



**2004 Shaping the World: Conversation on Democracy
The Presidential Debate of 1804**

Section III - Governing a New Nation



Identify these men who were a part of George Washington's cabinet. Give their name, position and date of birth/death.

Use a chart like the one below to list George Washington's cabinet for his terms of office. Include the cabinet member's duties in the appropriate column. In the final column add the current President's cabinet. You may need to add some cabinet positions.

| Cabinet Position | George Washington | | | | Barack Obama | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| | First Term Appoints | Duties | Second Term Appoints | Duties | First Term Appoints | Duties | Second Term Appoints | Duties |
| Secretary of War | | | | | | | | |
| Secretary of Treasury | | | | | | | | |
| Secretary of Defense | | | | | | | | |
| Secretary of State | | | | | | | | |
| Attorney General | | | | | | | | |
| Vice President | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Have any of the duties of the cabinet members changed since George Washington's era? Have any of the titles changed?

Hold a mock cabinet meeting having students take on the roles of George Washington and his cabinet members. Topics for the meeting should be researched by the students so they can discuss the issues and make suggestions/proposals for action on the issues.

Hold a mock cabinet meeting with students taking on the role of the current President and his cabinet. What issues would the cabinet meeting cover based on current issues and events?

Are any of the issues similar to those that George Washington and his cabinet had to deal with? Which ones?

Research and give an oral presentation on one of George Washington's cabinet members. Locate images and [primary sources](#) to share with the class during your report.

Research and give an oral presentation on one of the current President's cabinet members. Locate images and [primary sources](#) to share with the class during your report.

What were George Washington's major achievements while in the Presidency?

Have students select a President and research to determine what his major achievements were while in the Presidency.



Jefferson and Hamilton disagreed over the establishment of a National Bank. Develop a chart similar to the one below to outline their thoughts on the National Bank.

| Thomas Jefferson on National Bank | Alexander Hamilton on National Bank |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | |

Image below shows Jefferson's opposition to the Bill for Establishing a National Bank. These notes were written February 15, 1791. A transcription of this image follows..

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The Bill for establishing a national bank undertakes among other things,

1. To form the subscribers into a Corporation.
2. To enable them, in their corporate capacities to receive grants of Land; and so far is against the Law of Mortmain.*
3. To make alien subscribers capable of holding lands, & so far is against the Law of Alienage.
4. To transmit these lands, on the death of a proprietor to a certain line of successors. & so far changes the course of Descents.
5. To put the lands out of the reach of forfeiture or escheat. & so far is against the Law of Forfeiture & Escheat.
6. To transmit personal chattels to successors, in a certain line, and so far is against the Law of Distribution.
7. To give them the sole and exclusive right of banking under the national authority, and so far is against the Law of Monopoly.
8. To communicate to them a power to make Laws paramount to the Laws of the States: for so they must be construed, to protect the institution from

Jefferson's Opinion on the Constitutionality of a National Bank : 1791

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7. To give them the sole and exclusive right of banking under the national authority; and so far is against the laws of Monopoly.

8. To communicate to them a power to make laws paramount to the laws of the States; for so they must be construed, to protect the institution from the control of the State legislatures, and so, probably, they will be construed.

I consider the foundation of the Constitution as laid on this ground: That " all powers not delegated to the United States, by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States or to the people." [XIIth amendment.] To take a single step beyond the boundaries thus specially drawn around the powers of Congress, is to take possession of a boundless field of power, no longer susceptible of any definition.

The incorporation of a bank, and the powers assumed by this bill, have not, in my opinion, been delegated to the United States, by the Constitution.

I They are not among the powers specially enumerated: for these are: 1st A power to lay taxes for the purpose of paying the debts of the United States; but no debt is paid by this bill, nor any tax laid. Were it a bill to raise money, its origination in the Senate would condemn it by the Constitution.

