# Launching the New Government

# I. New Government

- A. George Washington inaugurated April 30, 1789
- B. He had no one to imitate, everything set a precedent or example for new leaders
- C. In 1796, Washington set precedent of only two terms. Not until 1940 did a President seek a third term.

# George Washington

## II. The Cabinet

- A. In 1789, Congress created five executive departments. They were State, Treasury, War and the offices of Post Master and Attorney General.
- B. *Heads* of these departments were the members of the President's Cabinet.
- C. The two most influential were Thomas Jefferson (Secretary of State) and Alexander Hamilton (Secretary of the Treasury)

### III. Federal Court System

- A. Constitution called for Supreme Court but Congress passed the Judiciary Act in 1789 to set up the federal courts.
- B. Judiciary Act called for Supreme Court to have one Chief Justice and five Associate Justices.
- C. Washington named <u>John Jay</u> as first Chief Justice.
- D. Judiciary Act also called for district courts and circuit courts. Their decisions could be appealed to the Supreme Court.



#### IV. Fighting the National Debt

- A. Alexander Hamilton faced problems building a strong economy
- B. Biggest was National Debt or money the Federal Government owed to others.
- C. During the Revolution, states and the Federal Government sold bonds to raise money.
- D. By 1789, most Southern states had paid their bonds but Federal and some states had not.

- E. Hamilton had a plan that would be old bonds and issue new ones that would pay them off.
- F. Bankers and investors liked it, others did not.
- V. Madison leads the opposition
  - A. James Madison said *Speculators* would be rewarded.
  - **B. Speculators invest in risky ventures in hopes of big rewards.**
  - C. Speculators had bought old bonds at a discount (10 or 15 cents on the dollar) and could then sell them at face value.
  - D. Madison was a Southerner and Southern states had mostly paid off their bonds.

#### VI. Hamilton's Compromise

- A. New national capital would be in the South, Federal government would cover all states' debts.
- B. In July, 1790, Congress passed bills for District of Columbia, to be built by 1800.

#### VII. National Bank

A. In 1791, Congress set up Bank of the United States. Government would deposit tax money and Bank would issue paper money. Bank would also lend money to farmers and businesses.

#### VIII. Protecting American Industry

- A. Hamilton proposed a *Tariff* or tax on foreign goods. He wanted a high tariff to make foreign goods expensive. Called a *Protective Tariff*.
- B. Northern businesses wanted it; Southerners did not.
- C. Tariff was passed to raise money for government but it was a lower tariff than Hamilton wanted.

#### **IX. Whiskey Rebellion**

- A. Congress passed a tax on whiskey- farmers hated it! They grew corn and made whiskey that was easy to ship.
- B. Farmers thought it was like the British taxes they had fought against.
- C. In 1794, Pennsylvanians fought the tax collectors and marched on Pittsburgh.

- D. George Washington led 15,000 soldiers against them and they scattered. Washington pardoned the leaders.
- E. Whiskey Rebellion was a crucial test of how strong the new government would be. Washington showed violence would not be tolerated and that the government would act strongly in a crisis.

- X. Washington's Farewell Address
  - A. 1796, Washington declined to run for third term
  - B. In final speech to congress, he warned U.S. to:

- 1. Avoid political divisions at home
- 2. Avoid European wars, foreign entanglements
- 3. Avoid national debt