

Study Guide



Chapter 8, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 263–266

EARLY CHALLENGES

KEY TERMS

<i>neutrality</i>	Not taking sides in a conflict (page 265)
<i>impressment</i>	The act of forcing men into military service (page 265)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever been in a situation where two of your friends were arguing and you did not want to take a side? Why did you want to stay neutral, or stay out of the argument?

In the last section, you read about how Washington and Congress established a cabinet of advisers and an economic plan for the new government. This section focuses on how the new government asserted its power in the West and tried to stay out of European conflicts.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how the new government struggled over control of the Northwest Territory.

Challenges the New Government Faced	
Home	Abroad
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

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READ TO LEARN

- **The Whiskey Rebellion** (*pages 263–264*)

In July 1794, a large mob of people from western Pennsylvania rebelled and attacked the tax collectors who were trying to collect Hamilton's tax on whiskey. The farmers needed to make whiskey and other goods to trade for items they needed. They did not have the money to pay the tax or pay for the goods they needed. The tax made them angry because it affected their way of life. Washington sent an army to stop the Whiskey Rebellion. He wanted citizens to learn that there were peaceful ways to change the law. He was willing to use force as needed to prevent uprisings. The farmers' rebellion ended when the army crossed the Appalachian Mountains.

1. Why did farmers rebel when Hamilton placed a tax on whiskey?

- **Struggle Over the West** (*pages 264*)

Spain and Britain helped Native Americans keep Americans from settling between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. The Native Americans believed that the United States had no authority over them. Washington signed treaties with Native American tribes. He was worried about foreign involvement in the Northwest Territory. There was fighting between American settlers who ignored the treaties and Native Americans over lands promised to them. Washington sent troops to the Northwest Territory in November 1791 to end the fighting. The American army was beaten by the Miami people, led by Little Turtle. The Miami people then formed an alliance with the Shawnee and Delaware tribes to protect their lands.

Washington sent another army when Native Americans insisted that all settlers north of the Ohio River leave. The United States won the Battle of Fallen Timbers near present-day Toledo, Ohio. They defeated more than 1,000 Native Americans under Shawnee chief Blue Jacket. The Native Americans signed the Treaty of Greenville in 1795, giving up most of their lands in present-day Ohio.

2. How did the Treaty of Greenville end the problems Americans faced in the West?

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• Problems With Europe (pages 264–266)

When the French Revolution began in 1789, it reminded the Americans of their fight for independence. They were excited for the people of France who had helped them during the Revolutionary War. When Britain and France went to war in 1793, however, President Washington did not want to choose sides. Some Southerners sided with France, and many manufacturers and merchants sided with Britain. France wanted American volunteers to help them attack British ships. President Washington declared that French and British ships were not welcome in American ports. He also issued a Proclamation of *Neutrality*, not allowing Americans to take sides and fight in the war. Ignoring Washington, a few hundred Americans signed up to help the French capture British ships and steal their cargoes. This ended once the ports were closed to France and Britain.

Because America traded with the French, the British attacked American ships. The United States was angered by the attacks and because the British forced American men off merchant ships and into the British navy. This *impressment* and British involvement in the West led to increased tensions between the Britain and the United States. Washington sent John Jay, chief justice of the United States, to Britain to work out a peaceful solution. Britain did not want to go to war with the United States. The United States and Britain signed Jay's Treaty. Britain agreed to leave American lands, pay for the ships they had damaged, and allow some American trade with British colonies in the Caribbean. Debts from before 1776 were also settled. The Treaty was unpopular with many Americans because it did not address impressment or British interference with American trade. Washington and the Senate debated the treaty but signed it to reach a peaceful settlement with Britain.

The disagreements between Spain and the United States were settled in 1795, with the signing of Pinckney's Treaty. Spain knew that the United States and Britain could join together against Spain after Jay's Treaty was made. They wanted to protect their empire in North America. The treaty allowed Americans to travel on the Mississippi River and trade in New Orleans.

3. Why was Jay's Treaty unpopular?

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- **Washington's Farewell** (*page 266*)

After serving two terms, Washington decided to retire to Mount Vernon. He worried that the development of political parties and foreign conflicts would threaten the United States. Washington's influence is still alive today. Presidents serve no more than two terms, a precedent set by Washington. Achieving peaceful solutions with other countries without resorting to military power unless absolutely necessary has become the foundation of the United States' foreign policy. We continue to honor Washington's contributions by remembering his birthday each year.

4. What precedents set by Washington are still in effect today?
