

Thomas Jefferson

Third President (1801-1809)

Simple, Quiet, Low Key. Republican.

Jefferson was determined to make government more democratic (ensuring all people have the same rights) *“Educate and inform the whole mass of the people. Enable them to see that it is their interest to preserve peace and order, and they will preserve them. They are the only ones to rely on for the preservation of our liberty.”* – Thomas Jefferson

Goals:

Reduce the Size of Government

- Policies
 - Cut federal budget and reduce federal debt
 - Promote laissez-faire policies in economic affairs
 - *“Laissez Faire” Economics* – idea (from Adam Smith’s *Wealth of Nations*) that believes government should play as small a role as possible in economic affairs. Free competition.
 - Decrease the size of government departments
 - Reduce the size of the army and navy
 - Ask Congress to repeal the Whiskey Tax

Reconcile Party Differences

- Policies
 - Retains the Bank of the United States
 - Continues to pay off state debts using federal money
 - Allows many Federalists to keep their government jobs

Marbury vs. Madison

- In 1803, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall decided a case that increased the power of the Supreme Court.
- John Adams, at the last moments of his presidency, nominated William Marbury to the Supreme Court. Republicans were furious and refused to accept the “midnight judge”
- Jefferson ordered the Secretary of State James Madison not to deliver the official papers confirming Marbury’s appointment
- Marbury sued Madison and because of the Judiciary Act of 1789 which said only the Supreme Court could decide a case that was brought against a federal official.
- The Supreme Court ruled against Marbury. And stated that the Judiciary Act was unconstitutional; the Constitution did not give the Supreme Court the right to decide cases against federal officials.
- Sets an important **precedent**. It gave the Supreme Court the power to decide whether laws passed by Congress were constitutional and to reject laws that are unconstitutional. This is known as **Judicial Review**.