**Chapter 7**

The Jeffersonian Era

*Reviewing Objectives*

**A thorough study of Chapter Seven should enable the student to understand:**

1. Tomas Jefferson’s views on education and the role of education in the concept of a “virtuous and enlightened citizenry.”
2. The indications of American cultural nationalism that were beginning to emerge during the first two decades of the nineteenth century.
3. The effects of the Revolutionary era on religion, and the changing religious patterns that helped bring on the Second Great Awakening.
4. The evidence noticeable in the first two decades that the nation was not destined to remain the simple, agrarian republic envisioned by the Jeffersonians.
5. The political philosophy of Jefferson, and the extent to which he was able to adhere to his philosophy while president.
6. The Jeffersonian-Federalist struggle over the judiciary—its causes, the main points of conflict, and the importance of the outcome for the future of the nation.
7. President Jefferson’s constitutional reservations concerning the Louisiana Purchase, and the significance of his decision to accept the bargain.
8. The reasons for President Jefferson’s sponsorship of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and the importance of that exploration.
9. The many problems involved in attempting to achieve an understanding of Aaron Burr and his “conspiracy.”
10. What Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were attempting to accomplish by “peaceable coercion,” and why their efforts were not successful.
11. The numerous explanations of the causes of the War of 1812, and why there is so much disagreement among historians.
12. The Problems caused by Tecumseh’s attempts at confederation and by the Spanish presence in Florida as Americans surged westward.
13. The state of the nation in 1812, and how the Madison administration waged war against the world’s foremost naval power.
14. The extent of the opposition to the American war effort, and the ways in which the New England Federalists attempted to show their objections.
15. He ways in which the skill of the American peace commissioners and the international problems faced by England contributed to a satisfactory—for Americans—peace settlement.
16. The effects of the War of 1812 on banking, shipping, farming, industry, and transportation.
17. How the industrial revolution in the United States was largely a product of rapid changes in Great Britain and the impact this revolution had on American Society.

### Pertinent Questions

### Chapter Seven

**The Rise of Cultural Nationalism**

1. Why was education “central to the Republican vision of America”?
2. What effect did Republican ideology have on education in the United States?
3. Explain the “cultural independence” that Jeffersonian Americans sought. What means of expression did this “independence” find?
4. What were the obstacles faced by the Americans who aspired to create a more elevated national literary life? What efforts were made to overcome these obstacles?
5. What sorts of works by American authors were most influential? Why?
6. How did the American Revolution affect traditional forms of religious practice? What challenges to religious traditionalism arose during this period?
7. What caused the Second Great Awakening?
8. Why were the Methodists, the Baptists, and the Presbyterians so successful on the frontier?
9. What was the “message” and the impact of the Second Great Awakening? What impact did it have on women? On Native Americans?

## Stirrings of Industrialism

## What was the industrial revolution? Where and why did it happen?

## Explain the initial American ambivalence toward British industrialism. What technological advances helped change this attitude?

## Explain the role that Eli Whitney played in America’s industrial revolution. What impact did his inventions have on the South? On the North?

## What effect did America’s transportation system have on industrialization?

## What were the characteristics of the American population growth and expansion in the years between 1790 and 1800?

**Jefferson the President**

1. How and why did Jefferson attempt to minimize the differences between the two political parties?
2. How was it that “at times Jefferson seemed to outdo the Federalists at their own work?
3. How was the relative “unimportance of the federal government” during the Jefferson administration symbolized by the character of the national capital?
4. What were the characteristics of the “spirit of democratic simplicity” that was the style set by Jefferson for his administration?
5. How did Jefferson combine his duties as president and as party leader in his effort to govern the country?
6. How did the Republican administration move toward dismantling the structure of federal power that the Federalists had erected?
7. Why did Jefferson, despite his views on government spending, go to “war” with the Pasha of Tripoli? What was the outcome?
8. What were the roots of Jefferson’s conflict with the federal court system, and how did the case of *Marbury vs. Madison* fit into the controversy? What was the cases significance?
9. What method did Jefferson employ to bring the judiciary under Republican control, and what were the results?

