

Study Guide



Chapter 9, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 278–281

THE REPUBLICANS TAKE POWER

KEY TERMS

<i>laissez-faire</i>	A French term meaning “let the people do as they choose”; a government that plays only a small part in the economic concerns of a country (page 279)
<i>customs duties</i>	Taxes on foreign imported goods (page 280)
<i>judicial review</i>	The right of the Supreme Court to review and rule on acts of the other branches of government (page 281)

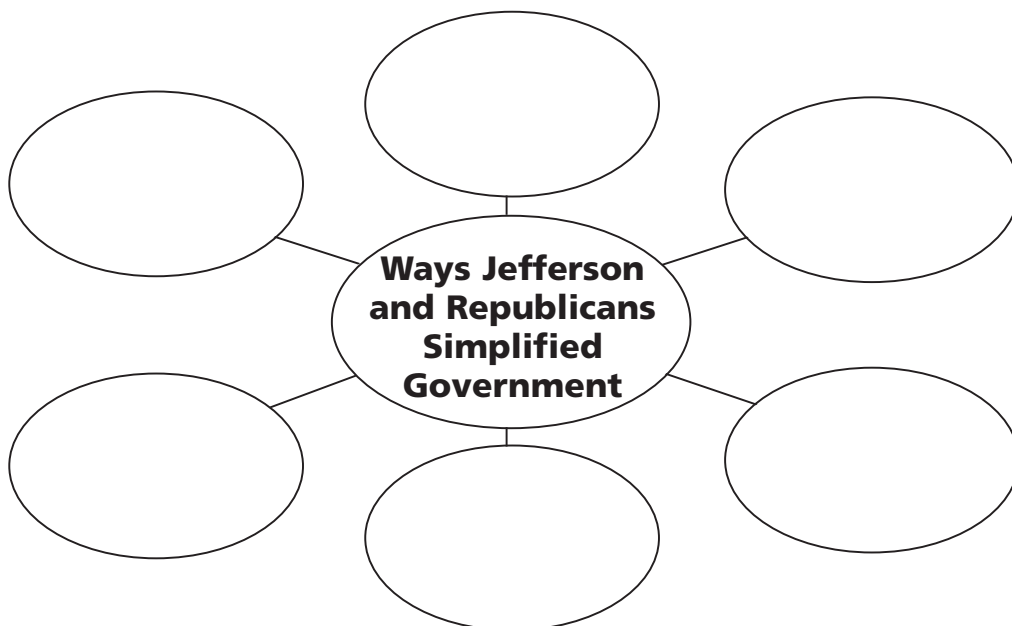
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever wondered why political parties disagree with one another? Have you ever seen election campaign commercials on television? Have you ever received campaign literature in the mail at home? Do the candidates explain why they should be elected? Do they criticize their opponents?

This section focuses on the transfer of power from one political party to another during the election of 1800.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the changes that were made when Federalists stepped down and Republicans took over.



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READ TO LEARN

- **The Election of 1800** (pages 278–279)

During the campaign of 1800, political parties sent hundreds of letters to newspapers and important citizens around the country. They used this letter writing campaign to explain their views. They also used it to criticize their opponents. President John Adams and Charles Pinckney of South Carolina were Federalist candidates running against the Republican candidates, Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr of New York. Both parties fought a bitter campaign. Federalists accused Jefferson of being “godless” because he supported freedom of religion. The Republicans claimed that Federalists only represented wealthy landowners and would bring back the monarchy.

In 1800 the Electoral College voted for each candidate separately. Today the candidates for president and vice president run as a team. Jefferson and Burr tied with 73 electoral votes each. The House of Representatives decided the election by casting the tie-breaking votes. Federalists voted for Burr, hoping to cause Jefferson to lose the election. Alexander Hamilton convinced one member of the House not to vote for Burr. Jefferson was elected president and Burr was elected vice president. The Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1804, requires electors to vote for president and vice president separately. After the election of 1800, two running mates would not be competing against each other.

Jefferson tried to unite the two political parties. He supported stronger state governments. He believed state governments would best protect individual freedom. He saw the federal government as a threat to liberty. Jefferson supported a *laissez-faire* government, where the people make decisions and the federal government only plays a small part in the economic concerns of a country.

1. Why did the House of Representatives make the final decision in the election of 1800?

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• Jefferson's Policies (page 280)

Thomas Jefferson believed that the United States's success was based on the strength of its independent farmers. As long as there were people who owned their own land and were willing to fight to protect their rights, the nation would continue to grow. For this reason, Jefferson was in favor of westward expansion, a small national government, and a cutback in the size of the military.

When Jefferson took office, he appointed fellow Republicans to his cabinet. James Madison of Virginia became secretary of state. Albert Gallatin of Pennsylvania became secretary of the treasury. The Republican government ended actions passed by the Federalists that threatened individual freedom and symbolized strong federal government. The Alien and Sedition Acts were allowed to expire. The Naturalization Act was repealed, or withdrawn. The national debt was reduced. The military was scaled down. Spending at the federal level was cut way back. Internal taxes were repealed, as was the tax on whiskey. The federal government employed only a few hundred people, many of whom worked part-time.

The only government income came from the sale of Western lands and the collection of *customs duties*, taxes on goods imported from other countries. Under the Jefferson administration, the responsibilities of the federal government were limited to collecting customs duties, conducting a census, or count of the population, every 10 years, and running the postal system.

2. What governmental changes did Jefferson make when he became president?

• Jefferson and the Courts (pages 280–281)

Federalists passed the Judiciary Act of 1801 before Jefferson became president. Regional courts were established and 16 judges and hundreds of judicial officials were appointed before John Adams left office. Adams and the Federalist-controlled Congress made sure Federalists would control the courts before Jefferson took office. Adams appointed his secretary of state, John Marshall, to serve as chief justice of the United States. Adams and Marshall were processing the paperwork for the appointments right up until the inauguration of President Jefferson. When the commissions, or papers, were delivered, the appointments took effect. Jefferson told Madison not to deliver the few commissions that had not been sent out when he took office. This included a commission to William Marbury.

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Marbury filed a lawsuit, *Marbury v. Madison*, which was sent to the Supreme Court, under the terms of the Judiciary Act of 1789. Chief Justice John Marshall denied the request. He said that the Constitution did not give the Supreme Court the power to decide his case. For the first time, Marshall used the power of *judicial review*, the right of the Supreme Court to review and rule on acts of other branches of government.

Under Marshall, judicial, executive, and legislative branches of government had equal powers. By allowing the judicial branch of government to review the actions of the executive and legislative branches, judicial review became part of our system of checks and balances.

3. What precedent did *Marbury v. Madison* set?
