good news bad news for Marbury. The Supreme Court agreed that he should have gotten his job, but told him the law he sued under violated the Constitution and he should have taken it to the lower courts first. The Supreme Court ruling of a law unconstitutional created **Judicial Review**. This means that the Judicial Branch can review laws and court cases and decide whether they match up with Constitution. This is important now, but for Jefferson the judicial branch could be a barrier during his term.

**Thomas Jefferson: 1801-1809 Political Party-DR**

Thomas Jefferson took over office and tried to make peace between the two parties. Jefferson completed the historic land deal with France entitled the Louisiana Purchase. What began as negotiations with France for New Orleans, after their secret treaty with Spain, became a deal that doubled the US size. Jefferson wanted New Orleans for access to the Mississippi for trading and its port access. Napoleon, the French dictator, was dealing with a war in Europe and a slave revolt in Haiti so, he sold all North American land. Once the deal was done, Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark on their famous expedition to explore the west. On the expedition the explorers mapped several passages through the Rockies, established friendly relations with the Natives, and studied new plants and animals. They were unable to discover the all water route across North America (Northwest Passage) that Jefferson thought existed. Jefferson also dealt with the Barbary Wars during his term. The Barbary Pirates had been asking for tribute to allow safe passage without kidnapping or taking over American ships. Jefferson did not want to continue paying so he organized naval ships, to protect American shipping in the African region. These wars lasted from 1801-1815. Jefferson also passed the Embargo Act which involved France and Britain. These two countries were still at war so American trade was affected. French and British blockades caused American ships to be harassed. Jefferson passed an Embargo on foreign goods. This led to a depressed American Economy, and was widely unpopular.