



## Chapter 1

### The New Nation: 1789 –1820

Section I	Competency 1 / Objective 1
Section II	Competency 1 / Objective 2
Section III	Competency 1 / Objective 3

## I. ISSUES FACING THE NEW GOVERNMENT

### THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS

Following the Revolutionary War, the United States' first attempt at drafting a national body of laws failed. Known as the Articles of Confederation, it did not provide the federal government with enough authority to hold the country together. Even the few powers that it granted the national government could not be enforced without the cooperation of the states. Since what was in the best interest of the nation often conflicted with the interests of at least some states, such cooperation was rare. As a result, the federal government lacked the ability to effectively lead. To solve the problem, delegates gathered for a convention in 1787 to revise the Articles of Confederation. Soon after the convention began, however, the delegates decided to do away with the Articles altogether and write a new document. The result was the **United States Constitution**.

The new document had to be approved, or *ratified*, by nine of the thirteen states. Although a majority officially ratified the Constitution in 1788, several states (including North Carolina) refused to approve the new document until drafters agreed to add the **Bill of Rights** in 1789. These 10 additions, called *amendments*, guaranteed the rights of individuals under the new government. The Bill of Rights went into effect in 1791.



Constitutional Convention

## THE JUDICIARY ACT

Under the Constitution, the nation's new congress was required to pass legislation establishing courts. The **Judiciary Act of 1789** established both the United States federal court system and the authority of the US Supreme Court. The first chief justice of the new Supreme Court was appointed by President Washington. His name was **John Jay** (1745–1829).

## HAMILTON'S ECONOMIC PLAN

When the new US government took power in 1789, the nation was deep in debt and the value of the new currency was low. **Alexander Hamilton** (1755–1804), a trusted officer during the Revolutionary War and President Washington's secretary of the treasury, developed a plan to help. Hamilton proposed that the federal government take on state debts that were largely due to the war. To raise revenue, Hamilton wanted an **excise tax** (a tax per unit produced) on whiskey. He reasoned that such a tax would not only raise money, but would also serve to demonstrate the power of the federal government. **Tariffs** (taxes on imports) were another means by which Hamilton wanted to increase revenue. Not only did he believe that these tariffs would raise much needed money, he also saw them as necessary to strengthen and protect US business interests. Finally, Hamilton proposed establishing a **national bank**.

Hamilton's plan gained the support of President Washington, but it was not without controversy. Many opposed Hamilton's views. One such opponent was Washington's secretary of state and author of the Declaration of Independence, **Thomas Jefferson** (1743–1826). Jefferson had a **strict interpretation** of the Constitution and argued that the federal government must restrict itself to those powers specifically stated in the document. Since the Constitution did not give the federal government the authority to open a national bank, Jefferson argued that it could not. Hamilton, on the other hand, had a **loose interpretation**. He believed that the *necessary and proper clause* of the Constitution gave the government the right to charter a bank if it was necessary to exercise its constitutional duties (in this case, coining money).

Southerners also opposed Hamilton's plan because they were against tariffs. Tariffs would lessen competition from foreign countries and raise prices on finished goods. They would also encourage other countries to respond with tariffs of their own, thereby raising prices on southern exports and hurting the South's economy.

Finally, the whiskey tax was very unpopular among farmers in the western regions of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. Many of these farmers made their living converting grain into whiskey. Their protest eventually resulted in the **Whiskey Rebellion** of 1794, when Pennsylvania farmers refused to pay the tax and resorted to violence. The uprising ended when President Washington organized a military force that marched into Pennsylvania and halted the resistance. While the event showed that the new government had the power to enforce its laws, it also led many farmers and frontiersmen to see Hamilton's form of government as tyrannical. More of them flocked to Thomas Jefferson as a defender of states' rights and a champion of their cause.

## WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

Shortly before leaving office, President George Washington gave a **farewell address** in 1796 in which he emphasized three key points. First, Washington expressed his view that the United States should stay neutral and avoid permanent alliances with other nations. Second, he believed that good government is based on religion and morality. Third, he spoke about the dangers of forming political parties. He warned that political parties would cause people to work for their special interests rather than for the public good.



