

1 A Republican Takes Office

Prepare to Read

Objectives

- In this section, you will
- Describe Jefferson's democratic style as president.
 - List the actions Jefferson took to reduce the power of the federal government.
 - Explain how Chief Justice John Marshall strengthened the Supreme Court.

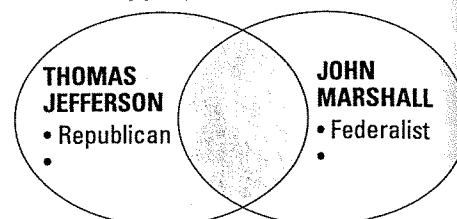
Key Terms

democratic
laissez faire
free market
Marbury v. Madison
judicial review

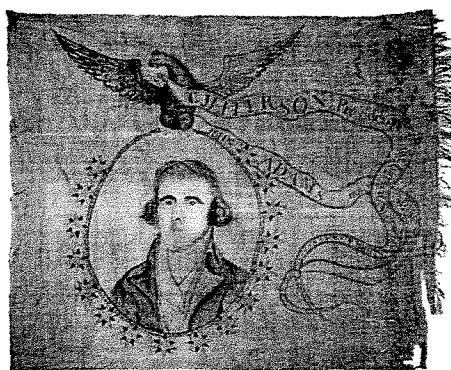


Target Reading Skill

Comparison and Contrast Copy this incomplete Venn diagram. As you read, fill in key facts about Thomas Jefferson and John Marshall. Write common characteristics in the overlapping section.



Main Idea As President, Thomas Jefferson sought to set a democratic tone and to reduce the role of the federal government.



Banner celebrating Jefferson's inauguration

Setting the Scene The morning Thomas Jefferson became President of the United States, he ate breakfast at Conrad and McMunn's, the boardinghouse where he was staying. Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, was so new that the Capitol Building was still unfinished. Even so, Congress assembled there on March 4, 1801, to witness Jefferson's inauguration.

Jefferson wanted his inauguration to be simple, not showy. Rather than riding in a carriage to the Capitol, he walked. The new President gave a speech at the ceremony, but in a voice so low, hardly anyone could hear him. Then, he walked back to Conrad and McMunn's for a quiet dinner. When he entered, only one of his fellow diners even bothered to stand and offer Jefferson a chair.

Jefferson deliberately made his inauguration a low-key affair. Although he came from a wealthy family, he believed that the nation's strength came from ordinary people, such as farmers. As President, he rejected most Federalist ideas and turned the nation in a new direction.

Jefferson's Democratic Style

Jefferson was determined to make the government more democratic. **Democratic** means ensuring that all people have the same rights. Years before, in a letter to James Madison, he stressed that each citizen should play a part in a democracy:

“Educate and inform the whole mass of the people. Enable them to see that it is their interest to preserve peace and order, and they will preserve them. . . . They are the only [ones to rely on] for the preservation of our liberty.”

—Thomas Jefferson, letter to James Madison, 1787

Jefferson's personal style matched his democratic beliefs. The new President preferred quiet dinners to the formal parties that George Washington and John Adams had given. He wore casual clothes and greeted people by shaking hands instead of bowing. With his informal manner, Jefferson showed that the President was an ordinary citizen.

Some Federalists were worried about Jefferson's democratic beliefs. They knew that he supported the French Revolution and they feared that he might bring revolutionary change to the United States. They were also afraid that he might punish Federalists who had used the Alien and Sedition acts to jail Republicans.

In his inaugural address, Jefferson tried to calm Federalists' fears. He promised that, although the Republicans were in the majority, he would not treat the Federalists harshly. "The minority possess their equal rights, which equal laws must protect," he told the nation. He called for an end to the political disputes of the past few years. "We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists," the President concluded.

