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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.