President Washington

## THE RISE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Despite Washington's warnings, opposing political parties did indeed form. The **Federalist** party was created even prior to the ratification of the Constitution. Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Adams were among its leaders. The Federalists supported ratification of the US Constitution because they supported a strong national government. They also supported large landowners, merchants, and the interests of business over agriculture. They tended to support a "**laissez-faire**" approach to the economy. In other words, they believed that it was best for the nation's economy if government did not restrict or try to regulate business.

The Republicans, or **Democratic-Republicans** as they are often called to distinguish them from today's Republican party, arose in opposition to the Federalists. Their leader was Thomas Jefferson. Democratic-Republicans favored stronger state governments and a weaker national government. For this reason, many of them originally opposed the Constitution because they feared it made the national government too strong. In addition, the Democratic-Republicans tended to favor the interests of small farmers and debtors, rather than those of business.



Alexander Hamilton  
Federalist

### Federalists

- favored a strong central government
- wanted power in the hands of the wealthy and well-educated rather than in the hands of the people
- thought the nation's economy should be based on manufacturing, shipping, and commerce rather than agriculture
- interpreted the Constitution loosely as giving powers not specifically stated



Thomas Jefferson  
Democratic-Republican

### Democratic-Republicans

- favored states retaining authority
- wanted power in the hands of the people because they felt the people were the safest store of power
- thought the nation's economy should be based on agriculture
- interpreted the Constitution strictly as giving powers only as stated

## CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE FEDERALISTS AND THE DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICANS

Debt was not the only problem facing the new nation. Global politics was another major source of concern for the Washington administration. France and Britain were at war, and while the US wanted nothing more than to remain neutral and establish good diplomatic relations with both nations, this proved impossible. The Federalists and Democratic-Republicans again had different views. While neither party wanted war, the Democratic-Republicans favored the French — believing that the French Revolution would produce a government close to America's political leanings. The Federalists, on the other hand, favored neutrality. The Federalists, unlike Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans, believed that the French Revolution was a negative influence. Because the Federalists believed in a strong central government with power in the hands of a few, they feared the spread of ideas that the success of such a rebellion might bring. As a result, Congress passed several laws during John Adams' administration. The Naturalization Act required fourteen years of residency before US citizenship could be obtained. The **Alien Act** allowed the government to arrest, detain or remove foreigners deemed untrustworthy. Of even greater concern was the **Sedition Act** that severely limited free speech and expression. Federalists often used the Alien and Sedition Acts to silence critics (usually Democratic-Republicans). Jefferson and others saw these acts as abuses of power. These acts also helped the Federalists because immigrants who had been in the country for only a short time tended to be poorer and drawn to the Democratic-Republicans. Under these laws, such people could not vote in elections.

Thomas Jefferson and James Madison produced a response to the Alien and Sedition Acts in the form of the **Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions**. These resolutions stated that if a state believed a federal law to be unconstitutional, then it did not have to obey or enforce it. The resolution was so named because the state legislatures of Virginia and Kentucky adopted it. The idea that individual states have such a right came to be known as the **Doctrine of Nullification**, because it claims that states can nullify a national law that they believe violates the Constitution. The debate surrounding states' rights versus federal authority would later play a major role in events leading up to the Civil War.

## THE ELECTION OF 1800

The battle between the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans culminated in the **Election of 1800**. President John Adams ran once again as the Federalist candidate. When the electoral college voted, two Democratic-Republican candidates, Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, ended up tied with 73 votes each. As a result, the House of Representatives decided the election and it fell to Alexander Hamilton to decide which man would be president. Although Hamilton did not agree with Jefferson's politics, he hated Aaron Burr as a person. Hamilton voted for Thomas Jefferson, making him the third president of the United States. Burr never forgave Hamilton for his decision and the two remained at odds. They ultimately met in a duel, with Burr shooting and killing the former secretary of the treasury.



