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A Survey of the Critical Period of American History

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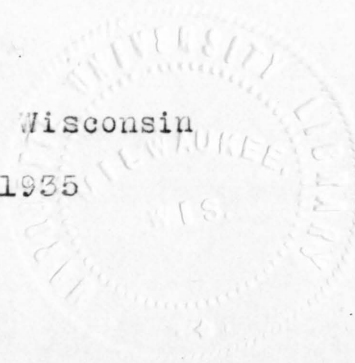
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A SURVEY OF THE CRITICAL PERIOD
OF AMERICAN HISTORY

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INTRODUCTION

Between the cardinal years of 1760 and 1824 a stirring and important panorama of important events are unfolded. This period is generally known as the era of the Critical Period of American History. The beginning of this period is signified by the birth of the idea of independence and the glorious ending with the country emerging from the dismal abyss of chaos and confusion.

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INTRODUCTION

Chapter I

Between the cardinal years of 1760 and 1824 a stirring and important panorama of important events are enfolded. This period is generally known as the era of the Critical Period of American History. The beginning of this period is signified by the birth of the idea of independence and the glorious ending with the country emerging from the dismal abyss of chaos and confusion to take its place among the sovereign nations of the world.

More books have been written on this era than on any other period in United States History. This is primarily due to the importance of this period to the very life of the country itself. The intense drama that is present in watching the people in their hours of turmoil and despair, happiness and victory cannot be overlooked in determining the cause of effort expended by the historians in studying this era so intently. This era is approached from every conceivable angle from just a collection of plain facts to an intense philisophic study of the social, economic and political aspects of this period.

From sources that represent the many view points taken in dissecting this great subject by the foremost historians of the period this survey is attempted.

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began.

The underlying cause behind most of the troubles and difficulties the puny colonists had with the mistress of the seas, the great and imperial mother country England, can be stated in two words namely; a difference of principle. According to the book "Washington and his Comrades" Page 58, " the truth is; that the colonists regarded themselves as British states with their own parliaments exercising complete jurisdiction in their own affairs." The government of the Mother country on the other hand had a different idea in regard to the purpose and regulation of colonies. England at the time was addicted to the theory known as "Mercantilism" of which one of the chief tenets was that the purpose of colonies was the enrichment and glory of the mother country. The colonists reached the opposite philosophy principally through the neglect and the prosperity of England. During the period of Colonization Britain enjoyed an era of prosperity and hence there was little need for the colonies but at the end of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth century, England became embroiled in several wars both on the Continent and the new world, enforced, in order to gain greater revenues for the

world. These conflicts had the usual effect upon the coffers and hence to enhance these to their former standard the nearly forgotten rules of "Mercantilism" were brought into play. At this point the trouble began.

England had broken the power of France in America. The cost of these wars had doubled the debt of England. British statesmen found an easy solution and decided to compel the colonists to pay part of the expenses, giving as an excuse that the wars had been waged for the benefit of the colonists, and that therefore the colonists should bear part of the burden. Furthermore England looked upon the colonists as a good field for raising revenues for the British Crown. Thus England enacted the Navigation Acts. According to these acts, trade could be carried on in the colonies only in ships owned in England or in the colonies. Certain exports could be sent to English ports only. Other European ships could carry goods to America only after they had been landed at some port in England. Wool raised in the colonies could be exported only to England, where it was woven into cloth, and returned to America. The manufacture of iron, except in its crudest form, was forbidden in the colonies. Grain exported to England was heavily taxed to aid the British Farmer. Up to 1760 these laws were seldom enforced. But from 1760 on these laws were strictly enforced, in order to gain greater revenues for the

Crown. British customs officers asked the superior court of Massachusetts for permission to use writs of assistance by which an officer could enter and search any house at any time for smuggled goods. In spite of strong protest the application was finally granted. But from now on the spirit of revolution began to show itself and it broke out in full vigor when England decided to lay a direct tax on the colonies in the Stamp Act of 1765, by which it was decreed that a stamp should be placed on every sheet of legal paper, on every license, on every written contract, on advertising and on paper used for newspapers. The offender against these Acts should then be tried in any part of the colonies without jury, which was a direct blow at the right of a trial by jury. A storm of protest swept the colonies. Delegates from nine states met at New York, - the Stamp Act Congress, and sent a declaration of rights and grievances to England stating that only the representative Colonial Assemblies could impose taxes, and that the right of a trial by jury could not be denied. Demonstrations took place everywhere, followed by a severe boycott of all English goods, which meant disaster to English merchants, so that the Act was repealed in March 1766.

Though humbled and forced to repeal the Stamp Act, England in the following year tried to

take revenge by passing the Townshend Acts.

- 1) The first act prohibited the New York legislation from passing any more laws until it had made provisions for the royal troops in the city.
- 2) The second enforced more strictly the laws relating to trade.
- 3) The Third placed taxes on glass, paper, tea, lead, and painters' colors. Again there was rebellion and boycott of English goods followed. When in the following year two regiments of British troops were quartered on the common in Boston the unruly people resented their presence. In a quarrel with them four citizens were killed and seven were wounded. The flame of indignation was thus fanned all the more. The spirit of rebellion spread all over the country, but was nowhere more rampant than in the upper countries of North Carolina, where Irish farmers, suffering heavily under the tyranny of the British officials rose in revolt against Tyrone, the governor. At Alamance they fought a bloody battle against the colonial militia but were defeated (1771). The burning of the Gaspee (1772) which was stationed in Narragansett Bay, in order to enforce the revenue laws, gave another proof of the daring spirit of the colonist.

3) On the day of the Boston Massacre the English Parliament repealed the Townshend Acts, except the tax on tea, in order to show the colonists that

Parliament could levy any taxes if it saw fit to do so. But the colonists stubbornly refused to buy tea and the dumping of a cargo of tea into the harbor of Boston was considered a direct affront to the King, and Parliament at once resolved to punish Massachusetts. The punitive laws were:-

- 1) By the so-called "Boston Port Bill" the port of Boston was ordered closed till the people had paid for the destroyed tea.
- 2) Magistrates, officers, soldiers, arrested for murder must be tried in England.
- 3) Massachusetts received a military governor, and no public meetings were allowed without the permission of the governor.
- 4) Troops can be quartered on the people.
- 5) Establishment of the province of Quebec granting freedom of worship to the Catholics of that province.