A Smaller Role for the Federal Government

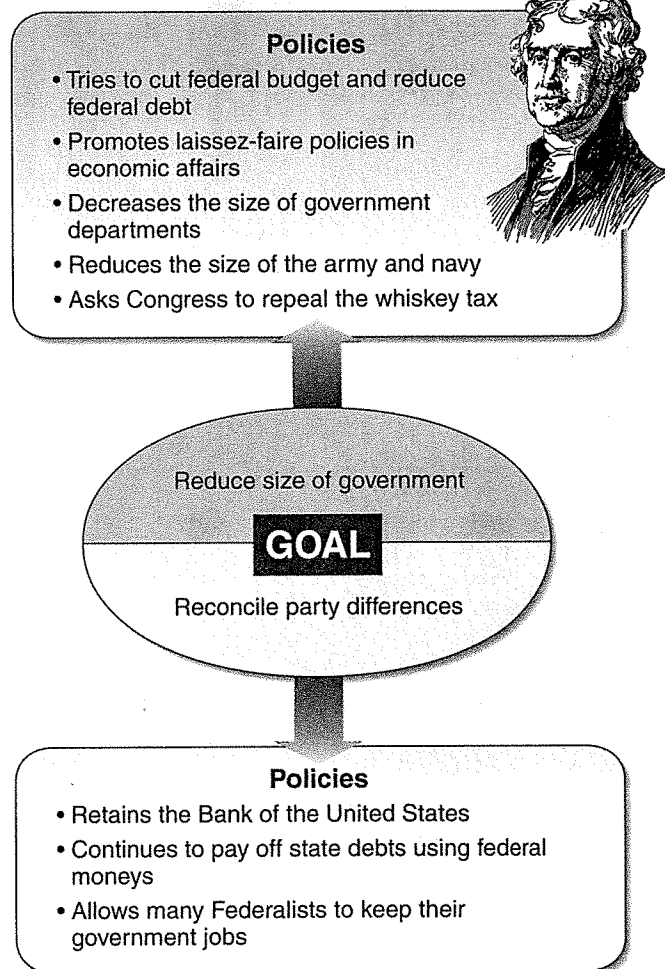
Jefferson had no plan to punish Federalists. He did, however, want to change their policies. In his view, the Federalists had made the national government too large and too powerful.

New Economic Policies One way Jefferson wanted to lessen government power was by reducing the federal budget. Such budget cuts would also keep the federal debt low. His Secretary of the Treasury, Albert Gallatin (GAHL uh tin), helped him achieve this goal. A financial wizard, Gallatin reduced government spending through careful management.

Jefferson believed in an economic idea known as *laissez faire* (leh sah yay FAYR), a French term meaning "let alone." The idea of *laissez faire* was promoted by the Scottish economist Adam Smith. In his book *The Wealth of Nations*, Smith argued in favor of a free market where goods and services are exchanged with little regulation. Free competition, Smith said, would benefit everyone, not just the wealthy.

Laissez faire economists believed that government should play as small a role as possible in economic affairs. *Laissez faire* was very different from the Federalist idea of government. Alexander Hamilton, you recall, wanted government to promote trade and manufacturing.