Burr/Hamilton Duel

## JOHN MARSHALL AND THE "MIDNIGHT JUDGES"

Just before leaving office in 1801, John Adams appointed a number of Federalists to be federal judges. Because he did this at the last minute, these appointments came to be called the "**midnight judges**." However, although the Senate had confirmed these judges and Adams had signed their appointments, the documents making their appointments official had not yet been delivered when Jefferson took office. Fearing that Federalist judges might interfere with his plans, Jefferson had his secretary of state, James Madison, withhold several of the documents (commissions), preventing some of the judges from ever taking office. When several of the appointees challenged this move, the Supreme Court intervened to hear the case. In *Marbury v. Madison*, Chief Justice **John Marshall** (1755 – 1835), stated that the appointees were entitled to their commissions but that the US Supreme Court did not have authority under the Constitution to force the president to issue them. In so doing, Marshall led the court in striking down part of the **Judiciary Act of 1789** and establishing the Court's authority of **judicial review** (the power to declare acts of Congress, and/or state legislatures, unconstitutional).



John Marshall

## THE HARTFORD CONVENTION OF 1814 AND THE DECLINE OF THE FEDERALISTS

The War of 1812 proved to be a point of great contention between the Federalists and those who favored the war. Things got so heated, in fact, that Federalists from New England held a convention in Hartford, Connecticut in 1814. Although some of the delegates wanted to **secede** (separate) from the Union, the convention instead decided to send "**ambassadors**" (representatives) to Washington to present a list of demands. Unfortunately for the Federalists, their representatives arrived as news was reaching the capital

about the US victory at New Orleans and the signing of the **Treaty of Ghent**, which ended the war. The embarrassment of their ill-timed protest so undermined the Federalist party's credibility that it soon faded from existence.

## THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

Once in office, President Jefferson wanted to secure United States trading on the Mississippi River. For this reason, he sent representatives to France to negotiate the purchase of New Orleans. Initially, Napoleon was not interested in selling New Orleans because he hoped to revitalize the French colonial empire in the Western Hemisphere. However, when the colony of Haiti revolted and Britain resumed its war with France, the French emperor surprised Jefferson by offering to sell not only New Orleans, but the entire Louisiana region. The **Louisiana Purchase** was the United States' largest land purchase, nearly doubling the country's size. It marked a turning point for the new nation economically as it began to pursue prosperity from within its own borders rather than from foreign nations.



Louisiana Territory

### Practice 1: Issues Facing the New Government

1. What document replaced the Articles of Confederation and gave greater powers to the new United States government?
  - A. the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions
  - B. the Bill of Rights
  - C. the US Constitution
  - D. the Declaration of Independence
2. How did Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson interpret the Constitution differently?
  - A. Hamilton saw the Constitution as the law of the land, whereas Jefferson thought it had little authority.
  - B. Hamilton had a strict interpretation of the Constitution and believed the federal government could only do what the Constitution specifically gave it the authority to do. Jefferson, on the other hand, had a loose interpretation and thought that the federal government could take just about any action that the Constitution did not specifically forbid.
  - C. Hamilton wanted to revise the Constitution to let the states have more power, whereas Jefferson wanted to do away with it altogether in favor of a document that better protected the rights of businessmen.
  - D. Hamilton had a loose interpretation and believed that the necessary and proper clause of the Constitution allowed the federal government to take actions like establishing a national bank. Jefferson, however, had a strict interpretation and worried that if the federal government was not limited to only those powers specifically mentioned, it would infringe on the rights of states.

3. What two political parties formed in the early days of the nation? What were their basic differences?
4. What doctrine was established by the *Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions*, and what did this doctrine state?

## II. POLITICAL FREEDOMS PRIOR TO 1820

The United States of America was born out of a revolution that called for freedom. The Declaration of Independence proclaimed that, "all men are created equal" and endowed with certain "unalienable rights." It soon became evident, however, that freedom from the rule of Great Britain would not mean equality for all people in the new nation.

### SUFFRAGE AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN



Abigail Adams

While there were those, particularly among the Federalists, who felt early on that the right to vote should be limited to the upper classes and landowners, most white males were able to vote from the nation's founding. The same could not be said for other groups, however. Except for a brief period of time in New Jersey, women were not granted **suffrage** (the right to vote). This despite the pleas from women like **Abigail Adams** (1744–1818), eventual first lady and wife of John Adams. Abigail Adams was a key voice among women calling on her husband and other leaders to, "remember the ladies..." and reminding him that the women would, "...not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or representation." Although she failed to win the right to vote for women of her day, Abigail Adams would prove to be a forerunner to future movements that would

eventually bring about women's suffrage.