Massachusetts naturally had the sympathy of the rest of the colonists, and on September 1, 1774, 55 delegates from all colonies, except Georgia, met in Carpenter's Hall at Philadelphia, for the first Continental Congress. It declared that it was unlawful:-

- 1) To tax the people without their consent.
- 2) To try persons without a jury.
- 3) To dissolve legislative assemblies.
- 4) To quarter troops on the people in time of peace.

An address with these complaints was sent to

England, and it was agreed not to trade with England till the objectionable laws were repealed.

The warlike feeling grew. John Sullivan, learning from Paul Revere that a body of English troops were on their way to seize the gunpowder and supplies at Fort William Henry surprised the fort, hauled down the English flag and carried off the powder and supplies. His defeat at Concord two months previously General Gage of the English troops and Tories grew aware of the spirit of revolt among the colonists. Anxious to seize the large military supplies at Concord, he was thwarted in his surprise attack by Paul Revere who riding furiously notified Samuel Adams and John Hancock and the inhabitants of Concord, of the enemy's approach. When on the next morning the British arrived at Lexington (April 19, 1775) they found the Minute Men drawn up on the common to oppose them. When they refused to disperse, Pitcairn ordered his soldiers to fire and eight minutemen fell dead and one was wounded. On the same day the British marched on nearby Concord where they were repulsed. Followed by the Minute-Men and losing many of their soldiers, the English retreated to Charlestown. A month later a daring young man, Ethan Allen with a band of vigorous youths, among them Benedict Arnold, set out secretly to capture the forts that guarded the route to Canada, Forts Ticonderoga and

Crown Point. The first they took by surprise and the second surrendered.

On the day of the fall of Fort Ticonderoga, May 10, 1775, the second Continental Congress assembled, by which George Washington by unanimous vote was appointed commander-in-chief of the continental army. Stirring events now followed rapidly; General Gage after his defeat at Concord two months previously, centered his activities on Boston. Seeing in Bunker Hill a strategic point, he decided to seize it, but was repulsed twice by the Americans under Prescott, who at a third attack had to withdraw. This took place on June 17, 1775. From now on Washington took over the supreme command of the American troops. He decided to wrest the strongholds in Canada, Montreal and Quebec from the British. Richard Montgomery sailed from Ticonderoga, took Montreal and was met at Quebec by Benedict Arnold who under fearful hardships had pushed on through the forests of Maine. Their united attack in Quebec was repulsed. (Dec. 31, 1775) Montgomery was mortally wounded; the expedition returned to Crown Point.

The attempt of Congress to win the Canadians from the British allegiance through an embassy of which Benjamin Franklin and Father John Carrol were members was not successful, because of the bitter attacks made on the Quebec Act and because of the bigoted attitude of the colonies against the Catholics.

and the greatest rejoicing was, however, far from

General Gage after he had been repulsed at Concord had retreated under heavy losses to Boston. The Second Continental Congress had made Washington commander-in-chief of the American troops and now the opportunity to show his ability came to Washington. On March 1, 1776 he seized the strategic point of Dorchester Heights and when the British saw the colonists planting their canons to sweep their camp as well as their ships, they sailed away with all their troops to Halifax March 17, 1776.

Three months later the English fleet before Charlestown attacked the fort, built by Col. Mountrie of Sullivan's Island. The British were repulsed with heavy loss. The fort was called from that time on, Fort Moultrie, in honor of its builder and valiant defender, Col. Moultrie.

It was at about this time that a pamphlet by Thomas Paine entitled 'Common Sense' contributed very much in rousing the colonists to the final separation from Great Britain.

Though there were some hesitant elements in some of the colonies yet the Declaration of Independence, drawn up by Thomas Jefferson was adopted by Congress on July 4, 1776. Thereby the colonies, now the United States of America were declared to be absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown. The Declaration of Independence, announced amid the greatest rejoicing was, however, far from

from secure. Many a severe battle had to be
 waged yet before the United States rose from the
 ruins of a long war as a new nation.

Although actual warfare had previously existed between England and the colonists for some time no formal proclamation or sign of the intentions of the rebels had been issued. Matters were brought to a head however with the signing of the Declaration of Independence by representatives from all the thirteen colonies. England then knew that the colonists were not protesting vehemently at the measures which antagonized them but were ready to discontinue that the total and effectual severance of all the political relations might be effected. This Declaration was really the soldier that fused the thirteen distinct individual colonies into a single entity with out one common purpose. It was this that infused in the leaders and in the people of America that ability to absorb the sting of defeat and once again rise and proceed to their goal.

A few days after the Declaration of Independence General Howe appeared on the scene at Staten Island with 25,000 soldiers and soon he was joined by a fleet under his brother, Lord Howe, with the intention of taking New York, capturing the Hudson and thereby cutting off New England from the colonies. Five thousand Americans under General Putnam were intrenched on Brooklyn Heights, a point which overlooked and

Chapter II

The War of Independence and the Peace of Paris 1783

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commanded New York City. General Sullivan guarded the approach to the Heights. Lord Howe attacked the Americans in ensuing hotly contested encounter the patriots were defeated. Luckily Washington was enabled to remove his troops to the mainland of New York under the protection of a heavy fog. New York then fell into the hands of the British. Washington having taken position a little further north repulsed an attack of Howe on Sept. 16, 1776. An attack on the patriots at White Plains gave Howe a slight victory. Washington thereupon, after a short entrenchment at Northcastle moved south into New Jersey.

