Washington’s Presidency:

Beginning of the Federalist Era
First President of the U.S.

- Elected in 1789
- Only president ever to be elected unanimously
  - Runner-up was John Adams, who became Vice President under Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution.
Executive Departments

- Congress created three executive departments
- Washington chose the heads of those departments
  - Washington began meeting regularly with the heads of the departments
    - For advice and assistance
    - Became known as the President’s Cabinet
Presidential Cabinet

- The First Presidential Cabinet
  - Secretary of State – Thomas Jefferson
  - Secretary of War – Henry Knox
  - Secretary of Treasury – Alexander Hamilton
Judicial Branch

- Judiciary Act of 1789 created federal court system with three levels
  - Established District and Appellate Courts
  - Organized the Supreme Court with six Justices
  - Created Department of Justice and office of Attorney General
    - Edmund Randolph joined cabinet

Edmund Randolph – 1st Attorney General
Washington’s Cabinet
Alexander Hamilton

- Only Immigrant Founding Father
  - British West Indies
- Worked in the shipping business as a clerk
  - Operated the business as a teen when owner was away
- Father left and Mother died
- Sent to New York for education
- Joined Continental Army
  - Aide to Washington
- Became lawyer
- Financial Genius
Alexander Hamilton and US Financial Policy

Hamilton shaped the US Financial System to address the challenges resulting from the Revolutionary War:

1. Pay off foreign war debt immediately and in full
   - $11.7 Million (owed primarily to France)
   - Important way to instill confidence in the new nation of the United States
Alexander Hamilton and US Financial Policy

2. Buy back depreciated Revolutionary War bonds at face value
   - US owed $40 million to citizens in war bonds
   - Effective way to establish trust in new nation
     - Government must do what it said it would
   - Jefferson opposed plan
     - Rewarded speculators at the expense of the poor
3. Assume portion of States’ war debt
   - Establishes a federal line of credit
   - $25 million dollar debt ($21.5m)
   - Ties all states to Federal Government
   - Help national economy by freeing states’ money
   - Reached compromise with Jefferson and Madison that resulted in the location of a new national capital in the south--Washington, DC
Alexander Hamilton and US Financial Policy

4. Create Bank of the United States
   - Bank for Government money and loans
   - 20 year charter
   - Believed that the "necessary and proper" clause gave Congress power to charter Bank
   - Helped US consolidate its debt and pay its creditors
   - Offered stability to the US economy
Washington’s Foreign Policy

- Neutrality Proclamation (1793)
  - Bloody French Revolution caused war between Britain and France
    - Washington pursued a friendly and impartial relationship with the two nations
    - Jefferson and the Anti-Federalists sided with the French and their push towards individual rights
      - "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is natural manure."
        - - Thomas Jefferson
Washington’s Foreign Policy

- **Jay’s Treaty (1794)**
  - British capturing neutral American merchant ships in the French West Indies
    - Chief Justice John Jay was sent to Britain to negotiate treaty with British
  - Both sides received some of their demands
    - British agreed to pay for seized ships, abandon frontier forts, and allow some Caribbean trade
    - Americans agreed to pay pre-revolutionary war debts to British merchants
    - British continued impressment of American sailors
    - Not very effective, but did prevent war with Britain
  - Jefferson disagreed with the treaty, feeling that it aligned US too closely with Britain
    - Became a divisive party issue
Washington’s Foreign Policy

- Pinckney’s Treaty (1795)
  - Spanish had closed port of New Orleans to Americans due to border disputes in 1784
  - US Ambassador Thomas Pinckney was sent to Spain to negotiate a treaty
    - Treaty was huge success
      - Re-opened the port of New Orleans
      - Moved Florida border
Washington’s Domestic Policy
The Whiskey Rebellion

- Congress passed excise tax on American made whiskey in 1791
  - To pay off national debt
  - Pennsylvania farmers who couldn’t pay the tax rebelled
    - Tarred and feathered tax collectors
    - Skirmishes broke out between rebels and Federal officers
      - Shots fired
The Whiskey Rebellion

- In 1794, Washington personally commanded nearly 13,000 troops to shut down the rebellion.
- Most rebels fled without battle.
  - Washington captured 20 of the rebels.
- First major show of federal authority and military force.
  - Washington WOULD see that the laws were executed.

This set a precedent that U.S. citizens who wished to change the law had to do so peacefully by constitutional means.
Washington’s Domestic Policy
Northwest Territory

- Americans continued to settle in the Ohio Country north of the Ohio River
  - British had ceded land to US after the war
- Indians rallied around Little Turtle and went to war against settlers
  - Indians felt land was theirs despite treaties
  - Guns and ammunition were supplied by British traders
- Washington sent General “Mad” Anthony Wayne to end the dispute
Battle of Fallen Timbers
Washington’s Domestic Policy

Battle of Fallen Timbers

- August 20, 1794, near Toledo, Ohio
- Wayne and his men chased the Indians back to Fort Miami
  - British refused Indians access. They did not want to start another war.
- Americans routed Indians, burning their fields and villages
- Led to Treaty of Greenville in 1795
  - Indians gave up most of Ohio, Chicago, and Detroit
  - Americans gave Indians $20,000 worth of goods and recognized Indian claims to the land they still held
Washington’s Farewell Address

Washington chose to step down after two terms in office (1789-1797)

- Farewell Address
  - Warns of political divisions at home: political parties
    - Political unity is the key to national success
  - Warns about dangers of foreign entanglements
  - Advises against public debt
    - Burden to future generations
  - Insists that changes in government must be made by amendment, not armed rebellion
  - Promotes education
    - Essential for enlightened citizens & public opinion