### NATIVE AMERICANS

The settlement of new lands had always been a source of tension between white settlers and Native Americans. With the independence of the United States now established, new conflicts soon arose. Initially aided by the British, some tribes saw early success against US forces along the frontier. But after being abandoned by their British allies, the Native Americans soon found themselves unable to resist westward expansion. In 1795, the Shawnee, Miami, and Delaware tribes were forced to accept the **Treaty of Greenville**. Under this treaty, these tribes lost the southern two thirds of what is now Ohio, as well as the guarantee of the Ohio River as a permanent boundary between their lands and US territory.

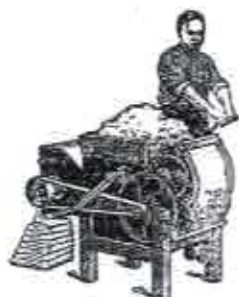


Tecumseh

After the purchase of the Louisiana Territory in 1803, white settlers began to move west at an even greater pace. Although many Native American peoples occupied large portions of the Louisiana Territory prior to Jefferson's purchase, these tribes were not consulted nor negotiated with regarding ownership of the land. Thus, conflicts arose between Native Americans who had occupied the land for generations and white settlers who saw claiming the new land as a right of US citizenship. It was out of this climate that a Shawnee chief named **Tecumseh** (1768–1813) arose. Tecumseh effectively united a number of tribes to take a stand against white settlements. His stand ended, however, when William Henry Harrison's US troops defeated Tecumseh's forces at **Tippecanoe** in 1811. Unable to resist whites militarily—and unable to vote because they were not considered citizens—Native Americans found themselves at the mercy of policies designed to favor white settlers.

## AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND SLAVERY

Since the early 17th century, European settlers—particularly in the South—had owned and depended on the labor of black slaves. The ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence, however, now made the practice hard to justify. After all, the Declaration of Independence clearly stated that “all men are created equal...” For many US citizens, the birth of a new nation meant that the time had come for the **emancipation** (freedom), of all slaves. Although the arguments for emancipation made sense, it was not a view shared by everyone. Slavery had become a major part of the nation's economy. In 1793, **Eli Whitney** (1765–1825) invented the **cotton gin**, a machine that separated seeds from cotton. The gin made cotton the most profitable crop in the South and contributed to the existence of large plantations (huge farms worked by slaves that produced a cash crop—usually cotton). As plantations produced more cotton, plantation owners needed more slaves. In the end, slavery was allowed as a “**necessary evil**,” but it never ceased to be an issue of intense debate. Eventually, it would threaten to tear the young nation apart and would only be resolved by war.



Cotton Gin

### Practice 2: Political Freedoms Prior to 1820

1. Which of the following groups were denied suffrage under the new government?
  - A. women, African-Americans, Native Americans
  - B. women, most whites, African-Americans, Native Americans
  - C. uneducated whites, those who did not own land, African-Americans, Native Americans
  - D. any African-American who had not obtained his or her freedom, Native Americans, illiterate whites



2. How did Native Americans and African-Americans fare in the early years of the new nation?
  - A. They were granted equality under the Constitution based on the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence.
  - B. Native Americans fared well because they were viewed as the “original Americans”; but African-Americans were subjected to slavery.
  - C. African-Americans were granted citizenship under the Constitution, but Native Americans were not because many tribes had fought with the British during the Revolutionary War.
  - D. Both fared poorly in that African-Americans were subjected to slavery and Native Americans found themselves at the mercy of US policies that favored white settlers.
  
3. Why was slavery accepted as a “necessary evil,” and how did this conflict with the Declaration of Independence?

### III. RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

#### GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE

Not long after the birth of the United States, Great Britain and France were once again at war. President Washington, recognizing that the country could not afford a fight with either side, made a **Proclamation of Neutrality**, in which he stated that the US would not take sides. The conflict still had consequences for the United States, however. The British began intercepting US ships they believed bound for France and **impressing seamen** (taking US sailors captive and forcing them to serve the British). These actions were intended to injure the French, but they also hurt the United States’ ability to trade and operate on the high seas. In response, Chief Justice **John Jay** went to London to broker an agreement with the British. To the disappointment of many in the US, Jay returned with a treaty that primarily benefited Great Britain and did little to further the interests of the United States.