There remained one more stronghold for Howe to take, Fort Washington, which commanded the Hudson. Though advised by Washington to evacuate the fort, General Green was confident that he could hold the fort. Yet in spite of heroic resistance on the part of Green, the fort fell into the hands of the enemy. At this time Washington was on the West side of the Hudson with part of the army. Lee was on the East side of the River. Ordered by Washington to cross and join his forces Lee disobeyed hoping by a brilliant stroke to be raised to the supreme command. But after he had marched to Morristown he was betrayed by a Tory and captured. Gen. Sullivan took command of Lee's army and pushed on to join Washington who had fortunately crossed the Delaware before Cornwallis

could force him to give battle.

Half a year had elapsed since the Declaration of Independence. Yet misfortune had been the lot of the Americans. Washington decided to strike a decisive blow at the enemy. On Christmas eve he crossed to the East side of the Delaware, marched to Trenton and completely routed three regiments of Hessians under Col. Rahl who was mortally wounded.

New courage filled the hearts of the patriots, Washington receiving from Congress on Dec. 27, almost unlimited military power for a period of six months, but the army was in a pitiful condition and due to the zeal of Robert Morris who on New Year's mornign collected \$50,000 among friends in Philadelphia, Washington was able to carry on the process of liberation of his country.

One of the most brilliant strokes of his genius Washington showed in the critical situation at Princeton. Wedged between the Delaware and its small tributary the Assunpink, Washington during the night slipped up the little creek, passed behind Cornwallis and fell on his rear guard at Princeton. The British were defeated and retreated to New York.

The brilliant military skill shown by Washington, especially at Trenton and Princeton caused the greatest admiration in Europe. Many nations now gave secret and open help to the U. S. A., especially France.

Among the numerous volunteers from Europe, Lafayette, DeKalb, Steuben, Pulaski and Kosciuszko, attained last-

ing fame. Thus ended the year that marked the birth of a new nation. But the struggle was far from being over and the British had great plans for 1777. General Howe was to seize the capital of Philadelphia, and then move northward through New Jersey to join Gen. Burgoyne who was to come down from Canada, opening the route to the Hudson and thus completely cutting off New England from the other colonies. General St. Leger was to ascend the St. Lawrence River to Oswego and then coming down the Mohawk Valley enlist the aid and sympathy of the Six Nations. Howe, after landing his troops at Wilmington, met Washington at Chadds Ford on the Brandywine River (Sept. 11, 1777) and after having driven back the Americans entered Philadelphia two weeks later. Again on Oct. 4, 1777, Washington gave battle to Howe at Georgetown, but was again repulsed. But in spite of these two setbacks Washington had prevented Howe from joining Burgoyne who after leaving Montreal had captured the Forts Crown Point and Ticonderoga and pushed on toward Fort Edward (July 5) being continually harassed by Gen. Schuyler. When Burgoyne heard that the Americans had large military stores at Bennington he dispatched Col. Baum with 1,000 men to take them. But Col. John Stark with his New Hampshire militia routed them completely. In the meantime St. Leger had landed at Oswego and pushing eastward besieged Fort Stanwick. Schuyler hearing

of the distress of the Fort sent Benedict Arnold to relieve it. At the approach of Arnold St. Leger fled to Oswego leaving Burgoyne the victim of the Americans surrounding him. After an indecisive battle at Bemis Heights, near Saratoga, (Sept. 19) and after another futile attempt to escape the net of the Americans at Stillwater on October 7th Burgoyne, giving up all hope of assistance from Howe surrendered at Saratoga on October 11, 1777, with his whole army and military stores. The battle of Saratoga was one of the decisive battles of the world certainly one of the most important ones in the War of Independence, for, firstly, it destroyed the British plan of war and prevented thus their control of the Hudson and of New York State; and secondly, it secured the invaluable aid of France. A year before the important battle of Saratoga, Congress had sent Benjamin Franklin to Paris to seek the aid of the French Government. For along time he was unsuccessful, but the surrender of Burgoyne and the renewed attempt of the King of England at reconciliation with the revolting colonies, induced the King of France to sign a treaty, February 6, 1778, by which the Americans were bound to accept no terms of peace until England should recognize the independence of the United States. A French fleet was dispatched to the assistance of the Americans. Lord Sir Henry Clinton had superseded Lord Howe in the command of the British and defeated the few American militia he had

army. At the arrival of the French fleet he hurried from Philadelphia to New York and he would have been completely defeated at Monmouth had not Genl Lee ordered a disgraceful retreat when victory was almost at hand. The timely aid of Washington saved the American army. With the aid of the French fleet Washington hoped to take the city of New York and thus end the power of the British in the North. But the sand bars at the entrance of the harbor prevented the approach of the French fleet. When he dispatched the fleet to take Newport from the British it was scattered by a disastrous storm. An attack on the American forces under Sullivan and Lafayette at Butts Hill (Aug. 29, 1778) was repulsed with severe loss for the British. This was the last battle fought by the two armies in the North. With the intention of drawing Washington from New York, Clinton sent out several ravaging expeditions to the north as well as to the south which more resembled the warfare of the savages than that of civilized men. A stealthily arranged expedition of Gen. Anthony Wayne and 1200 men resulted in the capture of Fort Stony Point (July 15, 1779) which he destroyed and then he withdrew.

While Clinton sent out ravaging expeditions along the Atlantic coast, Col. John Butler invaded the Wyoming Valley in western Pennsylvania with the Seneca tribe and a regiment of Tories who surrounded and defeated the few American militia men and

cruely put them to death, then destroying everything in their path. Another band of Tories and Indians under the infamous Joseph Brant, a Mohawk Indian, came up the Mohawk Valley, fell on Cherry Valley (Nov. 10, 1778) where he put to death men, women and children. To put an end to these massacres, Washington sent Gen. Sullivan against the Indians and defeated them at Newton and then like a whirlwind swept thru the territory of the Iroquois, destroying their villages. Thus the power of the Indians was forever broken. On the Northern frontier in the Middle West Col. Hamilton, the British commander at Detroit, encouraged the Indians to a united attack on the American frontier settlements. A young Virginian, Geo. Rogers Clark, was commissioned to break the English power in the West by seizing the forts between the Ohio and the Mississippi rivers. Sailing down the Ohio River up to 40 miles from its mouth, he succeeded, after a strenuous journey thru infested marches, forests and thickets, in taking Kaskaskia and Cahokia, and through the influence of Ft. Peter Givault who induced the Indians and the French to yield to Clark, he took Vincennes without firing a shot. Thus the boundaries of the U. S. were pushed from the Ohio River to the Great Lakes and the land was annexed to Virginia and it was called the County of Illinois.

