

The Elect

The Elect were Puritans who had been predetermined by God to be saved. The idea of the Elect came from European Calvinists around the mid-1500s, but this idea spread to the American colonies as well. The process to becoming a member of the Elect, also known as a saint, was a very difficult one. To become a member of the Elect, one had to go through the conversion experience and then sanctification. Only saints were able to join Puritan congregations, vote, and take communion. The Elect were important because some held influential positions in the colonies. They also set the high standard for faith, which would prove difficult to maintain later on.

The Mayflower Compact

The Mayflower Compact was a contract signed aboard the ship known as the Mayflower in 1620 by Separatists originally from England. When the ship landed in Plymouth, off-course and out of Virginia territory, they had no authority controlling them. Because of this, the Mayflower Compact was signed, forming a government based on consent of the people. The compact itself was a social contract that acknowledged the settlers' loyalty to King James I, and also stated that everyone would agree to the rules of the settlement for the sake of their survival. This is important because the Mayflower Compact was the first written framework of government on American soil.

Separatists

Separatists were Protestants from Scrooby, England, who were very critical of the Church of England due to the fact that it had, according to them, retained too many elements of Roman Catholicism. They wanted to either completely destroy or separate themselves from the church, eventually choosing the latter option. In the early 1600s, Separatists began moving to Holland to escape persecution in England. However, they began to fear that Dutch culture was influencing their children too much. They sailed to America in order to be separate from England but still have control over their children. This is important because Separatists eventually signed the Mayflower Compact and founded Plymouth. Also, Separatists feasted with natives after a successful year of growing and harvesting, giving Americans the first Thanksgiving celebration.

John Calvin

John Calvin was a reformer from France in the mid-1500s, during the Protestant Reformation. Calvin wrote a book called the Institutes of Christian Religion, which attacked Roman Catholicism. He also established a powerful reformed group in Geneva, Switzerland, and the cornerstone of his theology was that God had all-encompassing power and knowledge. Calvin also believed in the theology of predestination, which stated that God predetermined the fate of every individual. John Calvin was important because he became the father of a new Protestant faith, known as Calvinism. His beliefs and teachings would later inspire other reformers as well.

Joint-Stock Companies

The joint-stock company was a new form of business organization that started in England in the mid-1500s and later spread across Europe. In these companies, wealthy men would invest money and receive a percentage of the total profit. Since the English crown rarely spent money on colonies they believed might fail, colonies were funded by joint-stock companies throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Colonists, who were business employees, would then travel to the newly funded colonies and the stockholders regulated their behavior. Joint-stock companies are important because they help set up more colonies, such as Jamestown. Without joint-stock companies, fewer colonies would have been set up and less people would have settled in America. Also, joint-stock companies themselves led to more modern-day corporations.

John Winthrop and “A Model of Christian Charity”

While on the ship the *Arabella* during the voyage to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the mid-1600s, John Winthrop gave a sermon known as “A Model of Christian Charity”. He described the city as a utopia and this sermon is known for using the term “City upon a hill” to describe the colony and the founding of America. In his sermon, Winthrop explained that the differences in people allowed for God to be honored in different ways and that the rich and poor needed to help one another out. He also explained that a common need among the colonists was necessary and brought the community together. Having such a godly community, he hoped, would shame England into repenting and fixing itself. This revival of piety would lead to an entire nation of saints. This is important because the Puritans started out different than other colonies, since they believed that self-restraint should stop merchants from taking advantage of buyers and they hoped to turn their religious idealism into a community.

Roger Williams

Roger Williams was an English Protestant theologian in the mid-1600s. He stirred controversy in Massachusetts and soon became a very popular and respected. He believed that church and state should be separate, and because of this idea he was seen as a threat and banished. He went on to found the colony of Rhode Island, and it became a safe place for people suffering from religious persecution. Williams is also known for founding the first Baptist Church in America. He is important because he was one of the first to propose religious freedom and the separation of church and state, and also for his work with the Native Americans. Not only did he promote equality for religions and start a colony, he also was one of the first abolitionists.

