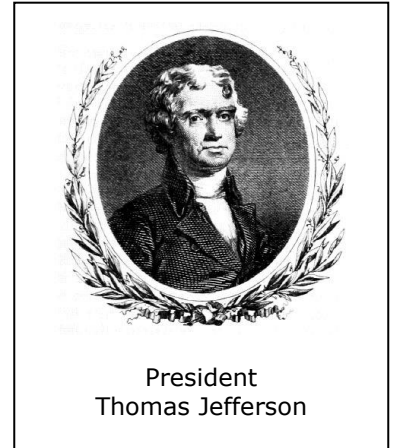


Seventh – Eighth Congresses

Dec. 7, 1801 – Mar. 3, 1803; Oct. 13, 1803 – Mar. 3, 1805

First Administration of Thomas Jefferson

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Historical Background

Despite the Quasi-War with France and Federalist opposition, John Adams during his last few weeks in the White House continued to seek a settlement with France. Finally, on September 30, 1800, in Paris, an American diplomatic mission was able to sign a Convention with the French government. Adams submitted the Treaty of Morfontaine to the Senate on December 16, 1800. Only after the Senate had expunged the second article of the Convention, and the French government approved the change, was the treaty finally approved a year later.

In 1802, the Seventh Congress established the United States Military Academy at West Point, repealed the Judiciary Act of 1801, and enacted a plan whereby most of the States would subsequently attain statehood.

Although philosophically reluctant to exercise strong executive authority, President Jefferson arranged, without legislative sanction, the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from the French Government in 1803. Jefferson also endorsed the National Bank Act of 1804, even though he had opposed Federalist demands under Washington and Adams for a stronger, more centralized national financial structure.

Meanwhile, Congress independently proposed the Twelfth Amendment to provide for separate balloting by Presidential electors for President and Vice

<u>Seventh Congress</u>	
House	Senate
Majority Party: Jeffersonian Republicans (68 seats)	Majority Party: Jeffersonian Republicans (17 seats)
Minority Party: Federalists (49 seats)	Minority Party: Federalists (15 seats)
Other Parties: none	Other Parties: none
Speaker of the House: Nathaniel Macon	Senate President Pro Tempore: Abraham Baldwin; Stephen R. Bradley

President, thus avoiding the possibility of another constitutional crisis like that of 1801.

Sources:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Jefferson, Thomas. [State of the Union address](#). Dec. 8, 1801. 7th Congress, 1st Session, For.rel.19. ProQuest Congressional, ASP01 For.rel.19

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War or Peace?

First Barbary War

As President Jefferson took office in 1801, one of the biggest crises facing the United States was the ongoing problem of the North African Barbary States—Tripoli, Algiers, Tunis and the Sultanate of Morocco—demanding tribute for safe passage of merchant ships in the Mediterranean. During the Adams administration, the Federal government had been paying as much as \$1 million dollars, a significant fraction of the total budget, annually to ransom sailors captured by Barbary pirates. Just prior to Jefferson’s inauguration, the Congress approved legislation authorizing the construction of naval vessels expressly for the purpose of protecting U.S. merchant ships in the Mediterranean.

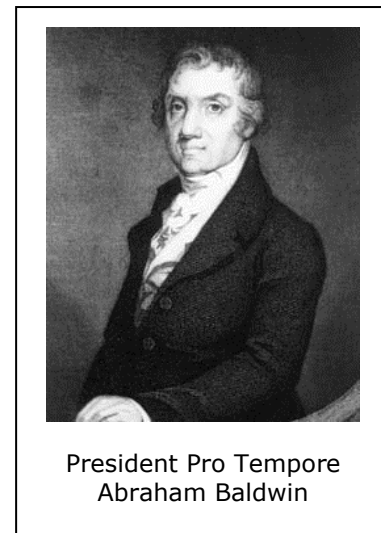
Upon Jefferson’s assumption of the Presidency, the Pasha of Tripoli demanded a tribute of the new administration in order to guarantee the safety of American commercial vessels in the Mediterranean. Jefferson demurred and the Pasha declared war on the United States by cutting down the flagstaff of the U.S. Consulate.