THE AMERICAN NAVY. Right from the outset of the war America was at a distinct disadvantage because

it lacked a naval force. Yet, private cruisers but harmed British vessels considerably in American waters as well as in European waters, later on a little navy of five ships was built, which Congress placed under the Command of Esek Hopkins. But this fleet was soon destroyed. When John Barry, the Father of the American Navy was placed at the head of a new fleet the American flag began to be respected upon the seas. In his famed Bonhomme Richard, a gift of the French King, Louis, he courageously attacked England's Baltic Fleet at Flamborough Head. He captured the two men-of-war which let the English Fleet after a desperate hand to hand struggle. (1794)

THE WAR IN THE SOUTH. The Battle at Butts Hill Aug. 29, 1778 was the last one fought by the two armies in the North. The British centered their activities now on the South. When the American General, Lincoln, with the aid of a French fleet tried to recapture Savannah in Georgia was badly defeated and withdrew to South Carolina, the English following him till he outnumbered by them. He was then obliged to surrender his whole army of 3000 men at Charleston, South Carolina. This was a fearful blow to the American cause. But incessant warfare by Marion Sumter, Prickens, and Clark and their militiamen forced the British to leave South Carolina.

Congress now placed Gates in command of the army in the South, and he pushed into South Carolina,

attacked the British under Cornwallis at Camden but was completely routed, August 16, 1780. Thus the South up to Virginia was open to the British. At this time Benedict Arnold turned traitor to his cause, due perhaps to a mild reprimand which he had received from Washington for being involved in various troubles. His correspondence with Clinton as to the details about the surrender of West Point which he commanded were found on Major John Andre who was hanged a spy, but Benedict Arnold escaped to the British vessel, Vulture.

Two armies had been destroyed already in the South. A third was raised and placed under Gen. Nathaniel Greene, who because of his brilliant campaign against Cornwallis deserves a place in the history of the U. S. A., second only to Washington. Knowing he had not sufficient force to attack Cornwallis in the open he resolved to wear him out, and with the help of some true officers he began a series of brilliant operations. Daniel Morgan, an aide of Greene, attacked Tarleton who had been sent against him at Cowpens, (Jan. 17, 1781) and completely destroyed his forces. Greene after having drawn Cornwallis for 200 miles away from his base of supplies turned about and fought Cornwallis at Guilford Court House (March 15, 1781). Greene was defeated but Cornwallis had suffered such heavy losses that he hurriedly retreated to join the British

forces in Virginia. Greene thereupon went to South Carolina. He was met and defeated by the English under Rawdon at Hopkirks Hill near Camden. Greene, however, retreated in such good order that Rawdon gave up Camden to save his army. In the meantime, Lee and Marion gained victories in many smaller encounters and Greene pushing onward was again defeated at Eutaw Springs. (Sept. 1, 1781) But the British moved closer to the coast till they finally retreated to Charleston where they were protected by their fleet. In 13 months Greene had recovered Georgia and the Carolinas from the British. Yet there remained Cornwallis to deal with. Having retreated to Virginia while Greene and his courageous aides purged the Carolinas and Georgia of the British, he planned on capturing Lafayette and his 3000 men at Richmond. But Lafayette retreated cleverly and skilfully till Cornwallis in order to be near the sea for the sake of his supplies marched down the peninsula with 7,000 men and took position at Yorktown. Now occurred the supreme moment of the long struggle. Lafayette slowly followed Cornwallis, Washington after receiving the news that a French fleet under Count de Gras had left the West Indies for Chesapeake Bay decided on the daring march of 400 miles to Virginia to join Lafayette, thus cutting off Cornwallis from retreat. With 2,000 American and 4,000 French soldiers under

Rochambeau he left the Hudson and before the British knew that he was going South instead of attacking New York he had embarked at the Chesapeake Bay and soon joined Lafayette. When the French fleet appeared and when it had repulsed an English squadron from the West Indies Cornwallis losing all hope of escape surrendered at Yorktown with over 7,000 troops on October 14, 1781, thus ending the long bloody war of independence. Great delight reigned in America and France. England was thrown into consternation, and at the pressure of Burke, Fox and Pitt, the King reluctantly gave in and agreed to acknowledge the independence of the United States.

A preliminary treaty was signed at Versailles. By the final treaty of peace, the United States embraced the country between the Atlantic and the Mississippi. Florida and the territory at the mouth of the Mississippi was ceded to Spain by Great Britain.

Scarcely was the war over then the various states claimed title to the lands to the West, for under the charts of many of the colonies the grants extended from sea to sea. But the States, led by New York and a little later by Virginia generously gave up their territory to the national government and it was organized as the Northwest Territory in 1787. This cession had the all important result that the states formed from the original colonies were drawn closer together in a bond of union and in the sec-

and place it allowed the formation of new states e.g. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. Furthermore, the new ordinance of 1787 provided that freedom of worship should prevail in the 'new territory', trial by jury should be granted, slavery should be forever prohibited and that the schools should be encouraged.

a state of utter chaos. Business was so poor as to be nonexistent, the government so weak as to be ineffectual and the debt both national and state was so great as to create a condition of practical bankruptcy. There was only one solution to this problem and the statesmen such as Jefferson, Washington, Madison and others knew this. That was a strong centralized government with all the good qualities of the Constitution and its inherent weaknesses removed. The strong bonds of unity.

