

Name: _____

Date: _____

U.S. History 8
DBQ Essay; Founding Fathers and their Foreign
Policies
Culminating Assessment Plan

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

As the American Revolution ended, the United States emerged as an independent and fragile nation. It had to co-exist in a world dominated with large and powerful monarchical empires. It became the job of the first few presidents to guide the young nation through this difficult time. They are recognized for their **foreign and domestic policies** that helped this country become a strong nation. Through their actions, they influenced the future of American foreign policy.

DIRECTIONS

The task is based on the accompanying documents (1-10). This task is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of the documents have been edited for the purposes of the question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and the point of view presented in the document.

TASK

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to:

- **Identify three foreign policies.**
- **For each of the policies you identify, explain why the president believed that policy would benefit the United States and how this policy impacted the nation.**
and
- **explain how it kept America isolated and/or neutral from European nations. In what ways did their actions have unintended consequences?**

Part A

DOCUMENT #1:

Directions: Study the quote below and then answer the questions that follow.

George Washington Document 1

The Proclamation of Neutrality, April 22, 1793...

“...the duty and interest of the United States require, that they should with sincerity and good faith adopt and pursue a conduct friendly and impartial toward the belligerent Powers (nations at war); ... citizens of the United States shall render himself liable to punishment or forfeiture (surrender) under the law of nations, by committing, aiding, or abetting hostilities against any of the said Powers...”

George Washington, 1793

1. What was the purpose of the Proclamation of Neutrality? _____

George Washington Document 2

I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the State...”

“It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world.”

Washington’s Farewell Address, 1796

1. Using the document above, what warnings did George Washington give to the people of the United States in his Farewell Address? _____

2. **Why do you think he did this?** _____

DOCUMENT #3

Directions: Read the excerpts below and answer the questions that follow:

John Adams Document 3

"Although it is very true that we ought not to involve ourselves in the political system of Europe, but to keep ourselves always distinct and separate from it if we can, we are endeavoring (trying) to adjust all our differences with France by amicable negotiation...render it my indispensable (inevitable) duty to recommend to your consideration effectual measures of defense.....I shall institute a fresh attempt at negotiation, and shall not fail to promote and accelerate an accommodation on terms compatible with the rights, duties, interests, and honor of the nation."

Speech by John Adams in a Special Message to Congress on the XYZ Affair" (May 16, 1797)

1. What was the XYZ Affair? How did Americans react to this? _____

2. Using the document above, what is John Adams position on negotiations with France after the XYZ Affair? _____

DOCUMENT #4

Jefferson: The Barbary Wars

Excerpt, Letter Thomas Jefferson to John Adams

Paris, July 11, 1786

Dear Sir

... I ask a fleet of 150 guns, the one half of which shall be in constant cruise. This fleet built ... will cost 450,000 pounds sterling. It's annual expence is 300 pounds sterling a gun, including every thing: this will be 45,000 pounds sterling a year. ... Were we to charge all this to the Algerine war it would amount to little more than we must pay if we buy peace. But as it is proper and necessary that we should establish a small marine force (even were we to buy a peace from the Algerines,) and as that force laid up in our dockyards would cost us half as much annually as if kept in order for service, we have a right to say that only 22,500 pounds sterling per annum should be charged to the Algerine war. (Cappon 1959, 142-143)

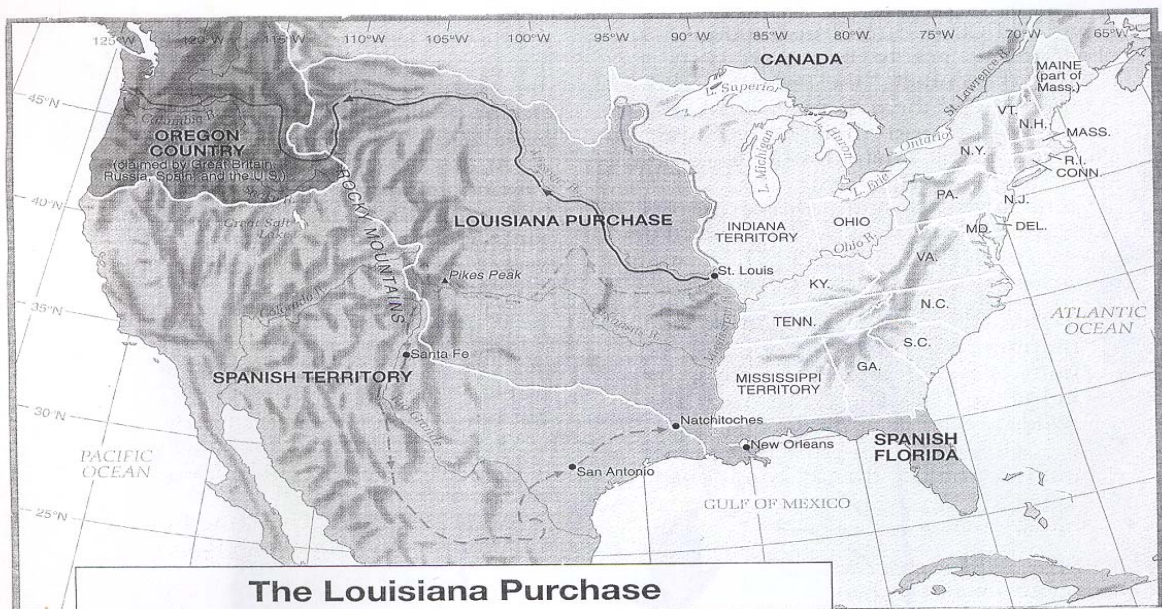
1. What does Jefferson conclude about whether or not to continue paying tribute to the Algerines?
2. How does his view change when he becomes President? Why do you think he does this?