**Doubling the National Domain**

1. How did France come into possession of Louisiana?
2. Why was New Orleans “the one single spot” that made it possessor the “natural enemy of the United States?
3. Which group in America was most concerned with France’s possession of New Orleans, and how did this concern threaten Jefferson politically?
4. How were the negotiations of the Louisiana Purchase conducted, and what were the terms agreed upon?
5. What were the reasons behind Jefferson’s reservations over the purchase of Louisiana, and how was he able to reason these doubts away?
6. What was the purpose of the Lois and Clark expedition, and what did the expedition accomplish?
7. What was the reaction of the New England Federalists to the Louisiana Purchase, and what was their plan to overcome its effects?
8. What were the circumstances that led to the duel of Hamilton and Burr?
9. What was the “Burr Conspiracy”, and what was its outcome?

**Expansion and War**

1. Why was America important to both sides in the conflict between England and France, and what role did the Americans hope to play in this struggle?
2. How did each belligerent nation attempt to prevent America from trading with one another, why was one more successful then the other, and what was the American response?
3. What was Jefferson’s response to the Chesapeake-Leopard affair, and why did he take this action?
4. What was the major issue standing between a compromise between Britain and America, and why was this issue to crucial to both sides?
5. Which areas of the nation supported the Embargo of 1807, and which opposed it? Why?
6. How did the Embargo affect the election of 1808, and what was the response of the new president to diplomatic problems that the Embargo had addressed?
7. How did conditions in the West heighten the tensions between the United States and Britain?
8. What was Tecumseh’s attitude towards the treaties previously negotiated between the United States and various Indian tribes? How did he plan to prevent the expansion of white settlements?
9. What role did Native American religious leaders play in the events leading to the war of 1812?
10. Why did American’s want to gain control of Florida from the Spanish? What attempts were made to do this before 1812? Which attempts were successful and which failed?

**The War of 1812**

1. What were the relative successes and failures of the American military during the first year of the war?
2. How did America’s fortunes of war change during 1813 and early 1814, and what were the results of this change?
3. Why did Britain feel confident in launching an invasion of the United States in 1814, and what was the plan and purpose for the invasion? What was the result?
4. Why did New England oppose the War of 1812? Prior to 1814, what did the New England states due to hinder the war effort?
5. What caused the leaders of New England to regard the war of 1812 as a threat to their future as a meaningful force in the United States? What did they propose to remedy the situation?
6. What effect did the Hartford convention have on the Federalist Party?
7. What was the background to the peace negotiations at Ghent? What did both sides initially demand, and why did they finally agree on the terms they did?

**American in the World**

1. How did the industrial revolution in Great Britain lead to and influence the industrial revolution in the United States?
2. How did the industrial revolution change societies in the United States and in the world?

## Summary

The period just covered was marked by definition and expansion. Having achieved political independence, Americans struggled to achieve cultural independence as well, and this search for self-identity touched almost every phase of the nation's life. "American" tastes in music, literature, and art developed, encouraged by a growing recognition that we were different from other countries and that the difference was worth calling attention to. Religious bodies with ties to the old, colonial ways declined as the Second Great Awakening swept America; technology, unrestrained by mercantile rules and regulations, expanded to solve problems that were particularly American; American politics began to take on characteristics and respond to needs that found little precedent in European systems. At the center of this activity, at times leading it and at times being led, was Thomas Jefferson, a president whose versatility seemed to

mirror the diversity of the nation. An aristocrat with democratic sentiments, a strict constructionist who bought half a continent, Jefferson was as contradictory as the American people; but like those people, his ultimate goal was the freedom of individuals to pursue their interests, to expand their talents to the fullest. In that sense, Jefferson, although a pragmatic politician, was also a committed idealist--one who deserves to be the symbol of the age that bears his name. The War of 1812 did more than test the army and navy of the United States--it tested the nation's ability to survive deep internal divisions that threatened America's independence as surely as did the forces of Great Britain. Hoping to keep his nation out of war, Jefferson followed a policy that kept the peace but raised fears among his political enemies. Those opponents, their power and influence declining, saw the government's policies as much directed against themselves as the British and opposed the conflict. Most other Americans rallied to Jefferson and to his successor, James Madison. The consensus Jefferson had forged held, and the United States survived this test.

The above material was taken from the following McGraw-Hill website: http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/history/usa/brink/solc/index.htm