The United States were not free and independent. Yet there remained many dangers from within. The currency was sinking to debt, the paper currency was gradually worthless, the people were overburdened with taxes, so that, when in Western Massachusetts, the farmers lost their cattle and homes because of heavy taxes, Daniel Shays, a captain of the Continental Army rose in rebellion at Northampton and Springfield. But his revolt was suppressed though it showed the insufficiency of the articles of Confederation. Under these Congress had no power to enforce its laws, it could not levy taxes for any purpose, there

Chapter III The Political and Economic Struggle for Independence

The fruits of the glorious victory were to be hardly tasted by the colonists because on returning they found the entire situation from all angles in a state of utter chaos. Business was so poor as to be nonexistent, the government so weak as to be ineffectual and the debt both national and state was so great as to create a condition of practical bankruptch. There was only one solution to this problem and the statesmen such as Jefferson, Washington, Madison and others knew this. That was a strong centralized government with all the good qualities of the Confederation and its inherent weaknesses replaced the strong bonds of unity.

The United States were now free and independent. Yet there remained many dangers from within. The country was heavily in debt, the paper currency was practically worthless, the people were over burdened with taxes, so that, when in Western Massachusetts, the farmers lost their cattle and homes because of heavy taxes, Daniel Shays, a captain of the Continental Army rose in rebellion at Worchester and Springfield. But his revolt was suppressed though it showed the insufficiency of the articles of Confederation. Under these Congress had no power to enforce its laws, it could not levy taxes for any purpose, there

was no freedom to trade among the states, trade was prostrate because of the worthless currency. Affairs reached such a fearful condition that finally Virginia issued an invitation to all states to send delegates to a conference at Annapolis. Little was accomplished since only five states responded. Another invitation to all states for a convention to be held in Philadelphia May 1787 was sent to all the states. Fifty five delegates attended this convention with Washington as the presiding officer. After four months of discussion, a new Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787. Before going into effect it had to receive the approval of nine states, which was secured June 21, 1788. The new Constitution provided for three departments:-

1) The legislative, to consist of Congress, made up of a Senate and a House of Representatives. This department was created to make the laws.

2) The executive, to consist of a President and officers to carry out these laws.

3) The Judicial, to consist of the Federal or National courts to interpret the laws.

While the legislature of each state could still enact laws for its states, the Constitution became the supreme law of the land, to be obeyed by the National and State governments, and by the people. The new Constitution brought into existence a strong central government. By establishing the Presidency and the

supreme court, by compelling freedom of the trade among the states, and granting to Congress power to levy taxes, the Constitution laid broad and deep the foundations of our national life.

In November 1791, the first amendments were added. They safeguarded the rights of the people by securing the freedom of religion, speech, person, and property.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF GEORGE WASHINGTON.

The first president to be unanimously elected according to the new Constitution was George Washington. His Vice President was John Adams. George Washington was inaugurated on April 30, 1789 on the balcony of the Federal Building, in New York. He belonged to none of the existing parties. The Federalists led by Hamilton, the secretary of the treasury in Washington's cabinet of five members believed in strong centralized government: The Republicans with Jefferson the secretary of state as their leader, wishing to give the greatest possible power to the individual states. Washington's first great achievement was the arrangement for the payment of the public debt the United States owed to France, Holland and Spain,--- more than eleven million dollars; the home debt was about forty million dollars while the debts contracted by the individual states amounted to nearly twenty million dollars. Hamilton proposed that the United States should pay all the debts. There was no objection to the payment of the foreign and domestic

debt, but vigorous opposition arose against the paying of the debts of the individual states by the Federal Government, since Congress had no authority to do so. The proposed law finally became a law thru the clever efforts of Hamilton who finally made a compromise with Jefferson. According to the Federalists who wanted to have the new capitol built on the Delaware, agreed to make Philadelphia the capital for ten years, after which time according to the wish of the republicans (mostly southerners) a capital should be built on the Potomac.

In order to be able to pay the debts, foreign as well as domestic, the revenues of the country had to be increased. This was done by increasing the tariff on imports and by placing a tax on liquors. In order to control the money of the government, Hamilton proposed the erection of a national bank which was founded at Philadelphia (1791). A unit with a system of decimal currency was proposed by Jefferson.

By acts of Congress, Vermont was admitted to the Union in 1791, Kentucky in 1792, and Tennessee in 1796.

Several expeditions were sent against the sedition Indians who attacked and destroyed many caravans of people moving into the new North West Territoy, till finally Gen. A. Wayne took charge of an expedition and completely defeated them and made them leave

steadfast friend of America during the revolution

Ohio and settle further west. Only seven years after the treaty made by Gen. A. Wayne with the Indians, Ohio had such a large population that it asked for admission to the Union. The Whisky Rebellion taught the nation a lesson to the effect that the acts of Congress must obey by all even by the rebellious farmers of western Pennsylvania who refused to pay the tax placed on whisky, but who soon laid down their arms when 1500 troops appeared in their midst.

The cotton industry revived and increased immensely by the invention of the cotton gin by Eli Whitney of Massachusetts. However great its value was for increased and cheaper production of cotton it had an unexpected result. It rendered slave labor more profitable and roused the sympathy of northern mill owners in maintaining the slave system in the South. It therefore not only helped to fasten slavery on the country, but prevented abolition so well started in the states of the Northwest.

The United States almost got into political entanglements with France when the latter declared war on England. Edmond C. Genet was sent as minister of France to secure the cooperation of the United States. Immediately after his arrival at Charleston in 1793, Genet began at once to fit out privateers against English commerce. Though France had been a steadfast friend of America during the revolution

war Washington saw no reason to interfere in European affairs and therefore issued a proclamation of neutrality and then they requested his removal. Yet this proclamation of neutrality did not deter England from taking the western ports of Detroit, Oswego and Mackinaw and furthermore it continued to seize American ships and carry off American sailors under the pretext that many of them were British subjects. To stop this intolerable state of affairs, Washington sent John Jay to England to negotiate a treaty by which England gave up the forementioned military posts, paid for the damages done to American ships and allowed the United States to trade with the West Indies except not to export tropical products such as coffee, cocoa, and cotton to any port of the world. Jay agreed to all this but he did not figure on the blow the last clause would deal to American industry and commerce. Practically the only result of this treaty was the postponement of war with England for twenty years during which time the United States population doubled and thus the country was better able to enforce its rights.