Congress passed legislation in 1802 authorizing the President to deploy the U.S. Navy to ensure the safety of American vessels in the Mediterranean. Hostilities followed throughout Jefferson’s first term as President until the U.S. blockade of Tripoli harbor led the Pasha to sue for peace in June 1805.

Sources:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

<u>Eighth Congress</u>	
House	Senate
Majority Party: Jeffersonian Republicans (103 seats)	Majority Party: Jeffersonian Republicans (25 seats)
Minority Party: Federalists (39 seats)	Minority Party: Federalists (9 seats)
Other Parties: none	Other Parties: none
Speaker of the House: Nathaniel Macon	Senate President Pro Tempore: John Brown: Jesse Franklin; Joseph Anderson



Jefferson, Thomas. [Barbary Powers: negotiations and naval operations](#). Department of State, Dec. 8, 1801. 7th Congress, 1st Session, For.rel.165. ProQuest Congressional, ASP02 For.rel.165

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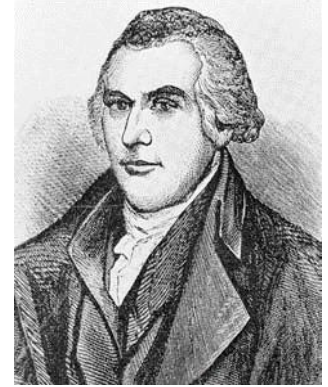
Economic Trends and Conditions

During his presidency, Jefferson advocated strongly for a philosophy of economic prosperity and fiscal restraint. Allowing for the possibility that the uncertain global environment may yet require greater military expenditure, Jefferson nevertheless argued, in his address to the first session of the Seventh Congress, that “weighing all probabilities of expense as well as of income, there is reasonable ground of confidence that we may now safely dispense with all the internal taxes, comprehending excise, stamps, auctions, licences, carriages, and refined sugars . . . and that the remaining sources of revenue will be sufficient to provide for the support of Government, to pay the interest of the public debts, and to discharge the principals within shorter periods than the laws, or the general expectation, had contemplated.”

Jefferson further articulated a vision of the scope of the Federal government that contrasted with that of his Federalist predecessors. In Jefferson’s view, as it is the States themselves who bear the greatest burden of responsibility for the wellbeing of their respective citizens, the Federal government should be concerned solely with foreign affairs and the mutual relations among the States. Jefferson thus embarked on a program of reducing, where he was empowered, the expenses of Federal offices, both by reforming those which he deemed nevertheless necessary and by altogether abolishing those that were not. However, he was restricted in his ability to act unilaterally to those government offices created by executive action recognizing that the great bulk of Federal agencies were legislatively mandated. To that end, Jefferson admonished Congress that should they wish to evaluate the utility of any legislatively mandated offices or agencies, they would find ample cooperation from his administration.

The President’s financial circumspection grew out of his concerns about the United States accruing substantial national debt. During his Presidency, Jefferson cautioned his Treasury Secretary, Albert Gallatin, to pursue policies aimed at reducing the national debt, which stood at \$83 million at the start of the first Jefferson Administration. Incongruously, though, the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory from France added \$15 million to the national debt, while at the same time roughly doubling the territory of the United States.

Sources:



President Pro Tempore
Stephen R. Bradley



President Pro Tempore
John Brown

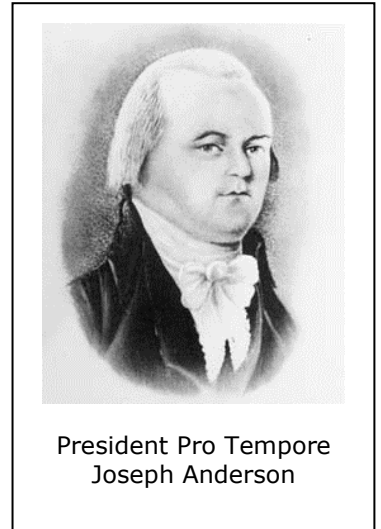
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Gallatin, Albert, et. al. [Annual report of Secretary of Treasury on state of finances](#). Department of Treasury, Dec. 20, 1802. 7th Congress, 2nd Session, Fin.187. ProQuest Congressional, ASP010 Fin.187