DOCUMENT #5

Directions: Study the map and quote below and then answer the questions that follow.

Letter from President Thomas Jefferson to William Dunbar, July 17, 1803

Before you receive this, you will have heard, through the channel of the public papers, of the cession of Louisiana by France to the United States... That the treaty may be ratified in time, I have found it necessary to convene Congress on the 17th of October...



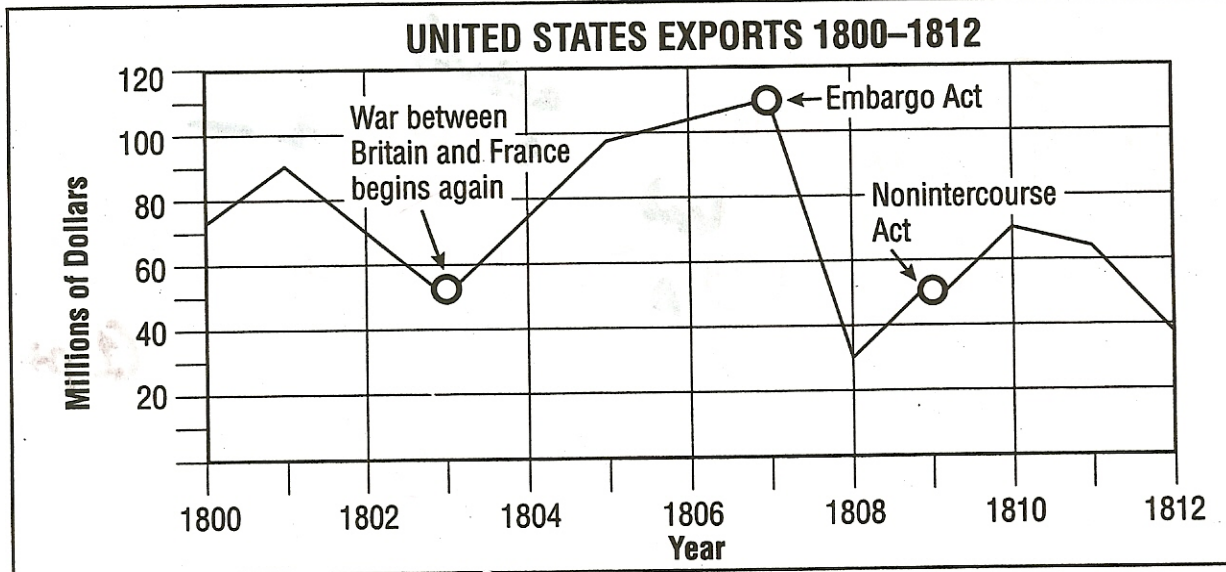
1. In the letter, Thomas Jefferson states “the treaty may be ratified [between France and USA] in time”. If the agreement signed is called a treaty, does that give Pres. Jefferson the constitutional right to make the purchase? Explain your answer.

2. Explain one (1) way the Louisiana Purchase benefited the United States?

DOCUMENT # 6

Directions: Study the caption and chart below and then answer the questions that follow.

The United States was very angry with Britain and France for interfering with trade. In 1807, President Jefferson convinced Congress to pass the **Embargo Act**. This law stated that Americans could not trade with other countries. Jefferson thought the **embargo** would hurt France and Britain by cutting off their supplies. However, it also hurt Americans by reducing trade. (See graph). The law was replaced by the **Nonintercourse Act**. It allowed Americans to trade with all nations except France and Britain.



1. How much money did the United States lose in exports in the first year after the Embargo Act was passed?

2. Describe the effect the **Embargo Act** had on American trade?

DOCUMENT # 7

Directions: Study the quote and answer the questions that follow.