In the same year when John Jay made the treaty with England two other important treaties were made, one with Spain whereby the Mississippi was opened to trade and the United States was allowed to use New Orleans as a port of deposit for three years. The other treaty was made with Algiers by which the

American seamen held captive by these pirates were released for \$80,000 and an annual tribute of \$23,000 was promised for the protection of American shipping.

When after the expiration of his second term as president Washington retired to his Mt. Vernon home he was hailed by all the people with the proudest title a patriot may enjoy "Father of His Country."

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JOHN ADAMS:

John Adams (Federalist) succeeded Washington receiving the greatest number of votes and Thos. Jefferson (Rep) was selected Vice President with the second greatest ballot according to the provision laid down in the Constitution. This procedure of election has since been changed (12th amendment, 1804). The Jay-Treaty had aroused such an indignation in France that it sent its war vessels out to capture American merchantmen. France refused the American ambassador Charles C. Pickney. Even when Adams sent John Marshall and Elbridge Gerry to join Pickney, France refused to see them. However, Talleyrand, Minister of Foreign Affairs sent envoys to the U. S. A. would pay \$50,000 to each of the directors of the new French Republic, assist France with money and retract some expression of Pres. Adams about the French Government. The proposal was sent to Adams who submitted it to Congress. Since instead of the real names of the envoys the letters 'X Y Z' were used, the documents were called the 'X Y Z' Papers. Pres. Adams and the whole nation were aroused at such

arrogance on the part of France. All treaties with France were suspended and the country was on the brink of war with France. An army was raised and a fleet damaged commerce so much in the West Indies that France asked for another commission to negotiate for a treaty which was made with Napoleon 1800.

Prompted by the hard feeling against France, the Federalists passed two dangerous and unwise laws, the ALIEN AND SEDITION LAWS. By the first the President received the power for two years to expel any foreigner from the country and the second law provided that anyone who interfered with Congress or abused the President, Congress, or any member of the government could be fined and imprisoned. This law was to be in force for three years. The Republicans strongly resented these laws esp. the Sedition Law and Jefferson, their spokesman, wrote a series of resolutions in which he protest that Alien and Sedition Laws were unconstitutional and that it was the duty of the state to interfere. Kentucky and Virginia accepted these resolutions and in Kentucky the legislature declared in 1799 that nullification of these laws would be the only remedy. This attitude which can be called representative of the whole South was eventually to end in the Civil War.

In Oct. 1800 the Capital was removed from Philadelphia to Washington according to the compromise made by Jefferson and Hamilton with the Southern states to effect a settlement of the debt question.

Adams was not re-elected because of the loss of prestige of the Federalists due to their adoption of the Alien and Sedition Laws and because of the strong complaint of Hamilton against Adams, though he himself was a Federalist. Of the two candidates put up by the Republicans Jefferson and Burr received each the same number of votes, since all Democratic voters had written Burr's name on the same ballot with that of Jefferson. The House of Representatives thereupon elected Jefferson president and Burr Vice President. In order to prevent similar cases in the future the 12th amendment was passed which provided that separate ballots should be cast for president and for vice-president. One of the crowning points of Adam's administration was the appointment of John Marshall as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, an office which he so ably filled for 34 years that he is called a "Second Maker of the Constitutions."

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JEFFERSON 1801-1809.

With Jefferson the ideal of the Democrats entered upon the presidency. He began with many reforms. The army and Navy were cut down, many objectionable laws were repealed, strict economy of government expenses was enforced, (less than four million dollars a year.)

In spite of the large tribute paid annually to the ruler of Tripoly, he constantly demanded more till he finally in his arrogance declared war on the U. S. A. (1801). A fleet was sent against him in 1803 which

the political career of Aaron Burr.

fought him so vigorously that he was glad to make peace in 1805.

In 1802 Ohio was the first state of the Northwest Territory to be admitted to the Union.

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE 1803.

The greatest event of the administration of Jefferson was the purchase of Louisiana the vast territory extending from the Gulf of Mexico to British America. In 1763 Spain received this territory from France but ceded it back to France in 1803. Jefferson seeing the great importance of the Mississippi River in the development of commerce sent an envoy to France to buy Louisiana. Napoleon, though he had at first planned the establishment of a great colonial domain for France in America lost interest in this scheme when his country was unable to control Santo Domingo after a revolution of the slaves and he subsequently sold Louisiana to the U. S. A. for 15 Million Dollars.

THE EXPLORATION OF LEWIS AND CLARKE 1805. OREGON COUNTRY.

Captain R. Gray of Boston in his vessel Colombia, while trading with the Indians of the Pacific coast had discovered a broad river which he called Colombia and claimed all the country for the U. S. (1792). But since little was known about the vast territory on the Pacific, Jefferson in 1804 sent Lewis and Clarke to explore the country of Oregon. After many hardships they arrived on the Colombia River (1805) and claimed Oregon for the U. S. A. In the following year the country was shocked to hear that Aaron Burr had killed Alexander Hamilton in a dual. This closed the political career of Aaron Burr.

Chapter IV

The Development of the Foreign and Domestic Policy

For the Period of the War of 1812

Although the newly formed government was technically free and independent according to the Treaty of Paris. Europe was as yet not convinced of this fact. This was made known through the tactics employed by France and England in the treatment accorded the American diplomats and representatives in the foreign countries. Finally this attitude was manifested openly by the impressment of American seamen and the seizure of merchant ships belonging to this country. The continuation of this policy by England finally resulted in the severance of the diplomatic relations. The war of 1812 followed rapidly.