2. "To borrow money." But this bill neither borrows money nor ensures the borrowing it. The proprietors of the bank will be just as free as any other money holders, to lend or not to lend their money to the public. The operation proposed in the bill first, to lend them two millions, and then to borrow them back again, cannot change the nature of the latter act, which will still be a payment, and not a loan, call it by what name you please.

3. To "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the States, and with the Indian tribes." To erect a bank, and to regulate commerce, are very different acts. He who erects a bank, creates a subject of commerce in its bills, so does he who makes a bushel of wheat, or digs a dollar out of the mines; yet neither of these persons regulates commerce thereby. To make a thing which may be bought and sold, is not to prescribe regulations for buying and selling. Besides, if this was an exercise of the power of regulating commerce, it would be void, as extending as much to the internal commerce of every State, as to its external. For the power given to Congress by the Constitution does not extend to the internal regulation of the commerce of a State, (that is to say of the commerce between citizen and citizen,) which remain exclusively with its own legislature; but to its external commerce only, that is to say, its commerce with another State, or with foreign nations, or with the Indian tribes. Accordingly the bill does not propose the measure as a regulation of trade, but as "productive of considerable advantages to trade." Still less are these powers covered by any other of the special enumerations.

II. Nor are they within either of the general phrases, which are the two following:

1. To lay taxes to provide for the general welfare of the United States, that is to say, "to lay taxes for *the purpose of* providing for the general welfare." For the laying of taxes is the *power*, and the general welfare the *purpose* for which the power is to be exercised. They are not to lay taxes *ad libitum for any purpose they please*; but only *to pay the debts or provide for the welfare of the Union*. In like manner, they are not *to do anything they please* to provide for the general welfare, but only to *lay taxes* for that purpose. To consider the latter phrase, not as describing the purpose of the first, but as giving a distinct and independent power to do any act they please, which might be for the good of the Union, would render all the preceding and subsequent enumerations of power completely useless.

It would reduce the whole instrument to a single phrase, that of instituting a Congress with power to do whatever would be for the good of the United States; and, as they would be the sole judges of the good or evil, it would be also a power to do whatever evil they please.

It is an established rule of construction where a phrase will bear either of two meanings, to give it that which will allow some meaning to the other parts of the instrument, and not that which would render all the others useless. Certainly no such universal power was meant to be given them. It was intended to lace them up straitly within the enumerated powers, and those without which, as means, these powers could not be carried into effect. It is known that the very power now proposed *as a means* was rejected *as an end* by the Convention which formed the Constitution. A proposition was made to them to authorize Congress to open canals, and an amendatory one to empower them to incorporate. But the whole was rejected, and one of the reasons for rejection urged in debate was, that then they would have a power to erect a bank, which would render the great cities, where there were prejudices and jealousies on the subject, adverse to the reception of the Constitution.

2. The second general phrase is, "to make all laws *necessary* and proper for carrying into execution the enumerated powers." But they can all be carried into execution without a bank. A bank therefore is not *necessary*, and consequently not authorized by this phrase.

If it has been urged that a bank will give great facility or convenience in the collection of taxes, Suppose this were true: yet the Constitution allows only the means which are "*necessary*," not those which are merely "*convenient*" for effecting the enumerated powers. If such a latitude of construction be allowed to this phrase as to give any non-enumerated power, it will go to everyone, for there is not one which ingenuity may not torture into a *convenience* in some instance *or other*, to *some one* of so long a list of enumerated powers. It would swallow up all the delegated powers, and reduce the whole to one power, as before observed. Therefore it was that the Constitution restrained them to the *necessary* means, that is to say, to those means without which the grant of power would be nugatory

