



Jefferson Takes Office

Objectives

1. Describe the outcome of the election of 1800.
2. Explain Jefferson's policies as President.
3. Discuss the importance of *Marbury v. Madison*.

Prepare to Read

Reading Skill

Understand Sequence of Events A historian must master the sequence of events that make up a historical episode. To understand the sequence, determine what happened first, next, or last. Look for clues such as dates and sequence signal words. Compare when events occurred. This will help you identify connections between events.

Vocabulary Builder

High-Use Words

prospect, p. 310

cease, p. 313

Key Terms and People

Thomas Jefferson, p. 310

Aaron Burr, p. 310

laissez faire, p. 311

John Marshall, p. 313

judicial review, p. 313

★ **Background Knowledge** In the previous chapter, you learned how the Federalists controlled the national government until the election of 1800. As a result of this election, the new Republican administration of Thomas Jefferson reversed Federalist policies. This led to what Jefferson called the "Revolution of 1800."

Main Idea

After a bitter election campaign, Thomas Jefferson used his inaugural address to try to bring opposing sides together.

Republicans Take Charge

Margaret Smith attended the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson as President of the United States in March 1801. After the inauguration, she wrote a letter explaining how proud she was of the United States. In other countries, the transfer of power usually involved "confusion . . . and bloodshed." However, "in our happy country" that transfer was peaceful and orderly.

A Bitter Campaign The presidential election of 1800 was viciously contested. The Federalists raised the **prospect** of civil war if Jefferson were elected. Republicans accused John Adams of wanting to create a monarchy.

By receiving 73 electoral votes, Jefferson defeated Adams. According to the Constitution, the person who received the next highest total of electoral votes would be Vice President. However, Aaron Burr, Jefferson's running mate, also received 73 votes. It was up to the House of Representatives to decide who would be President. For six days, the House was deadlocked. On the 36th vote, Jefferson won the election.

To avoid this situation in the future, the Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution changed how electors voted. Beginning in 1804, electors would vote separately for President and Vice President.

Vocabulary Builder

prospect (PRAHS pehkt) *n.*
expectation; likely outcome



Understand Sequence of Events

What words in this paragraph are clues to sequence?

Jefferson's Inauguration Thomas Jefferson was the first President to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C., the country's new capital. Jefferson believed the government should have simple customs. To make the point, he walked to his inauguration instead of riding in a fancy carriage. He also ended the custom of people bowing to the President. Instead, they just shook his hand.

Jefferson used his inaugural address to bring a divided country together. He told the American people:

“Let us, then, fellow-citizens, unite with one heart and one mind. . . . Every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle. . . . We are all Republicans; we are all Federalists.”

—Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1801

Checkpoint Why did the election of 1800 have to be decided in the House of Representatives?

Jefferson Charts a New Course

Jefferson thought of his election as the “Revolution of 1800.” Jefferson’s first goal as President was to limit the federal government’s power over states and citizens. The new President thought that under Washington and Adams the federal government had become too involved in economic affairs. He believed in the idea known as *laissez faire* (LEHS ay fehr), from the French term for “let alone.” *Laissez faire* means that the government should not interfere in the economy.