“British cruisers (ships) have been in the practice of violating the rights and the peace of our coasts...Our commerce has been plundered (taken) in every sea, the great staples of our country have been cut off from our legitimate markets and a destructive blow aimed at our agricultural and maritime interest and now we behold...on the side of Great Britain a state of war against the United States.”

President James Madison sends a war message to Congress June 1, 1812.

1. After reading the message, do you believe Pres. Madison was for going to war with Britain or against?

2. List two complaints the President is making in this quote?

1. _____

2. _____

DOCUMENT # 8

Madison

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

“I communicate to Congress certain documents, being a continuation of those heretofore laid before them on the subject of our affairs with Great Britain. British cruisers have been in the continued practice of violating the American flag on the great highway of nations, and of seizing and carrying off persons sailing. ..Thousands of American citizens, under the safeguard of public law and of their national flag, have been torn from their country and from everything dear to them; have been dragged on board ships ... of a foreign nation and exposed, under the severities of their discipline.”
James Madison Special Message to Congress on the Foreign Policy Crisis War Message (June 1, 1812)

1. From the document, what is James Madison’s main point in his address to Congress? _____

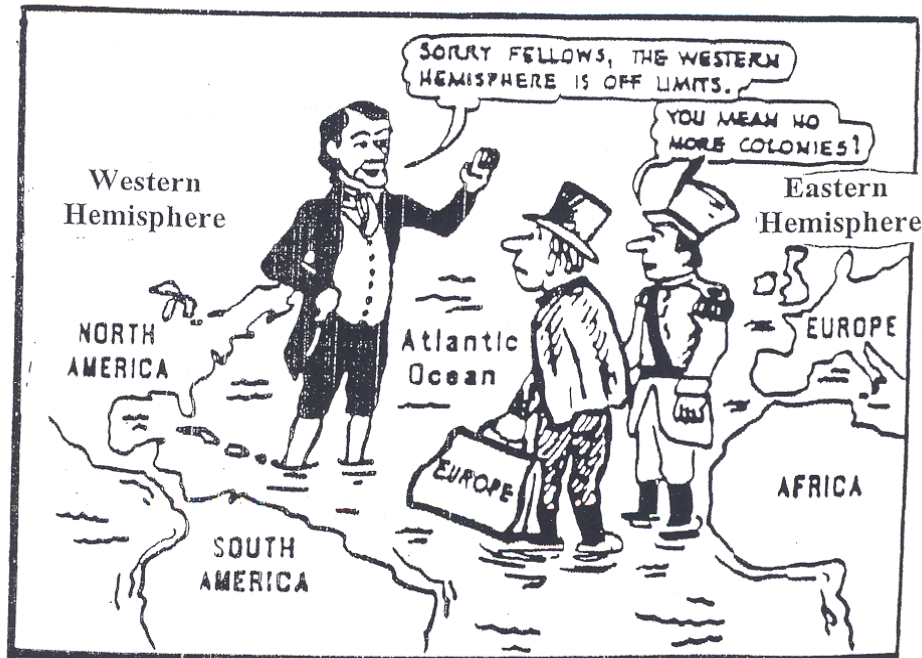
DOCUMENT # 9

Directions: Study the quote and cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.

President Monroe “Enforces” The Monroe Doctrine - 1823

President James Monroe boldly proclaimed The Western Hemisphere
Closed to European colonization.

If Europe observed this, The U.S. would not intervene in Europe’s affairs.



“...the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, ...henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers...”

President Monroe’s message to Congress, December 2, 1823

1. Who does the man in the black suit represent?

2. According to the quote, what are the European powers prohibited to do in the American continents?

3. Why would the United States want to keep European Nations out of North and South America?

4. Do you think the United States was able to “enforce” the Monroe Doctrine? Explain.

DOCUMENT # 10

Monroe

" I shall behold it blessed with tranquility (peace) and prosperity at home and with peace and respect abroad. I can indulge the proud reflection that the American people have reached in safety and success their 40th year as an independent nation..."

Madison's, State of the Union, December 3, 1816

1. Using the document, what does James Madison state as his main accomplishment at the end of his presidency ? _____

Part B

Essay

Directions: Write a well-organized 5-paragraph essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from at least **three** documents in the body of the essay to answer the task. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information if possible (class notes, book reference, etc.).

Historical Context and Essay Prompt:

The first few Presidents of the United States influenced the future of American foreign policy to become an isolated country that focused on its own issues. Although their goal and aim was to keep the United States isolated and neutral, foreign events made this often times impossible.

Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, identify (3) three actions these presidents took and explain how it kept America isolated from

European nations. In what ways did their actions have unintended consequences? (use prior knowledge here!!!)

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to:

- Address all aspects of the *Task* by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least **three** documents.
- Incorporate information from the documents in the body of the essay.
- Incorporate relevant outside information.
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details.
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization.

Name: _____

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Essay

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