But let us examine this convenience and see what it is. The report on this subject, page 3, states the only *general* convenience to be, the preventing the transportation and re-transportation of money between the States and the treasury, (for I pass over the increase of circulating medium, ascribed to it as a want, and which, according to my ideas of paper money, is clearly a demerit.) Every State will have to pay a sum of tax money into the treasury; and the treasury will have to pay, in every State, a part of the interest on the public debt, and salaries to the officers of government resident in that State. In most of the States there will still be a surplus of tax money to come up to the seat of government for the officers residing there. The payments of interest and salary in each State may be made by treasury orders on the State collector. This will take up the greater part of the money he has collected in his State, and consequently prevent the great mass of it from being drawn out of the State. If there be a balance of commerce in favor of that State against the one in which the government resides, the surplus of taxes will be remitted by the bills of exchange drawn for that commercial balance. And so it must be if there was a bank. But if there be no balance of commerce, either direct or circuitous, all the banks in the world could not bring up the surplus of taxes, but in the form of money. Treasury orders then, and bills of exchange may prevent the displacement of the main mass of the money collected, without the aid of any bank; and where these fail, it cannot be prevented even with that aid.

Perhaps, indeed, bank bills may be a more *convenient* vehicle than treasury orders. But a little *difference* in the degree of *convenience* cannot constitute the necessity which the Constitution makes the ground for assuming any non-enumerated power.

Besides, the existing banks will, without a doubt, enter into arrangements for lending their agency, and the more favorable, as there will be a competition among them for it; whereas the bill delivers us up bound to the national bank, who are free to refuse all arrangement, but on their own terms, and the public not free, on such refusal, to employ any other bank. That of Philadelphia I believe, now does this business, by their post-notes, which, by an arrangement with the treasury, are paid by any State collector to whom they are presented. This expedient alone suffices to prevent the existence of that *necessity* which may justify the assumption of a non-enumerated power as a means for carrying into effect an enumerated one. The thing may be done, and has been done, and well done, without this assumption, therefore it does not stand on that degree of *necessity* which can honestly justify it.

It may be said that a bank whose bills would have a currency all over the States, would be more convenient than one whose currency is limited to a single State. So it would be still more convenient that there should be a bank, whose bills should have a currency all over the world. But it does not follow from this superior convenience, that there exists anywhere a power to establish such a bank; or that the world may not go on very well without it.

Can it be thought that the Constitution intended that for a shade or two of *convenience*, more or less, Congress should be authorized to break down the most ancient and fundamental laws of the several States; such as those against Mortmain, the laws of Alienage, the rules of descent, the acts of distribution, the laws of escheat and forfeiture, the laws of monopoly? Nothing but a necessity invincible by any other means, can justify such a prostitution of laws, which constitute the pillars of our whole system of jurisprudence. Will Congress be too strait-laced to carry the Constitution into honest effect, unless they may pass over the foundation-laws of the State government for the slightest convenience of theirs ?

The negative of the President is the shield provided by the Constitution to protect against the invasions of the legislature: 1. The right of the Executive. 2. Of the Judiciary. 3. Of the States and State legislatures. The present is the case of a right remaining exclusively with the States, and consequently one of those intended by the Constitution to be placed under its protection,

It must be added, however, that unless the President's mind on a view of everything which is urged for and against this bill, is tolerably clear that it is unauthorized by the Constitution; if the pro and the con hang so even as to balance his judgment, a just respect for the wisdom of the legislature would naturally decide the balance in favor of their opinion. It is chiefly for cases where they are clearly misled by error, ambition, or interest, that the Constitution has placed a check in the negative of the President.

(1) Though the Constitution controls the laws of Mortmain so far as to permit Congress itself to hold land for certain

purposes, yet not so far as to permit them to communicate a similar right to other corporate bodies.-T. J. [Back](#)

Source:

Ford, Paul Leicester

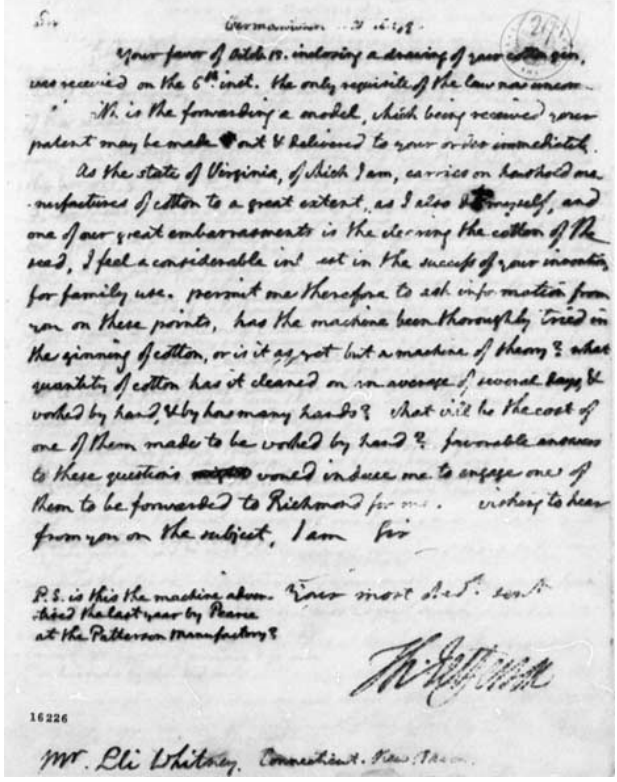
The Federalist : A commentary on the Constitution of the United States by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay edited with notes, illustrative documents and a copious index by Paul Leicester Ford.

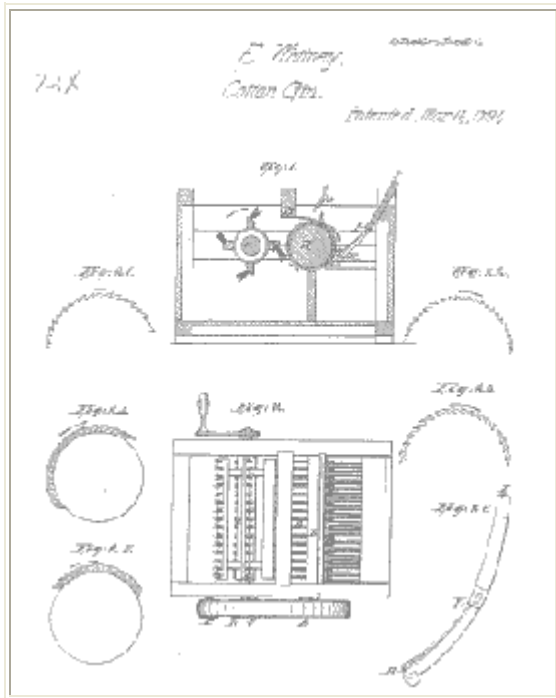
New York : Henry Holt and Company, 1898.

Did George Washington establish any precedents that are still carried on by Presidents today? If so, list them.

Examine Jefferson's letter to Eli Whitney pertaining to the cotton gin (below). What is required of Whitney in order for him to receive a patent on his cotton gin?

Jefferson proceeded to ask additional questions in his letter to Whitney. As Eli Whitney, write a response to Jefferson answering those questions.

| | |
|--|--|
|  <p>16226</p> <p>Mr. Eli Whitney, Connecticut. New York.</p> | <p>Thomas Jefferson to Eli Whitney, November 16, 1793</p> <hr/> <p>Germantown, Nov. 16. 1793.</p> <p>Sir,--Your favor of Oct. 15. inclosing a drawing of your cotton gin, was received on the 6th inst. The only requisite of the law now uncomplied with is the forwarding a model, which being received your patent may be made out & delivered to your order immediately.</p> <p>As the state of Virginia, of which I am, carries on household manufactures of cotton to a great extent, as I also do myself, and one of our great embarrassments is the clearing the cotton of the seed, I feel a considerable interest in the success of your invention, for family use. Permit me therefore to ask information from you on these points. Has the machine been thoroughly tried in the ginning of cotton, or is it as yet but a machine of theory? What quantity of cotton has it cleaned on an average of several days, & worked by hand, & by how many hands? What will be the cost of one of them made to be worked by hand? Favorable answers to these questions would induce me to engage one of them to be forwarded to Richmond for me. Wishing to hear from you on the subject, I am Sir</p> <p>P.S. Is this the machine advertised the last year by Pearce at the Patterson manufactory?</p> |
|--|--|



PATENT NUMBER: 72X
 TITLE: Cotton Gin
 March 14, 1794
 Eli Whitney

Have students design a model of a working cotton gin, threshing barn, plow of least resistance or barrel seeder. Students should go through the process of making a mock application for a patent for their invention.