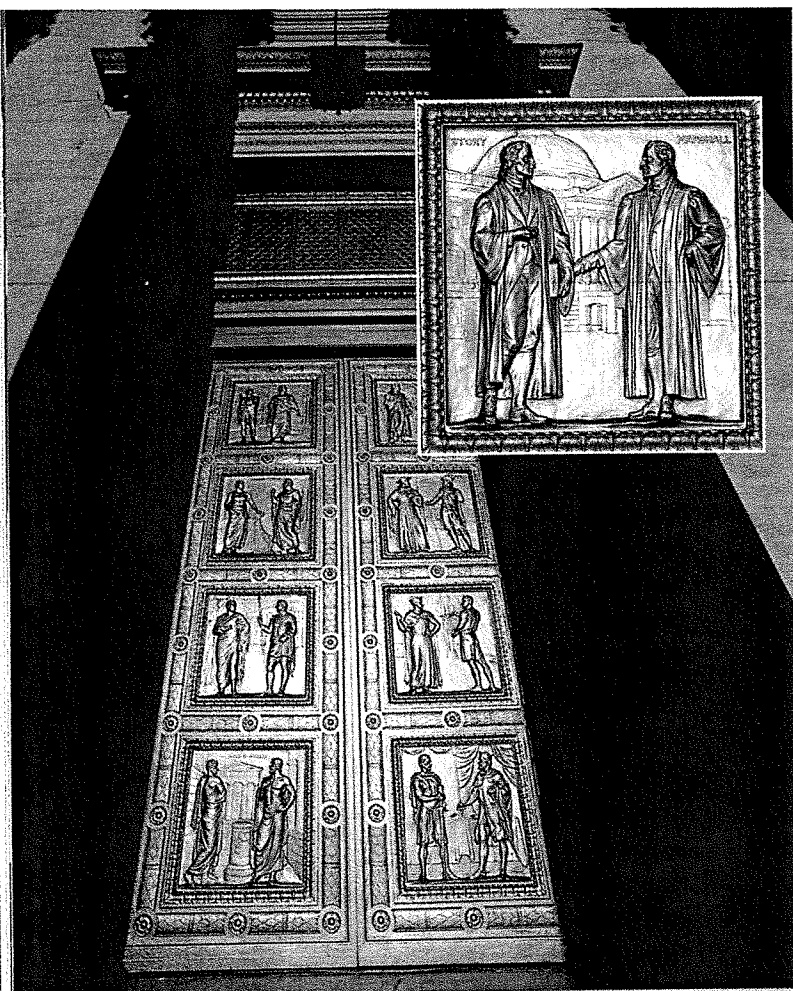
Goals and Policies of Jefferson



GRAPHIC ORGANIZER Skills

Jefferson set the nation in a new direction, but kept some existing policies.

- 1. Comprehension** Identify two ways Jefferson continued Federalist policies.
- 2. Critical Thinking Linking Past and Present** Which of the goals and policies shown here might still be issues today? Why?



A Less Active Government Jefferson believed that the government should protect the rights of its citizens. Beyond that, he wanted the federal government to take a less active role in governing the nation. He decreased the size of government departments and cut the federal budget. With the approval of Congress, he reduced the size of the army and navy. He also asked Congress to repeal the unpopular whiskey tax.

The Sedition Act expired the day before Jefferson took office. Jefferson hated the law, and he pardoned those who were in jail because of it. He also asked Congress to restore the law allowing foreign-born people to become citizens after only a five-year waiting period.

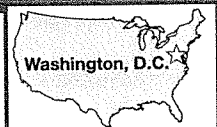
Federalist Policies Remain Jefferson did not discard all Federalist programs. On the advice of Albert Gallatin, he kept the Bank of the United States. The federal government also continued to pay off state debts, which it had taken over while Washington was President. In addition, Jefferson let many Federalists keep their government jobs.

Viewing History

Chief Justice John Marshall

Today, these 20-foot-tall bronze doors lead into the Supreme Court chambers. The carved panels stand for important moments in legal history—including John Marshall delivering the decision in *Marbury v. Madison* (inset).

Applying Information Why do you think the sculptor included *Marbury v. Madison* as an important moment?



Strengthening the Supreme Court

The election of 1800 gave Republicans control of Congress. Federalists, however, remained powerful in the courts.

Several months passed between Jefferson's election and his inauguration. In that time, Federalists in the old Congress passed a law increasing the number of federal judges. President Adams then appointed Federalists to fill these new judicial positions.

One of the judges that Adams appointed was John Marshall, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Like Jefferson, Marshall was a rich Virginia planter with a brilliant mind. Unlike Jefferson, however, Marshall was a staunch Federalist. He wanted to make the federal government stronger.