THE WAR BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

In May 1803, war broke out between England and France. Napoleon by decrees from Berlin and Milan, forbade the ships of any nation to enter the ports of Britain. England retaliated and forbade all neutral vessels to enter French ports, or any ports of nations in league with France. This paralyzed American shipping. But England went further yet. Due to her great sea power, she assumed the right to search American vessels and to take away from them any sailors on them that she might choose to consider Englishmen. Her outrages reached a climax when the British frigate Leopard, fired on the American frigate Chesapeake, killing and wounding twenty. This incident almost led to another war with England. Congress hereupon passed an act forbidding American ships to

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leave for foreign ports. This "Embargo" was passed to stop trade with England and France and to cause great distress in Europe and compel England and France to respect American rights. But the result of this act was so dissatisfactory and so disastrous to American commerce that some of the Eastern states threatened to leave the Union if the embargo were not lifted. The law was repealed in 1809 and the Non-Intercourse Act was passed by which trade with France was forbidden, but trade with all the other neutral countries allowed. The result of these laws, especially the Embargo Act were harmful to American commerce, yet on the other hand they stimulated manufacture at home which gradually made the U. S. A. the leading industrial country in the world. One of the first results in the development of home industry was the building of large steamboats that carried American products up and down the Mississippi and the Great Lakes. The new Constitution of 1787 had denied Congress the power to prohibit the importation of slaves before 1808. When this time had expired, in a message to Congress. Jefferson recommended the passage of a law forbidding importation of slaves. This law was passed in 1808 with only five senators resenting it. Thus the first step toward the abolition of slavery was taken.

It was at this time that the English battleship *Phaon* stopped an American vessel near the harbor of New York and took off a sailor. Immediately the American battleship *USS Constitution* set out in search of the *Phaon* but met the battleship *USS Enterprise* and hereupon the *Enterprise* opened fire and easily captured it.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JAMES MADISON 1809-1817.

England continued to search American vessels and take away sailors from them and force them into her navy, maintaining:- "Once an Englishman, always an Englishman" while America believed in the right of naturalization. France and England were still at war and for American Vessels the Nonintercourse Act was still in force. Soon after Madison's inauguration the British Minister in Washington declared that England would recall her orders in council. The Non-intercourse Act was thereupon suspended but when the British Government did not approve the action of her minister at Washington it went into effect again. In 1810 Congress declared that if either France or England would revoke its decrees against American shipping the Non-intercourse Act would be kept in force only against the country that would not revoke its decrees. Napoleon announced that he would revoke his decree and England promised to do the same if Napoleon actually would revoke his decrees. But neither of them kept the promises made.

It was at this time that the English battleship GUERRIERE stopped an American vessel near the harbor of New York and took off a sailor. Immediately the American battleship PRESIDENT set out in search of the Guerriere but met the battleship LITTLE BELT and hereupon the PRESIDENT opened fire and easily captured it.

In the meantime, in the Northwest the English had again incited the Indians to fall upon American territory and now they commenced once more to pillage and butcher American settlers along the frontier under the Shawnee chief, Tecumseh. General Harrison completely defeated them at Tippecanoe in Indiana. Thus affairs had reached the point where another war with England was inevitable. War was declared against Great Britain on June 18, 1812.

The causes of the war were:-

- 1) Impressment of American Sailors.
- 2) Violation of American Rights of commerce.
- 3) Blockade of our ports by English vessels.
- 4) Urging the Indians to attack our frontier settlements.

The cry of the campaign was FREE TRADE AND SAILORS' RIGHTS. The plan was to capture Canada. For this purpose three armies were raised. The first under Hull was to march to Detroit. But when he arrived there after great hardships through unbroken forest he learned Mackinow had fallen into the hands of the British. He was besieged by Gen. Brock and the Indians under Tecumseh. He soon surrendered in order to save the women and children from scalping. Thus the territory of Michigan fell into the hands of the British. The second army under Gen. Van Renselaer was to cross the Niagra and take Queens-town: he really drove back the English at Queens-town Heights October 13, 1812; Brock was killed, but

due to lack of reinforcements he soon had to surrender. The third army under Dearborn was to unite with the other two and capture Montreal and Quebec; but this plan was never realized due to the dismal end of the two other armies.

The American Navy fared better. Though trivial in number of ships compared to England's large fleet, it showed its worth. On August 19, 1812, the CONSTITUTION met, overpowered and sank the GUERRIERE taking its crew captive. Similar feats were repeated by other American frigates. Ill was the fate of the Chesapeake which accepted the challenge of the Shannon; in less than 15 minutes it overpowered the American vessel and towed it to Halifax (June 1, 1813). The president commissioned privateers to prey on English vessels which they did with such success that over 1700 ships were taken by American privateers. In the meantime an army had been raised again divided into three divisions with practically the same objective as the preceding expedition. The first army under Gen. Harrison was to regain the Michigan territory. A part of his forces was defeated on the Raisin River by Proctor. In the spring of 1813, Proctor made two unsuccessful attacks on Harrison at Fort Meigs. Even at Fort Stephenson on the lower Sandusky he was repulsed by Major Corghan and his 160 men. These two reversals led the Indians to lose faith in British superiority and many promptly deserted the English.

On September 10, 1813, Oliver Perry with nine vessels defeated the British fleet on Lake Erie forcing the British to leave Detroit and the territory surrendered by Hull was recovered. Spurred on by Perry's victory Harrison invaded Canada, defeated the united British and Indian forces on the Thames, on October 5, 1813, killing Tecumseh. By these two victories Americans controlled Lake Erie, Michigan and Upper Canada and the Indian Confederacy was destroyed.

About a year later the second American army under Gen. Brown had crossed the Niagara River, captured Fort Erie and defeated the English at Chippewa, July 5, 1814. Three months later the Americans took Lundy's Lane. At this point the British planned an expedition down Lake Champlain, following the route of Burgoyne. The British fleet sailed down the lake and was attacked and defeated by an American fleet of 17 vessels under Commodore MacDonough at Cumberland Head September 11, 1814. The British land forces under Sir George Prevost were held back by Macomb on the Saranac. When hearing of the defeat of their fleet the British troops left in great haste. In spring of the same year (1814) the Creek Indians in the South were aroused and supplied with arms by the British and went on the war path. Fort Mimms, forty miles from Mobile was captured by them and eleven of its inhabitants were cruelly put to death. Gen. Andrew Jackson took punitive measures and defeated

imported cotton and woolen goods. This was the first

them and completely broke their power.

