





WASHINGTON'S FOREIGN POLICY


- 1792: Washington = unanimous reelection

- Foreign troubles

- French Revolution (1789)
 - Originally Americans approved
 - Attitudes soured with execution of Louis XIV and Marie Antoinette and start of Terror (1793-94)



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- Britain vs. France (22 year war)
 - Treaty of 1778 > U.S. alliance with France was to be “forever”
 - U.S. obligated to defend French West Indies > U.S. economy relied on trade with Britain
 - American opinion = divided
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- Democratic-Republicans
 - Supported France
 - Believed U.S. owed France for helping with American Revolution
 - Federalists
 - Deplored Reign of Terror and sympathized with GB

- GW hated division of U.S. public opinion over war
 - Feared France would ask U.S. to honor 1778 treaty
 - Terrible idea for young nation to get involved in war
- **Neutrality Proclamation (1793)**
 - U.S. = officially neutral in conflict
 - Urged impartiality by U.S. citizens
 - Beginning of U.S. isolationist tradition

“Whereas it appears that a state of war exists between Great Britain and France...the interest of the United States requires that we pursue an impartial policy toward the belligerent powers.”

Edmond “Citizen” Genet

- French diplomat sent to U.S. to seek support for new French government
 - Jefferson convinced GW to recognize new French govt and receive Genet
 - **Genet actively recruited Americans to fight against British despite neutrality**
 - Successfully hired privateers to attack British shipping
 - “Foreign Legion” soldiers to invade Spanish Florida and Louisiana and British Canada
- Embarrassment to Jefferson
- Underscored policy divisions within administration

Strained Neutrality Policy

- British maintained forts and trading posts on U.S. soil > defying Treaty of Paris
 - Armed Indians and incite attack on settlers
 - U.S. General “Mad Anthony” Wayne
 - Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794)
 - Treaty of Greenville (1795)
 - Indians give up large areas of land North of Ohio River

Strained Neutrality Policy

- British seizing neutral U.S. ships trading with France and West Indies
- Britain = forcing U.S. sailors into service with British navy (impressment)
- Jay Treaty (1794)
 - England agreed to withdraw from U.S. soil and pay compensation for seized ships
 - Criticized in U.S. > giving in to England
 - England refused to stop impressment
 - GW urged ratification > would postpone war with GB

Strained Neutrality Policy

- Pickney Treaty (1795)
 - Settle disputes over Louisiana and Florida
 - Spain agreed to navigation rights on Mississippi River and settled disputed border between Georgia and Florida
 - Treaty = GW greatest diplomatic success

Washington wants out...

- GW refuses to run for 3rd term
- *Writes Farewell Address (1796)*
 - Cautioned against sectionalism, political parties, permanent foreign alliances, involvement in European affairs
 - Encouraged strong union and strong central govt
 - Influenced U.S. policy for years to come

“Beware of permanent alliance and the divisive effects of factions.”