The framers of the Constitution expected the courts to balance the powers of the President and Congress. However, John Marshall found the courts to be much weaker than the other branches of government. In his view, it was not clear what powers the federal courts had.

Marbury v. Madison In 1803, Marshall decided a case that increased the power of the Supreme Court. The case involved William Marbury, one of the judges appointed by Adams. Adams made the appointment on his last night as President. The Republicans refused to accept this "midnight judge." They accused Federalists of using unfair tactics to keep control of the courts. Jefferson ordered Secretary of State James Madison not to deliver the official papers confirming Marbury's appointment.



Compare and Contrast

How was John Marshall different from Thomas Jefferson? What did they have in common? Add these observations to your Venn diagram.

Marbury sued Madison. According to the Judiciary Act of 1789, only the Supreme Court could decide a case that was brought against a federal official. Therefore, the case of *Marbury v. Madison* was tried before the Supreme Court.

An Important Precedent The Supreme Court ruled against Marbury. Chief Justice Marshall wrote the decision, stating that the Judiciary Act was unconstitutional. The Constitution, Marshall argued, did not give the Supreme Court the right to decide cases brought against federal officials. Therefore, Congress could not give the Court that power simply by passing the Judiciary Act.

The Supreme Court's decision in *Marbury v. Madison* set an important precedent. It gave the Supreme Court the power to decide whether laws passed by Congress were constitutional and to reject laws that it considered to be unconstitutional. This power of the Court is called **judicial review**.

Jefferson was displeased with the decision. True, Marshall had ruled against Marbury, the Federalist judge. But Marshall's decision gave more power to the Supreme Court, where Federalists were still strong. Jefferson also argued that the decision upset the balance of power among the three branches of government:

“The opinion which gives to the judges the right to decide what laws are constitutional and what not, not only for themselves . . . but for the Legislature and Executive also . . . would make the Judiciary a [tyrannical] branch.”

—Thomas Jefferson, letter to Abigail Adams, 1804

In the end, the President and Congress accepted the right of the Court to overturn laws. Today, judicial review remains one of the most important powers of the Supreme Court.

Connecting to Today

The Supreme Court

Under the strong hand of John Marshall, the Supreme Court increased its power. Today, as in Marshall's time, the justices base their decisions on the Constitution, as well as on past decisions. They may overturn a law because it violates the Constitution. They may reverse decisions by lower courts that did not apply the Constitution correctly.

Today, the Court faces questions that Marshall could not have imagined. How does freedom of speech apply to the Internet? Can members of a school athletic team be required to submit to random drug tests? Can a state government release information contained in a driver's license? Such decisions reach into the lives of every American.

Why do Supreme Court decisions have a wider effect than decisions by state courts?

★ ★ ★ Section 1 Assessment ★ ★ ★

Recall

1. **Identify** Explain the significance of (a) Albert Gallatin, (b) John Marshall, (c) *Marbury v. Madison*.
2. **Define** (a) democratic, (b) laissez faire, (c) free market, (d) judicial review.

Comprehension

3. (a) How did Jefferson's actions as President reflect his democratic beliefs? (b) Why did his beliefs worry Federalists?
4. Describe three steps that Jefferson took to reduce the power of the federal government.

5. What important precedent did John Marshall set in the case of *Marbury v. Madison*?

Critical Thinking and Writing

6. **Exploring the Main Idea**
Review the Main Idea statement at the beginning of this section. Then, write an outline for a speech Jefferson might have given to explain his goals.
7. **Supporting a Point of View**
Write a paragraph explaining whether or not you think judicial review upsets the balance of power in the government.

ACTIVITY

Go Online
PHSchool.com

Connecting to Today

Use the Internet to find out about a current law that affects the goods Americans buy. Summarize the law, and explain what a laissez faire economist would think of it. For help in completing the activity, visit PHSchool.com, **Web Code mfd-1001**.