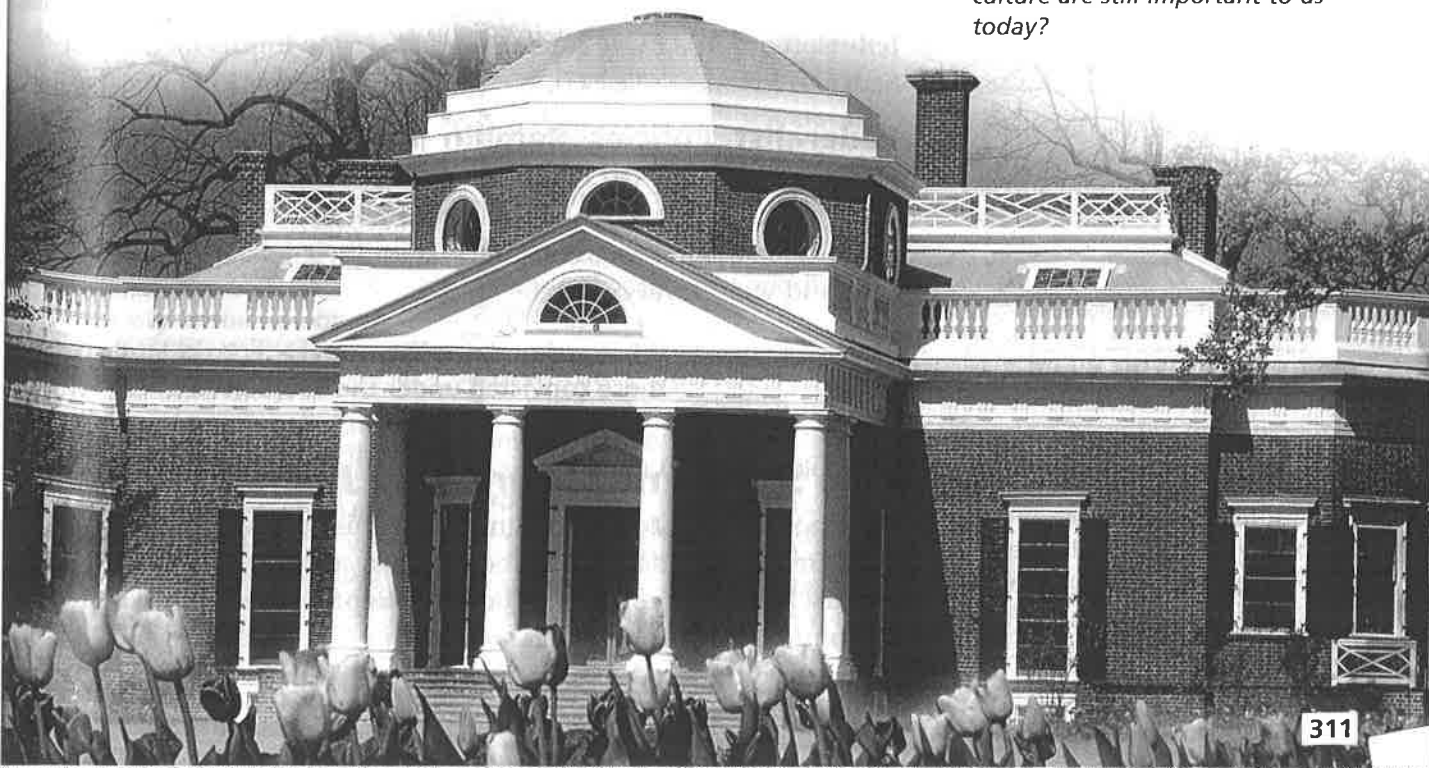
New Republican Policies Jefferson put his *laissez faire* ideas into practice when he reduced the number of people in government. He fired all tax collectors and cut the number of U.S. diplomats.

Main Idea

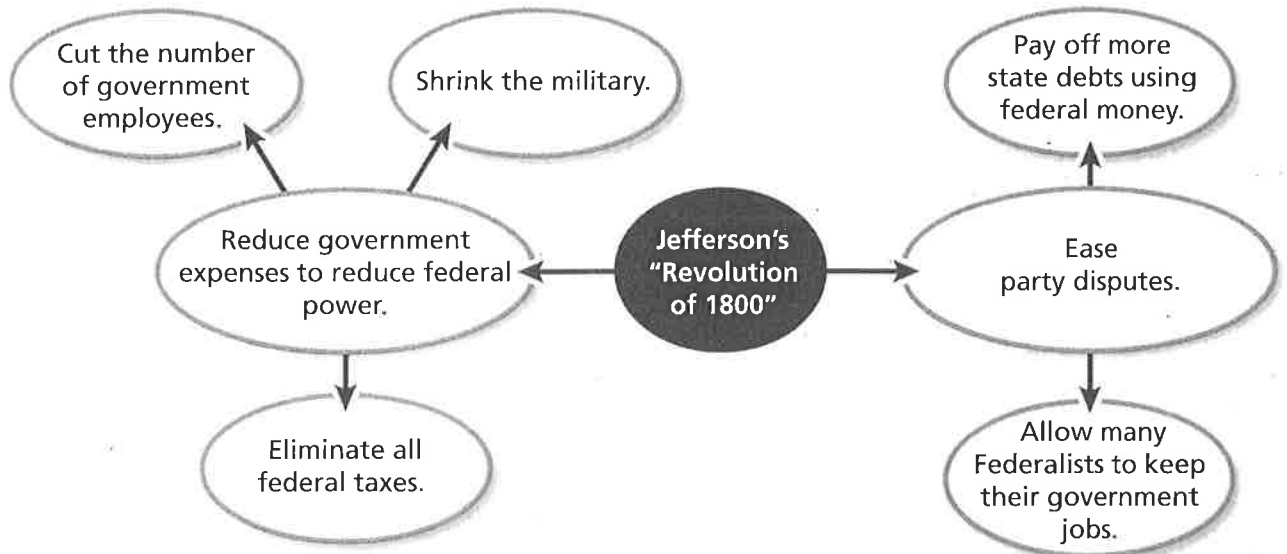
As President, Thomas Jefferson’s main goal was to limit the federal government’s power over states and citizens.

