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Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Unit 7 Day 1

Aim: How did President Washington set the course for the new nation?

The First President

* Washington’s Inauguration – April 30, 1789
  + Inauguration – ceremony in which the President takes the oath of office
* Washington knew his actions would set a precedent – an example to be followed by others in the future.
* Washington had to decide what people would call him.
* Congress thought about calling him “His Highness the President of the United States of America and Protector of their Liberties.”
* Washington wanted a title that showed respect for the office.
  + He did not want the title to have any hint of nobility or being in the upper class.
  + He chose to be called “Mr. President.”

The Executive Branch

* Congress set up three departments and an Attorney General- his cabinet (advisors).
  + Secretary of the Treasury – Alexander Hamilton
  + Secretary of State – Thomas Jefferson
  + Secretary of War – Henry Knox
  + Attorney General – Edmund Randolph

Establishing the Judiciary

* To set up the federal court system and the courts’ location, Congress passes the Judiciary Act of 1789
  + Created three levels of federal occurs and defined their powers and relationship to the state courts.
  + Made 6 Supreme Court justices
    - John Jay – first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Alexander Hamilton’s Financial Plan

* After the Revolutionary War, the U.S. was in a tremendous amount of debt.
* Alexander Hamilton developed a plan to repay the U.S. debt.
  + The National Government would buy up all bonds issued before 1789, then sell new bonds to pay off old debts
  + The National Government would pay off debts owed by individual states from the Revolutionary War
* Opposition to Hamilton’s Plan (mostly by James Madison):
  + It would reward speculators, who bought bonds cheaply from people who needed cash, then would be able to re-sell them for a huge profit.
  + Many Southern states had already paid off their Rev. War debt and thought other states should have to do the same.
* Hamilton’s Compromise:
  + Government would re-pay states’ debts and buy back bonds (made Northerners happy), AND the U.S. capital would be moved to the south, near Virginia (current Washington, DC – made Southerners happy)

Washington’s Neutrality Policy

* French Revolution
  + The French rebelled against their king, fighting for freedom and equality.
  + A radical group gained power and killed the French king and queen.
  + England and other European countries sent armies to France to overpower the radicals
    - war/fighting in Europe continued for about 20 years.
  + Americans debate about whether to support the French or stay out of the conflict.
* Washington forms a foreign policy for the nation by issuing the Neutrality Proclamation in 1793.
  + It stated that the U.S. would remain neutral and not take sides in the war in Europe.