

**Outline #8A: An “Empire of Liberty”:
Western Expansion in the Early National Period, 1789-1815**

I. Competing Visions: Thomas Jefferson vs. Alexander Hamilton

A. Agrarian Republic vs. Commercial Republic

II. “Empire of Liberty”: Western Expansion & Its Consequences

A. Louisiana Purchase, 1803

B. Exploration: Lewis and Clark, 1803-06 (*The West*, pt.1, 105-122)

1. Mandans
 - a. Agriculturalists
 - b. European Contacts
2. Northwest Passage
3. “Great Father”/Jefferson
4. Louisiana Purchase (purchase of French claim to lands)
5. Missouri River and Pacific Ocean
6. Meriwether Lewis & William Clark
7. Toussaint Charbonneau & Sacajawea/Sacagawea (Shoshone)
8. Continental Divide
9. Shoshones
10. Bitterroots
11. Nez Perces
12. Snake, Clearwater, Columbia
13. Claims to the West

III. Questions for Discussion.

A. Please read the following two documents:

1. “Excerpts from the Lewis and Clark Journals Relating to Sacajawea”
2. “William Clark’s Nez Perce Son”

B. Then please answer the following questions using the documents and film clip:

1. Why did Jefferson want Lewis and Clark to find in the West?
2. How did Lewis and Clark help the United States stake a claim to the West?
3. How did Sacajawea aid Lewis and Clark?
4. According to Otis Halfmoon, what were the consequences of the Lewis and Clark expedition for the Nez Perces?
5. Was westward expansion wholly inconsistent with Hamilton’s vision of a Commercial Republic? Why or why not?

William Clark's Nez Perce Son

As Told by Otis Halfmoon of the Nez Perce Tribe

[The Nez Perce Indians first encountered Lewis and Clark in 1805 after the explorers had crossed the Bitterroot Mountains. The tired and hungry expedition rested with the Nez Perces before traveling onto the Pacific Coast. In 1806, Clark and some members of the expedition resided with the Nez Perces for a time in and around the Kamiah area. The following is part of an oral account of their visit.]

There were some incidents that took place there in Kamiah [between the Lewis and Clark expedition members and the Nez Perces in 1806], though, that was interesting to my people, and to contemporary people might sound kind of odd, but yet you have to consider the times. If you use twentieth century values and use 'em in the 19th century, you're going to be off, and even go further—eighteenth century—you're going to be off. Things change through time.

When Lewis and Clark and crew, and Corps of Discovery, were there in Kamiah, I mentioned they got along real well. And the old time method of making allies, creating allies with another people, with another tribe, was through intermarriage, and children. And some of the women slept with Lewis and Clark, and maybe some of the other Corps of Discovery. But we know two children that was left with the Nez Perce people that were created in 1806. We had a son of Clark, and we also had a son from York [an enslaved black man owned by Clark].

These two individuals left children there with the Nez Perce people. And that was a tie that the Nez Perce people always had with Lewis and Clark. And that was probably one of the reasons why, then, the Nez Perce people said they would never fight the white people. That they would always be friends with the white people, because of these two children that were left, because of the Corps of Discovery.

The son of Clark, he grew up into quite a young man. And the impact of Lewis and Clark was very strong, because right after Lewis and Clark it seemed we had more fur trappers came to the area, more white people, French fur trappers. And they came to the area, and the son of Clark witnessed these things as well. He grew up watching these—but yet he was Nez Perce. He was half Nez Perce, half *so-ya-poo*, but yet he was Nez Perce. He was raised that way with the culture, with the ways of our people. Again, to witness these fur trappers come to our country.

Source: “Discovering Lewis and Clark,” <http://www.lewis-clark.org/index.htm>.

Excerpts from the Lewis and Clark Journals Relating to Sacajawea

July 18, 1805 [Capt. Meriwether Lewis]

As we were anxious now to meet with the [Shoshone] or snake Indians as soon as possible in order to obtain information relative to the geography of the country and also if necessary, some horses...

July 22, 1805 [Lewis]

... The Indian woman [Sacajawea] recognizes the country and assures us that this is the river on which her relations live, and that the three forks are at no great distance. [This] peice of information has cheered the sperits of the party who now begin to console themselves with the anticipation of shortly seeing the head of the missouri yet unknown to the civilized world...

July 27, 1805 [Lewis]

We begin to feel considerable anxiety with respect to the Snake [Shoshone] Indians. [If] we do not find them or some other nation who have horses I fear the successfull issue of our voyage will be very doubtfull or at all events much more difficult in it's accomplishment...

August 17, 1805 [Lewis]

[We encountered a group of Shoshone Indians, and] they all appeared transported with joy, & the chef repeated his fraternal hug. I felt quite as much gratified at this information as the Indians appeared to be. Shortly after Capt. Clark arrived with the Interpreter Charbono, and the Indian woman [Sacajawea], who proved to be a sister of the Chif Cameahwait... we had the satisfaction ... of being able to obtain as many horses shortly as would enable us to prosicute [continue] our voyage by land should that by water be deemed unadvisable....