Early in 1814 the British set out on an expedition of retaliation for a raid into Canada during which private property was destroyed. Vice Admiral Cochrane gave orders to lay waste coast towns. On August 24, 1814, General Ross entered Washington and burned the capital. His next objective was Baltimore, guarded by the famous Fort MacHenry, which though bombarded from the sea by the English stood the attacks of the land forces. Ross was killed and British retreated.

The early days of January 1815 found the British intent upon some other plan, namely to take New Orleans and thus to stop all exports by way of the Mississippi. Several fierce attacks of Pakenham's troops were repulsed by Andrew Jackson and when Pakenham fell mortally wounded the British retreated. Peace was concluded at Ghent in Belgium December 24, 1814, but the news did not reach the United States before the battle of New Orleans had been fought. The cost of the war was two hundred million dollars and 30,000 men.

THE RESULTS OF THE WAR:-

Europe learned that the United States could take care of themselves. American ships could cross the seas in peace without being searched by the British.

Capitalists turned from commerce to manufacture, especially in cotton goods. To protect the new industry from English competition a duty of 25% was laid on all imported cotton and woollen goods. This was the first

protective tariff so bitterly opposed by Daniel Webster who thought it imperiled the "commercial interests" of New England.

The war had again shown the necessity of better communications by way of good roads and canals, which were built from increased tariff rates.

To establish an adequate national defense by maintaining a good army and navy. The Hartford Convention of the Federalists of Massachusetts was a gathering of malcontents who wished to diminish the influence of the South in national politics and to make the passing of laws such as the Non Intervention Act and the declaration of war more difficult for Congress. Nothing resulted from this convention except disruption of the Federalist party.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JAMES MONROE 1817-1825.

James Monroe ushered in the "era of good feeling". The country was entering on a period of prosperity. Roads and canals were built, the West began to attract numerous bands of settlers. His visit in 1817 through the northern states helped to break down sectional lines (he was a Virginian) and unite the country.

In 1817 Andrew Jackson seized Florida from Spain. The reason for this action was the continual trouble to and manace from the Indians, of runaway slaves and outlaws who caused endless trouble to the neighboring states. Trouble with Spain seemed imminent, but it was induced to sell Florida for five million dollars.

THE QUESTION OF SLAVERY.

Originally slavery existed in all 13 colonies. At the time of 1776 Massachusetts and New Hampshire were no slave states. Gradually it was abolished in the northern states. By the ordinance of 1787 slavery was prohibited in the Northwest territory, so that the newly formed states from that territory---Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, were free states. During this time Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana were admitted as slave states. In 1820 there were in the Union 11 free states and 11 slave states. In the House of Representatives the Southern States were continually losing ground because of the increasing population in the Northern States. The slave states therefore resolved to hold their power in the Senate by refusing to admit a free state unless a slave state was admitted at the same time. The request of Missouri to be admitted to the Union caused a crisis. Two interests were confronting each other. The south wanted cheap slave labor and free trade with Europe. The North opposed to slavery furthermore wanted a tariff on foreign goods. Should Missouri be admitted as a slave state the South would predominate in the Senate. In the Missouri Compromise, Missouri was admitted a slave state and Maine as a free state and from now on slavery should be forbidden north of 36° 30'.

The leading problem of his administration was

Chapter V

Conclusion

The Country Expands and Takes Its Place Among

The Sovereign Nations of the World

THE RISE OF NEW AMERICA.

The end of the War of 1812 marks the beginning of a new era in American development. The country was at last free from foreign interference and hence could devote their energy toward the development of the West and various domestic problems occurred by the war. Among the most important developments of the war was the rise and development of the new foreign policy expressed in the Monroe Doctrine.

This doctrine was primarily pointed against Russia which claimed the coast from Bering Sea to the 51st parallel. In it, Jefferson declared: that the American continents henceforth are not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European power. This was meant for Russia. Another passage was directed against the Holy Alliance, esp. against Russia and France who wished to secure Mexico and California for themselves.

During the second term of Jefferson in 1824 Lafayette arrived at Washington as guest of the nation.

It was also during the time of Jefferson that many colonists and new immigrants moved westward to build new towns and cultivate new land.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JOHN QUINCEY 1825-1829

The leading problem of his administration was

the question of tariff. Those favoring higher tariff believed that the tariff should be so high that the tariff should be so high that foreign goods could not compete with domestic manufacturers. This would keep the wheels of industry turning keep the wages high, make the country prosperous. Those advocating free trade said one should be allowed to buy where one could get things cheapest. Others said tariff should be levied for revenue only i.e. to carry on the government and should not have for its principle object the protection of industry. The North favored high tariff. The South objected it since high tariff would diminish its foreign market especially for its cotton exports while the North maintained high tariff would establish a home market where cotton would bring higher prices. The protective tariffs of 1816 and 1824 were raised by a bill introduced by high tariff advocates, raising still higher the duties on imported goods. This bill was signed by the president in 1828.

The year 1825 marks the opening of the Erie Canal, built by De Witt Clinton, governor of New York. It extended from Buffalo to Albany, and made New York the first city in commerce and in population. To prevent New York from securing all the traffic to the West, Pennsylvania built a chain of roads and canals from Philadelphia to Pittsburg. Baltimore took up the same work. Soon railroads increased commerce by leaps and bounds.

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Volume III 1761-1789

Completeness of detail characterizes the work of this man. It is a remarkable complete study of the era but is rather disconnected.

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This is a one volume philosophical discussion in a narrative style in which the political, military, diplomatic, social and economic strands have been skillfully interwoven.

The Rise of the Republic of the United States by Richard Frothingham 1750-1783

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The American Statesman Series

Henry Clay by Carl Schurz 1777-1833

Washington by Henry Cabot Lodge

Jefferson by Morse

These books read in succession make up a brief but complete narrative history of the period.

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