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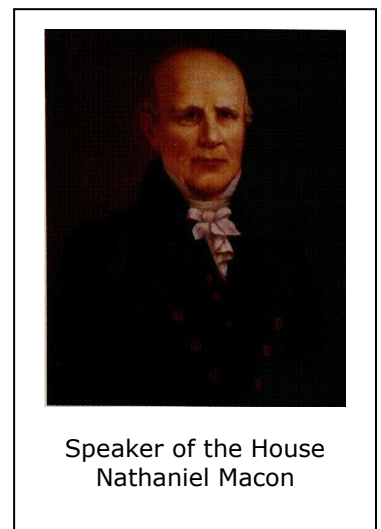


Constitutional Amendments

Twelfth Amendment. Provided for separate voting by electors for President and Vice President. The person receiving a majority of the votes for the office of President would be President and the person receiving a majority of the votes for Vice President would be Vice President. If no candidate received a majority, then the House, voting by States, would elect the President, and the Senate would select the Vice President. Proposed December 9, 1803. Ratification completed June 15, 1804. ([1 Stat. 21](#))

Sources:

Costello, George A. and Johnny H. Killian. [Constitution of the United States of America. Analysis and Interpretation](#). CRS, Library of Congress, Jan. 1, 1996. 103rd Congress, 1st Session, S. Doc. 103-6 (Y1.1/3:103-6). ProQuest Congressional, 14152 S.doc.6



Major Treaties

Treaty of Morfontaine (Convention of 1800 with France). Provided for a “firm, invincible, and universal . . . peace between the French Republic, and the United States of America . . .” Also released the United States from its 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France (already unilaterally abrogated by the United States in 1798) and the French from American claims totaling \$20 million for damage done American commerce by French vessels. Concluded September 30, 1800. Ratified as amended by the French government on July 31, 1801. Approved by the Senate on December 21, 1801. ([8 Stat. 178-195](#))

Louisiana Purchase Treaty. Provided that France cede all of Louisiana to the United States for 80 million francs (about \$15 million), including 12 million francs for assumption of American claims against France. Its boundaries to the west and south were not specified, but they were generally considered to embrace the Isles of Orleans on the east bank of the Mississippi River and the vast area between the river, the Rocky Mountains, and the Spanish possessions in the Southwest. Approved April 30, 1803. Approved by the Senate October 20, 1803. ([8 Stat. 200-206](#))

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Cases

Marbury v. Madison, establishing the basis for judicial review under Article III of the Constitution, defining the judiciary's role in the constitutional system of checks and balances with the executive and legislative branches of government. 5 U.S. 137 (1803)

Source:

Costello. George A. and Johnny H. Killian. [Constitution of the United States of America, Analysis and Interpretation](#). CRS, Library of Congress, Jan. 1, 1996. 103rd Congress, 1st Session, S. Doc. 103-6 (Y1.1/3:103-6). ProQuest Congressional, 14152 S.doc.6

1801 Events

- **Jan. 1:** The legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland is completed under the Act of Union of 1800, inaugurating the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and abolishing the Parliament of Ireland
- **Feb. 27:** Washington, D.C. is placed under the jurisdiction of the United States Congress
- **May 10:** *First Barbary War* - [The Pascha of Tripoli declares war on the United States by having the flagpole on the consulate chopped down](#)
- **Sep. 30:** The Treaty of London is signed for preliminary peace between the French First Republic and the United Kingdom