October 19, 1805 [Clark]

[The expedition encountered a group of Walla Walla Indians who initially believed that Lewis and Clark were a war party out to harm the Indians.] Capt. Lewis came down with the Canoes rear in which the Indians, as Soon as they Saw ... [Sacajawea] they pointed to her and informed those who continued yet in the Same position I first found them, they imediately all came out and appeared to assume new life, the sight of This Indian woman ... confirmed those people of our friendly intentions, as no woman ever accompanies a war party of Indians in this quarter...

Sources:

Gunther Barth (ed.), *The Lewis and Clark Expedition: Selections from the Journals, Arranged By Topic* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1998), pp. 68-70.

The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, <http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/>.

Alexander Hamilton (1757–1804)

http://c250.columbia.edu/c250_celebrates/remarkable_columbians/alexander_hamilton.html

Hamilton was one of the founding fathers of the nation. He joined James Madison and John Jay in writing *The Federalist Papers*, essays considered the defining discourse on American government. As the nation's first secretary of the treasury, he laid the groundwork for the American economic system. An advocate of a strong central government, he promoted pro-business policies that spurred the growth of New York as a financial center. He helped found the Bank of New York and the *New York Evening Post*. He was throughout his life opposed to slavery and openly scornful of those who defended "the peculiar institution."

Hamilton was born in 1757 on the island of Nevis, British West Indies, as John Adams put it, "the bastard brat of a Scotch pedlar." He was orphaned at 12. Family friends sent him to New York in 1773, where he tried unsuccessfully to secure advanced standing at Princeton. He entered King's College in the fall of 1774, where he pursued studies in mathematics, wrote pamphlets in support of the Continental Congress, and gave speeches applauding the Boston Tea Party. While committed to the revolutionary cause, he was not someone to leave his bets uncovered. In April 1775, when a revolutionary mob arrived at King's College looking for Myles Cooper, the college's loyalist president, it was Hamilton who was said to have delayed the mob with a lengthy speech, abetting Cooper's escape to the safety of a British frigate. The following spring Hamilton became an aide-de-camp to General George Washington and later still distinguished himself as an artillery officer.

In 1784, Hamilton and fellow state legislator John Jay (Kings College 1764) were instrumental in reviving King's College as Columbia College. Hamilton served as a regent of Columbia from 1784 to 1787, and as a trustee from 1787 until his death on July 11, 1804, when he was shot in a duel by his political rival Aaron Burr.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

<http://www.monticello.org/jefferson/biography.html>

Thomas Jefferson -- author of the Declaration of Independence and the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, third president of the United States, and founder of the University of Virginia -- voiced the aspirations of a new America as no other individual of his era. As public official, historian, philosopher, and plantation owner, he served his country for over five decades.

His father Peter Jefferson was a successful planter and surveyor and his mother Jane Randolph a member of one of Virginia's most distinguished families...

Jefferson inherited slaves from both his father and father-in-law. In a typical year, he owned about 200, almost half of them under the age of sixteen... Jefferson freed two slaves in his lifetime and five in his will and chose not to pursue two others who ran away. All were members of the Hemings family; the seven he eventually freed were skilled tradesmen.

Having attended the College of William and Mary, Jefferson practiced law and served in local government as a magistrate, county lieutenant, and member of the House of Burgesses in his early professional life. As a member of the Continental Congress, he was chosen in 1776 to draft the Declaration of Independence...

After Jefferson left Congress in 1776, he returned to Virginia and served in the legislature. Elected governor from 1779 to 1781, he suffered an inquiry into his conduct during his last year in office that, although finally fully repudiated, left him with a life-long prickliness in the face of criticism.

During the brief private interval in his life following his governorship, Jefferson wrote Notes on the State of Virginia. In 1784, he entered public service again, in France, first as trade commissioner and then as Benjamin Franklin's successor as minister...

In 1790 he accepted the post of secretary of state under his friend George Washington. His tenure was marked by his opposition to the pro-British policies of Alexander Hamilton. In 1796, as the presidential candidate of the Democratic Republicans, he became vice-president after losing to John Adams by three electoral votes.

Four years later, he defeated Adams and became president, the first peaceful transfer of authority from one party to another in the history of the young nation. Perhaps the most notable achievements of his first term were the purchase of the Louisiana Territory in 1803 and his support of the Lewis and Clark expedition. His second term, a time when he encountered more difficulties on both the domestic and foreign fronts, is most remembered for his efforts to maintain neutrality in the midst of the conflict between Britain and France; his efforts did not avert war with Britain in 1812...

Jefferson died on July 4, 1826...