Although many in the US saw **Jay’s treaty** as a weak document, it angered the French because they saw it as an alliance with Great Britain. In an attempt to improve US-French relations, the United States sent three diplomats (Charles Pinckney, Elbridge Gerry, and John Marshall) to France. The three were not officially received, but after several days they were informed by an unofficial delegation that, with a bribe and the promise of a US loan to France, they might be given access to French leaders. This ticked off the US representatives, who rejected the suggestion and returned home. It also angered citizens in the United States when they learned of what happened. US relations with France were broken and, realizing it could not remain both neutral and safe, the United States began building up its military force. The event was known as the **XYZ Affair**, because the unofficial French delegation consisted of three men known only as “X, Y, and Z.”

Fortunately, with the **Convention of 1800**, France and the United States were able to negotiate some of their differences, reopen trade, and re-establish diplomatic relations. By formally ending the US-French alliance that had existed since the resolution, this convention also made the US officially neutral, thereby allowing trade with France while avoiding an official war with Great Britain.

#### THE EMBARGO ACT OF 1807

During the presidency of Thomas Jefferson, trouble between the US and Great Britain arose once more as the US tried to stay out of the war between Britain and France. Once again, British forces seized and impressed US sailors. People in the United States were outraged! Knowing that the US was not prepared for

war, Jefferson tried another method. In 1807, he convinced the Congress to pass the **Embargo Act**. This law forbade trade between the US and foreign countries. Jefferson reasoned that if American ships stayed home, then they couldn't be seized. Unfortunately for Jefferson, the Embargo Act did not have the desired effect. It did little to hurt Britain and greatly damaged the American economy as it prevented US businesses from selling their products overseas. As one of his final acts as president, Jefferson signed the **Non-Intercourse Act** that repealed the Embargo Act and reopened trade.

## THE WAR OF 1812

The conflicts with Great Britain left many in the eastern United States believing that only war with the Europeans could protect their trading rights. Meanwhile, settlers on the frontier blamed the British for encouraging the Native Americans to resist westward expansion. Thus, people in both the West and the East were calling for war. Political leaders who wanted war included men like Senators John C. Calhoun of South Carolina and Henry Clay of Kentucky. These leaders were known as "**War Hawks**" because they advocated war with Great Britain. In addition to protecting trading rights and western settlements, these leaders hoped that the war would produce land gains for the US in both British Canada and Spanish Florida (Spain was an ally of Great Britain at the time). Finally, on June 18, 1812, Congress declared war on Great Britain.

### IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE WAR OF 1812 (1812 – 1814)

- **Battle of Horseshoe Bend (March 27, 1814)**. With the help of the **Cherokee** nation, **Andrew Jackson** (1767 – 1845) defeated Britain's Native American ally in the South, the Creeks. The victory also served to open up the Southwest to settlement.
- **The Treaty of Ghent (December 24, 1814)**. This treaty ended the war without presenting any real gains for either side. It basically returned to each side the territory it had possessed before the beginning of hostilities and said nothing about the impressment of sailors or the rights of "neutrals."
- **Battle of New Orleans (January 8, 1815)**. Unaware that a treaty had been signed ending the war, the Battle of New Orleans was actually fought after the war had technically ended. Andrew Jackson's troops, though greatly outnumbered, defeated the British. The US forces suffered only 8 deaths while the British suffered over 700. The victory gave people in the US great pride and made Andrew Jackson a national hero.



Battle of New Orleans

### CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR OF 1812

The War of 1812 had several key consequences.

- The US and Great Britain agreed to return their land boundaries to where they were before the war.
- The United States' ability to defend itself won the respect and recognition of other nations.
- Feelings of US **nationalism** (devotion to one's country) grew stronger.
- The Federalist Party lost its credibility and disbanded.
- The US manufacturing industry grew due to the lack of manufactured goods from Britain during the war. As a result, the US became more self sufficient.

