

George Washington

President from 1789 – 1797 (two terms)

Set Precedents

1. Not to run for a 3rd term
2. President's Cabinet
3. Court System
4. Foreign Policy of Neutrality

First Cabinet

Secretary of State (Thomas Jefferson), Treasury Secretary (Alexander Hamilton), Secretary of War, Attorney General, Postmaster

Federal Court System

1789 – **Judiciary Act** – set up the Supreme Court with one Chief Justice and five Associate Justices (now eight)

First Chief Justice – John Jay

French Revolution/Policy of Neutrality

The French were suffering a horrible depression and people were starving. They were angry with the king and queen and so they rebelled – executing thousands including the King and Queen. At first the American's supported the war but as it grew more violent they began to change their minds.

Division in Washington's cabinet – Jefferson supported the French, Adams/Hamilton did NOT.

Washington had his first foreign policy crisis. What would he do? We had signed a treaty with the French during the American Revolution, but sticking to the treaty would cause them to be drawn into war.

Neutrality Proclamation – April 1793 – The United States would not support either side in the war, and Americans are not allowed to aid either Britain or France. (Jefferson is defeated and will cause him to leave the Cabinet.)

Neutrality was hard to maintain – in 1793, American ships were captured by the British and some Americans wanted War, but Washington held firm. Sent John Jay to Britain to negotiate – **Jay's Treaty** is signed causing the British to pay for the damage, give up forts in the west, and the Americans to pay long owed debts.

Washington's Farewell Address

Advised American's from involvement in European affairs. *"Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent Alliances, with any portion of the foreign world...The Great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign Nations is...to have with them as little political connection as possible."*

Did not oppose foreign trade, only alliances that could lead them into war.