The Antebellum Era (1781-1860): The New Nation of the USA Part 1

Washington Leads the New Government
- The Judiciary Act of 1789 created the Supreme Court of the USA and federal courts.
- These were the leaders George Washington chose for each department: Thomas Jefferson (State), Alexander Hamilton (Treasury), and Henry Knox (War). These men became known as Washington’s “Cabinet” to assist him.

Conflicts in the Cabinet
- There were different opinions within the Cabinet.
  - Hamilton felt the superrich should lead a strong, federal government.

Two Economic Plans
- Alexander Hamilton had his own economic plan.
  - He wanted the debts, especially from the American Revolution, paid off quickly and called for a Federal Bank to help in this area.

Interpreting the Constitution
- Hamilton had a loose interpretation of the Constitution. Madison had a strict interpretation.
  - According to the strict interpretation, you can only do what the Constitution specifically mentions is allowed.

Political Parties Form
- Thomas Jefferson’s views of strong state governments started the Democratic-Republicans and favored the common man and was supported by many in the South.
  - This led to political parties competing for power to control political offices in the United States.

The Whiskey Rebellion
- In 1794, whiskey producers in western Pennsylvania attacked tax collectors and 13,000 troops were sent to force their rebellion to cease.
  - While this Whiskey Rebellion was a setback for the country, the incident proved the federal government had the power to use the military to maintain order.
Washington Leads the New Government
- The *Judiciary Act of 1789* created the *Supreme Court* of the USA and federal courts.
- Three cabinet departments were also made to assist the leader of the Executive Branch, the President.
- These were the leaders **George Washington** chose for each department: **Thomas Jefferson** (State), **Alexander Hamilton** (Treasury), and **Henry Knox** (War). These men became known as **Washington’s “Cabinet”** to assist him.

Conflicts in the Cabinet
- There were different opinions within the Cabinet.
- **Hamilton** felt the super-rich should lead a strong, federal government.
- **Jefferson** believed the state governments should be strong to favor common people, like farmers.

Two Economic Plans
- **Alexander Hamilton** had his own economic plan.
- He wanted the debts, especially from *the American Revolution*, paid off quickly and called for **a Federal Bank** to help in this area.
- **James Madison** argued the Constitution did not allow for the creation of a Federal Bank.

Interpreting the Constitution
- Hamilton had a *loose interpretation* of the Constitution. Madison had a *strict interpretation*.
- According to a *loose interpretation*, you can pursue actions not specifically mentioned in the Constitution, as long as the Constitution does not prohibit them.
- According to the *strict interpretation*, you can only do what the Constitution *specifically mentions* is allowed.

Political Parties Form
- Alexander Hamilton’s views of a strong federal government started the *Federalist Party* and favored the rich.
- Thomas Jefferson’s views of strong state governments started the *Democratic-Republicans* and favored the common man and was supported by many in the South.
- This led to political parties competing for power to control political offices in the United States.

The Whiskey Rebellion
- **Alexander Hamilton** placed *a tax on whisky*.
- In 1794, whiskey producers in western Pennsylvania attacked tax collectors and 13,000 troops were sent to force their rebellion to cease.
- While this *Whiskey Rebellion* was a setback for the country, the incident proved the federal government had the power to use the military to maintain order.