Indentured Servants

Indentured servants were English immigrants who travelled to the American colonies in hope of finding work. Many of them came over between the mid-1600s and the early 1700s. In exchange for free passage, servants worked unpaid for a master for around seven years, unless they acquired debt. After paying off their debts, servants were freed and able to start their own families. Indentured servants were vital in the colonies especially because farmers needed laborers to work their fields. Indentured servants are important because they allowed for more crops to be grown, helping their masters make a larger profit and also helping the economy of the colony.

Half-Way Covenant

The Half-Way Covenant was formed in the mid-1600s by a convention of clergy and laity members in New England. Many second-generation Puritans did not want to go through the hard process of becoming a member of the elect, and because of this, their kids were not able to be baptized. This was a problem, so an agreement was made. The Half-Way Covenant permitted children of baptized Puritans, elect or not, to be baptized as well. These half-way members, however, were not allowed to take communion or allowed to vote. This is important because with the creation of the Half-Way Covenant, the number of saints began to decline. It also signaled the end of the New England Way.

House of Burgesses

The House of Burgesses first met in the early 1600s in Jamestown, Virginia. There were 22 members, usually 6 royally appointed councilors, and one governor (who was at first appointed by the colony and later by the British crown). The House of Burgesses met and made laws for the colony, although its power was restricted once England took more control. In the mid-1600s, the House of Burgesses was divided, with the governor and twelve advisors making up the Governor's Council. The House of Burgesses was important because it was the first legislature in the colonies and would set an example for future government in the colonies.

Maryland's Act for Religious Toleration

The Act for Religious Toleration was a law drafted by Lord Baltimore (Cecilius Calvert) in the mid-1600s. Before the law, there was tension in Maryland between Catholics and Protestants, and it led to them arguing about the use of the city's chapel. The law reinforced legal rights of the Catholics and also allowed religious groups to practice their religion without being persecuted. This was the first law that affirmed the liberty of worship. However, it was revoked a few years after being created. This law is important because some believe that it inspired laws later on guaranteeing freedom of religion.

William Penn and the Quakers

William Penn was an English proprietor who was given a grant of land from King Charles II in the late 1600s. When developing his colony, Pennsylvania, Penn wanted to launch a "holy experiment" based on the teachings of a radical Protestant named George Fox, and also wanted to give people more religious freedom. He sailed to his colony with a number of settlers who were mostly Quakers like himself. Quakers had faced persecution in England, prompting to move their entire families to the religion-tolerant colony, which resulted in a high birthrate. Penn designed the capital, Philadelphia, in a grid-like formation to prevent future problems with the layout. Pennsylvania had a strong executive branch and a limited legislative branch, and many Quakers held positions in government. This is important because Pennsylvania became an ideal colony and very successful, in part from the ideals that Penn expressed for his colony. Also, Philadelphia became a major port later on and helped the American economy and trade.

Bacon's Rebellion

Bacon's Rebellion took place in Virginia in the late 1600s. At this time, tensions between natives and settlers began to rise due to the natives' struggle against their declining population while the settlers took more land. Resentments against the governor, William Berkeley, shifted to the natives when the governor's fur trade monopoly profited from the help of natives. Violence ensued, which the governor proposed to stop by constructing a costly chain of forts to protect the colonists. Many poor farmers disliked this costly option, so Nathaniel Bacon, a councilman, was elected to lead a group of men on an Indian slaughter. Berkeley eventually tried to call Bacon back, resulting in the rebels burning Jamestown and forcing Berkeley to flee. This is important because it was the first rebellion of the American colonies, it resulted in the burning of Jamestown, and many natives were captured and forced into slavery during this time.