## SPAIN

Early relations with Spain were not much better than those with Britain and France. After the Revolution, Spain barred the US from access to the lower reaches of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans. This was a problem because the United States needed this access to effectively transport goods to and from the interior parts of the country. Then in the late 1790s, Thomas Pinckney was able to negotiate **Pinckney's Treaty** with the Spanish. Not only did it open up the southern Mississippi and New Orleans, it also established the northern border between the Spanish colony of Florida and US territory.

## THE ADAMS-ONIS TREATY

In 1817, conflict arose between white settlers and Native Americans along the Georgia-Florida frontier. The President responded by ordering military leader, Andrew Jackson, to put an end to the fighting. Jackson used the occasion to attempt to drive the Spanish out of Florida, seizing the Spanish fort at St. Marks. Secretary of State, **John Quincy Adams** (1767 – 1848), supported Jackson's actions and told Spain that if it could not maintain order in Florida, then it should cede the land to the United States. In 1819, Spain and the United States signed the **Adams-Onis Treaty**. The treaty gave all of Florida to the United States, defined the western border of the Louisiana territory, ceded Spain's claims to the Oregon Territory to the United States, and surrendered US claims on Texas to the Spanish.

### Practice 3: Relations With Foreign Governments

- Which of the following positions would George Washington have MOST agreed with?
  - Because the United States was once part of Great Britain, the US should side with Britain in its war with France.
  - Because the French helped us win our independence, we owe it to the French to support them in their war with Great Britain.
  - Because the US is a young nation and ill prepared for war, we must not take sides or bind ourselves in any permanent alliances that might drag us into war.
  - The US should be patient. Wait to see which side appears as if they will win, then forge a permanent alliance with that country.
- How did the US respond to the "XYZ Affair," and how did it affect relations between the US and France?
  - With outrage / it ended relations between the two nations for a time.
  - With pleasure / it began a new era in positive US-French relations.
  - Irritated / the US went into debt paying money to France.
  - With disappointment / it meant that France and Great Britain would be allies against the US.
- What was the purpose of the Embargo Act and why did it fail?
- Why did the U.S. go to war against Great Britain in the War of 1812, and what were some key consequences of that war?

## CHAPTER 1 REVIEW

CHAPTER  
REVIEW



### A. Key Terms and People

United States Constitution	Doctrine of Nullification	impressing of seamen
Bill of Rights	Election of 1800	John Jay
Judiciary Act of 1789	midnight judges	Jay's Treaty
Alexander Hamilton	<i>Marbury v. Madison</i>	XYZ Affair
excise tax	John Marshall	Convention of 1800
tariffs	judicial review	Embargo Act
national bank	US nationalism	Non-Intercourse Act
Thomas Jefferson	Louisiana Purchase	War of 1812
strict interpretation (of the Constitution)	Abigail Adams	Battle of Horseshoe Bend
loose interpretation (of the Constitution)	suffrage	Battle of New Orleans
Whiskey Rebellion	Treaty of Greenville	Treaty of Ghent
Washington's farewell address	Tecumseh	"war hawks"
Federalists	Tippecanoe	Hartford Convention of 1814
Democratic-Republicans (Republicans)	emancipation	Pinckney's Treaty
laissez-faire economics	"necessary evil"	John Quincy Adams
Alien and Sedition Acts	Eli Whitney's cotton gin	Adams-Onis Treaty
Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions	Proclamation of Neutrality	

### B. Multiple Choice

- What piece of legislation established the federal court system and defined the responsibilities of the Supreme Court?
  - Marbury v. Madison*
  - the doctrine of judicial review
  - Hamilton's plan
  - the Judiciary Act of 1789
- Which of the following statements would Alexander Hamilton have MOST agreed with?
  - "If the Constitution does not specifically grant a certain power to the federal government, then be assured that the federal government does not possess that power."
  - "Based on the 'necessary and proper' clause of the Constitution, it should be understood that the federal government has some discretion and flexibility in how it sees fit to carry out its responsibility to govern."
  - "If this nation is to succeed, then we must focus on agriculture. After all, it is the farmer who built these colonies and who fought for our independence."
  - "Tariffs must be done away with because they invite retribution from other countries and could result in harm to the southern farmer."