

Chapter 9 Section 2: Creating a Foreign Policy (pages 284-286)


In this section, we will:

- Describe American opinions of the French Revolution.
- Explain why Washington wanted the nation to remain neutral in foreign affairs.
- Describe why it was difficult for the United States to remain neutral.

Key vocabulary this section

- French Revolution
- foreign policy
- neutral
- Neutrality Proclamation
- Jay's Treaty
- Farewell Address

Responses to the French Revolution

- The French had many reasons to rebel against their king, Louis XVI.
 - the peasants and the middle class paid heavy taxes, while the nobles paid none.
 - Reformers wanted a constitution to limit the king's power and protect the basic rights of citizens. Sound familiar???
- 
- at first, most Americans supported the French Revolution. Americans knew what it meant to struggle for liberty.
 - France had also been an American ally during the Revolutionary War.
 - this support started to dwindle in 1793.....the next slide will tell us why.

- In 1793, the French Revolution turned more and more violent when radical reformers gained power.
- they beheaded the king and queen.
- During the Reign of Terror, many thousands of ordinary French citizens were executed.



**The French
Revolution & the
Reign of Terror**



- The violence in France divided Americans.
- Thomas Jefferson, while condemning the executions of the king and queen, still felt the French had the right to use violence to win their freedom.
- Alexander Hamilton, John Adams & others strongly disagreed.

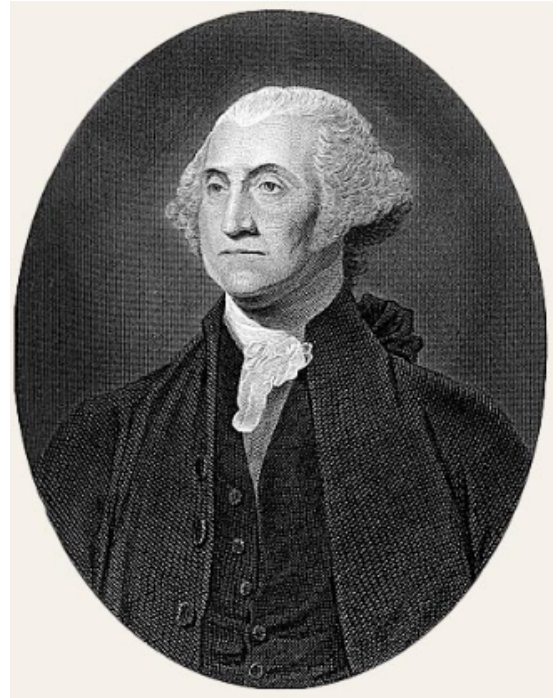


The United States Remains Neutral

- The French Revolution scared many European rulers. They wanted to prevent revolutionary ideas from spreading to their lands.
- faced with war in Europe, President Washington had to decide on a **foreign policy; this is the actions that a nation takes in relation to other nations.**



- During the Revolution, the United States and France had signed a treaty that made the two nations allies.
- Now France wanted to use American ports to supply its ships and launch attacks on British ships.
- Washington worried that the U.S. could not honor its treaty with France and still remain neutral in the European conflict. **Neutral means not taking sides in a war.**



Why might France have expected the United States to side with it in its war with Britain??

Divisions in the Cabinet

- Washington's Cabinet was divided over the issue of the treaty with France.
 - Hamilton argued that because the treaty was signed with King Louis XVI, and since the king was now dead, the treaty was no longer valid.
 - On the other hand, Sec. of State Thomas Jefferson, a supporter of France, urged strict acceptance of the treaty.
- After much debate President Washington issued the **Neutrality Proclamation** in April 1793.
- Neutrality Proclamation
- * stated the U.S. would not support either side in the war
 - * forbade Americans from aiding either Britain or France.

Steer clear of
"foreign entanglements"



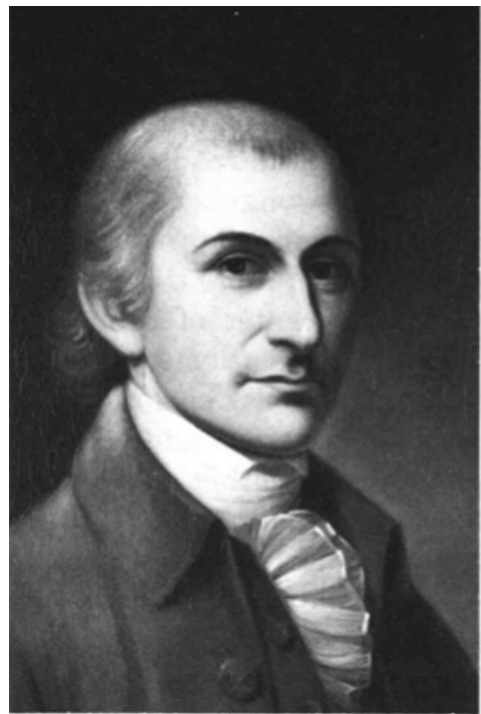
Washington's words

Struggling to Remain Neutral

- many Americans wanted to trade with both France and Britain.
- both Britain and France seized American cargoes headed for each other's ports.
- especially ports in the French West Indies.



- In 1793, hundreds of American ships trading in the French West Indies were captured by the British. Many Americans called for war.
- Washington knew the U.S. was not prepared for another war. He sent Chief Justice John Jay to Britain for talks.
- Jay negotiated a treaty; called "**Jay's Treaty**" in which England agreed to pay damages for the seized American ships and also agreed to give up forts in the west.
- Under the treaty, Americans agreed to pay debts that were long owed to British merchants.
- People protested because the treaty did little to protect the rights of neutral American ships.



Jay's Treaty
1:30



Washington Retires

- Before retiring in 1796, Washington published his farewell address; his "goodbye" to the country.
- in it, he advised Americans against becoming involved in European affairs. (see page 286)
- He did not oppose foreign trade, but he rejected alliances that could drag the young country into war.
- Washington's advice guided American foreign policy for many years to come.