The Restoration

The Restoration took place in the mid-1600s and at this time King Charles II became ruler of Britain. He was restored as king after years of military rule and fighting. After the man in charge during the military rule, Oliver Cromwell, died, Charles II was restored as long as he agreed to forgive his enemies and promoted religious toleration. After Charles II regained the throne, more colonies were created and the government tried to tighten control over them. This is important because the English monarchy was reestablished and more colonies were started. This helped shape American and British history. Since Charles II and his brother James II disliked representative government, the Restoration also led to the Dominion of New England and less freedom for the colonial assemblies.

Dominion of New England

The Dominion of New England was formed in the late 1600s by James II. The Dominion of New England consisted of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Plymouth, New York, and the Jerseys. James II consolidated them to control their unruly behavior and uncooperative trade and religious practices. The Dominion regulated land and trade and it limited the amount of representative government. After news of the Glorious Revolution in England reached colonists, they arrested Dominion leaders including the governor, Sir Edmund Andros. The Dominion government crumbled and old colonial leaders took control. This is important because the failure of the Dominion of New England helped change the attitudes of some British officials and America was left on its own for a period of time, allowing self-government to grow in America. Americans figured out that resisting the Dominion of New England and not getting punished meant that they were different than the British and could fight to get their way.

The Glorious Revolution

The Glorious Revolution took place in the late 1600s in England. Charles II and his brother James II had become more openly Catholic, to the horror of the citizens. English politicians asked William of Orange and his wife Mary to intervene, causing James II to flee. They created a limited monarchy in which Parliament had to be summoned annually, all bills had to be signed, and traditional liberties needed to be respected. Assemblies rose to power during this time in the colonies, and the Dominion of New England was destroyed after word of the Glorious Revolution reached Anglo-Americans. This is important because Anglo-Americans, after hearing about the Glorious Revolution, rose up against the representatives in the colonies and got more control over themselves; learning in the process that they could get away with revolutions and rebellions.

Mercantilism

Mercantilism was based on the trade of items from the colony to the mother country in order to make that country more self-sufficient. In the mid-1600s, the British government passed a series of navigation acts that limited trade to other countries. The Navigation Acts began to cause tension between England and the American colonies. These acts limited trade to British ships, restricted the exports of goods unless they passed through England or Scotland, encouraged people to different jobs in order to be more economically diverse, and forbade Americans to compete with large-scale British manufacturers. In short, these acts regulated trade and allowed England to tax the colonies. England wanted to be more self-sufficient in order to hurt their rivals' markets and to improve their own. They used raw materials from their American colonies and pushed for their colonies to use products from them. This is important because it caused Britain and America to become more self-sufficient, which helped America in the future. Because of this, the economies of Britain and America also improved. Conflicts between the two also arose.

The Wealth of Nations

The *Wealth of Nations* is a book written by Adam Smith, a man who lived in Scotland. The book was written in the late 1700s and was about economics. In his book, Smith proposed that a free-market economy would be best. It stood up to mercantilism, the common system of economy at the time. Nations began to take his advice and saw improvements in their overall economies. This book was important because it included ideas that brought economics to where they are today.

The Enlightenment

The Enlightenment was a cultural movement that started in Europe but came to America, especially seaboard cities, in the mid-1700s. Intellectuals in the colonies drew inspiration from Enlightenment thinkers and ideals. They believed that they could have confidence in anything backed by human reason, but should be skeptical of beliefs with little or no science and logic to support them. Benjamin Franklin embodied the Enlightenment and he organized groups of thinkers together. The groups hoped to one day be like the Royal Society in London, which was made up of great British and American thinkers. Thus, the Enlightenment, at first, strengthened the ties between Britain and America. Intellectuals also believed during this time that there was a rational creator that did not intervene with the universe He created. Enlightenment ideas, like those of John Locke, also influenced the colonies. Locke believed that people had the right to life, liberty, and property and if their government did not deliver these rights people could resist. This is important because thinkers like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin contributed more to society and helped America grow and prosper. People began to question things and used Enlightenment ideas to justify their actions.