Thomas Jefferson’s Home

Thomas Jefferson designed his home, Monticello. In the design, he included elements of Greek architecture, such as columns, and Roman architecture, such as domes. **Critical Thinking: Link Past and Present** What elements of Greek and Roman culture are still important to us today?



Goals and Policies of Thomas Jefferson



Reading Charts

Skills Activity

Viewing his election as the “Revolution of 1800,” Thomas Jefferson vowed to change many of the policies of George Washington and John Adams.

(a) **Read a Concept Web** What were Jefferson’s two main goals?

(b) **Frame Questions** Write two questions you would ask Thomas Jefferson about his goals upon assuming the presidency.

Larger cuts came from shrinking the military. Jefferson cut the army’s budget in half, reducing the army’s size from 4,000 to about 2,500 soldiers. At the same time, Jefferson eliminated all federal taxes inside the country. Now, most tax revenue came from the tariff on imported goods.

The Sedition Act was another of Jefferson’s targets. As you have read, a number of people had been convicted and fined under the act. Jefferson ordered those fines refunded. Those imprisoned under the Sedition Act were released.

Federalist Policies Remain Jefferson could not reverse all Federalist policies. He believed that the United States had to keep repaying its national debt. He also did not fire most of the Federalist officeholders. He said they could keep their jobs if they did them well and were loyal citizens.

Checkpoint What action did Jefferson take as President to help those convicted under the Sedition Act?

Main Idea

The Supreme Court ruling in *Marbury v. Madison* established the principle of judicial review.

The Supreme Court and Judicial Review

One Federalist who did not keep his job was Judge William Marbury. Adams had appointed Marbury and several other judges in the last hours before he left office. The Republicans argued that these appointments were aimed at maintaining Federalist power.

When Jefferson took office, he ordered James Madison, his secretary of state, to cease work on the appointments. Marbury then sued Madison, citing the Judiciary Act of 1789. This act gave the Supreme Court the power to review cases brought against a federal official.

The outcome of the case forever changed the relationship of the three branches of government. In his ruling, Chief Justice John Marshall spoke for a unanimous Court. He ruled that the Judiciary Act of 1789 was unconstitutional. Marshall stated that the Court's powers came from the Constitution, not from Congress. Therefore, Congress did not have the right to give power to the Supreme Court in the Judiciary Act. Only the Constitution could do that.

The Court's actual decision—that it could not help Marbury gain his commission—was not highly significant. However, the ruling did set an important precedent. Marshall used the case of *Marbury v. Madison* to establish the principle of judicial review—the authority of the Supreme Court to strike down unconstitutional laws. Today, judicial review remains one of the most important powers of the Supreme Court.

✓ **Checkpoint** What is judicial review?

★ **Looking Back and Ahead** Thomas Jefferson had long argued that the federal government's powers were limited to what was set down in the Constitution. The Constitution did not specifically give the government the power to buy land from a foreign country. In the next section, you will read of Jefferson's dilemma when France offered to sell the United States the huge territory known as Louisiana.

Section 1 | Check Your Progress

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Comprehension and Critical Thinking

- (a) Recall** How did Jefferson's inauguration demonstrate the changes he planned for the U.S. government?
(b) Apply Information How did Jefferson's policies change the American government?
- (a) Identify** What was Chief Justice Marshall's decision in the case of *Marbury v. Madison*?
(b) Make Predictions How did the outcome of *Marbury v. Madison* affect the relationship of the three branches of government?

Reading Skill

- 3. Understand Sequence of Events** Read the first paragraph under the heading "Jefferson Charts a New Course." What was Jefferson's *first* priority as President?

Vocabulary Builder

- Read each sentence below. If the sentence is true, write YES. If the sentence is not true, write NO and explain why.
- Jefferson believed in *laissez faire*, the idea that the federal government should not interfere in economic affairs.

- John Marshall cited judicial review as the reason why only the Senate had the right to decide whether acts of Congress are constitutional.

Writing

- Based on what you have read in this section about Jefferson's early days in office, write a thesis statement about Jefferson's influence on American government. Then, list the kinds of supporting information that would back up your thesis statement.