To learn about the process today visit the website for the United States Patent and Trademark Office at <http://www.uspto.gov/>.

Click here to [view other patents](#) of the 18th and 19th century.

Review the article, [A History of the United States Patent Office](#), by Jason O. Watson. Using a chart like the one below, list Jefferson's and Hamilton's view on patents. Are there any areas where Hamilton and Jefferson agree concerning patents?

| Jefferson on Patents | Hamilton on Patents |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| | |

Current event: [U.S. Government Brings Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Program to South Florida](#)

Who is the current Director of the [United States Patent and Trademark Office](#)? Use the current event above to determine if any of the issues from Jefferson's era are still of concern today. Elaborate on your findings.

Washington named David Rittenhouse (1732-1796) as Director of the United States Mint. What kind of information can you surmise about Rittenhouse as you examine his image (at right). Research his life to determine what skills he had that qualified him for this position. Present an oral report to the class. Be sure to use images and [primary sources](#) in your presentation.

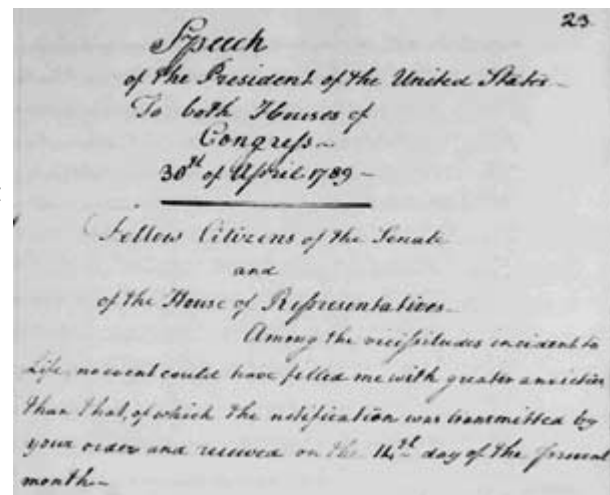


Washington was administered the oath of office on April 30, 1789. Locate a copy of that oath. Is the same oath administered today?

On the right is an image of Washington's inaugural address. Click the image for the full address. Click here for the [transcription](#).

Have students select a President, find a copy of that President's Inaugural Address, and re-create the "swearing in" and the Inaugural Address.

Other students should play the roles of television and newspaper reporters at the "swearing in" and the Inaugural Address and produce a television news report/feature and newspaper articles/features.



From the time George Washington took office, he always wore clothing that was made in America, a detail that was noted and reported in the newspapers of his era. Have other Presidents been known by certain traits or actions or nicknames? Make a list.



06 L.M. MASTON -- Exhumation of the Mastadon. Oil on Canvas by Charles Willson Peale (1741 - 1827), c. 1806 - 1808. Copy from Original Owned by The Maryland Historical Society. No Reproductions Without Permission.

Examine the painting of the *Exhumation of the Mastadon* on the left. Can you determine the process of excavating the mastadon? What needs to be done first when such an item is discovered? (Click here for basic information on the [process of archaeology](#).)

Find out about Charles Willson Peale, the artist of this painting.

Image Credits:

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- Collections, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest (coins)
- Library of Congress George Washington Papers (notes on Bank)
- Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Papers (E. Whitney letter)
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- Library of Congress George Washington Papers (speech)
- Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland (exhumation)
- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division LC-USZ62-821 (ringing bell)