1802 Events

- **Mar. 16:** The United States Army Corps of Engineers is re-established and the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, is established under its management
- **Mar. 25-27:** [The Treaty of Amiens between France and the United Kingdom ends the War of the Second Coalition](#)
- **Apr. 26:** *Napoleonic Wars* - A general amnesty signed by Napoléon allows all but about 1,000 of the most notorious émigrés of the French Revolution to return to France, as part of a conciliatory gesture to make peace with the various factions of the *Ancien Régime* that ultimately consolidates his own rule
- **June 8:** Haitian revolutionary Toussaint Louverture is seized by French troops and imprisoned at the Fort de Joux
- **Dec. 2:** The Health and Morals of Apprentices Act in the United Kingdom comes into effect, regulating conditions for child labor in

factories. Although poorly enforced, it pioneers a series of Factory Acts

1803 Events

- **Jan. 5:** William Symington demonstrates his *Charlotte Dundas*, the “first practical steamboat,” in Scotland
- **Feb. 21:** Edward Despard and six others are hanged and beheaded for plotting to assassinate King George III of the United Kingdom and to destroy the Bank of England
- **Mar. 1:** [Ohio is admitted as the 17th U.S. State](#)
- **Apr. 7:** Haitian revolutionary Toussaint Louverture dies in French captivity
- **Apr. 30:** [Louisiana Purchase Treaty signed in Paris, adding western lands to the U.S.](#)
- **May 18:** *Napoleonic Wars* - The United Kingdom resumes war with France after the French refuse to withdraw from Dutch territory, inaugurating the Napoleonic Wars
- **Oct. 2:** U.S. revolutionary leader Samuel Adams dies

1804 Events

- **Jan. 1:** Haiti gains independence from France, becoming the first black republic
- **Feb.:** The 1804 Haiti Massacre, an ethnic cleansing, begins; continues until April 22, eradicating the white population of Haiti
- **Feb. 12:** German idealist philosopher Immanuel Kant dies
- **Feb. 15:** New Jersey becomes the last northern state to abolish slavery
- **May 14:** [The Lewis and Clark Expedition departs from Camp Dubois and begins their historic journey by traveling up the Missouri River](#)
- **May 18:** Napoléon Bonaparte is proclaimed Emperor of the French by the French Senate
- **July 11:** Alexander Hamilton is shot during a duel with Aaron Burr and dies the following day
- **Dec. 2:** At the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris, Napoléon crowns himself as the first Emperor of the French in a thousand years

Sources:

[Brief account of Lewis and Clark Expedition from St. Louis, Missouri, to mouth of Columbia River, Oregon, and return, 1804-1806.](#) General Land Office, Department of Interior, Jan. 1, 1905. 58th Congress, 2nd Session. ProQuest Congressional, I2102-22

Jefferson, Thomas. [Description of Louisiana territory: land, population, trade, and government, 1803.](#) Nov. 14, 1803. 8th Congress, 1st Session, Misc.164. ProQuest Congressional, ASP037 Misc.164

Sheridan, Peter B. [Admission of States into the Union After the Original Thirteen: A Brief History and Analysis of the Statehood Process.](#) Government Division (CRS), Apr. 2, 1985. 99th Congress, 1st Session, 85-765 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1985-GOV-0026

Major Acts

Seventh Congress

U.S. Military Academy. Authorized the establishment of the United States Military Academy at West Point in the State of New York. The Academy was formally opened on July 4. Approved Mar. 16, 1802. ([2 Stat. 132, Chap. 9](#))

Judiciary Act of 1802. Restored the number of Supreme Court Justices to six and set up six circuit courts, each headed by a Supreme Court Justice. Approved Apr. 29, 1802. ([2 Stat. 156, Chap. 31](#))

Ohio Enabling Act of 1802. Authorized the people of the eastern division of the Northwest Territory to hold a convention and frame a constitution in order to become a State. The precedent set in Ohio's gaining statehood became the customary procedural form for attaining statehood. This new mechanism allowed Congress to reaffirm its authority over its territorial possession by providing a transition period during which the people could school themselves in the democratic tradition by drafting their own constitution and organizing their own State government. Approved Apr. 30, 1802. ([2 Stat. 173, Chap. 40](#))

Eighth Congress

Second National Bank Act. Supplemented the National Bank Act of 1791 by authorizing bank officials to establish offices of discount and deposit in any part of the territories or dependencies of the United States. Approved Mar. 23, 1804. ([2 Stat. 274, Chap. 32](#))

Sources:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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