The Great Awakening

The Great Awakening was a revivalism of Christianity that spread throughout all of British North America in the mid-1700s. Ministers of this time stressed the emptiness of material comfort, the corruption of human nature, the fury of divine wrath, and the need for repentance. Leaders at this time were Jonathan Edwards, Gilbert Tenant, and George Whitefield, and they worked to get a strong emotional response from their congregations instead of just engaging their intellects. Whitefield was a very overpowering and moving Calvinist speaker who hoped to use emotions in his own voice to get strong emotional responses. Whitefield inspired many to seek salvation, even some of his critics. He helped convince thousands of people to join churches due to his speeches. The Great Awakening made a split in Protestantism between the New Lights (revivalists) and Old Lights (rationalists), and the two groups did not get along. The Great Awakening is important because it started the decline in influence of certain groups (including Quakers), caused new colleges to be created, drew blacks and natives in and caused more of them to convert to Protestantism, gave more prominence to religious women, and promoted religious toleration between the New Lights. These factors would continue to affect religious beliefs in America and shape its history. The Great Awakening itself also caused people to question authority and later their government.

The Albany Plan of Union

The Albany Plan of Union was written by the Albany Congress (led by Benjamin Franklin) in the mid-1700s. During the French and Indian War, the Albany Congress was called in Albany, New York to devise a plan of action. In hopes of preventing enemy attacks, the congress called for a colonial confederation. However, this plan was rejected. Colonists believed that this plan, called the Albany Plan of Union, was too restrictive. They couldn't agree on taxes, which shows that colonists disliked them and worried about them. On the other hand, Britain thought the plan gave colonists too much freedom and independence. To Britain, having all of the colonies under one government made the colonies too powerful. The Albany Plan is important because it inspired some parts of the Articles of Confederation. It was the colonists' first attempt at uniting under one government.

The French and Indian War

The French and Indian War, also known in Europe as the Seven Years' War, took place in the mid-1700s. The war was mainly fought (in the colonies) between the American colonists, French-Canadian colonists, and their native allies (Britain and France fought each other in Europe). The French, hoping to gain more land and more opportunity, attempted to take control of the Ohio Valley and Western Pennsylvania. They wanted this land because they believed it to be theirs in the first place (both France and England claimed the land belonged to them). The French started building forts, prompting the colonists to send George Washington to talk to the French and natives. This confrontation went badly and started the French and Indian War. General Braddock was sent to the French fort of Fort Duquense, but they were ambushed and many were killed. William Pitt got more Americans involved by promising to pay for the war. Under the leadership of James Wolfe, Montreal and Quebec were taken by the British. The war ended with the Treaty of Paris, with the British and Spanish gaining parts of France's North American claims. The war was important because the English and Americans had a new series of patriotism and felt connected. Despite these new feelings of loyalty, the English imposed taxes on the colonies, which in part led to the Revolutionary War.

The Stamp Act Congress

The Stamp Act Congress met in New York in the mid-1700s after the Stamp Act was imposed. Representatives came to New York from nine colonies. The Stamp Act Congress met because they wanted to discuss the Stamp Act, which had outraged many colonists. The Stamp Act was an internal tax that was placed on all paper products by the prime minister, George Grenville. The members of the Stamp Act Congress agreed that external taxes that did not directly affect colonists could be imposed by Parliament, but internal taxes such as the Stamp Act could not be passed by Parliament. They determined that local officials should be in charge of directly taxing the colonists. William Pitt, a member of Parliament, agreed with the colonies and objected to the tax as well. Overall, the Stamp Act Congress (and the colonists in general) thought Parliament couldn't impose the Stamp Act because colonists weren't represented in Parliament. Grenville defended the act by claiming that Parliament represented everyone from the entire British Empire. This "virtual representation" was one of the major complaints of the colonies. The Stamp Act Congress is important because it was the first Congress that brought members from multiple colonies together to discuss problems. It signified an attempt by the colonies to unite, which would one day lead to the American Revolution.

Committees of Correspondence

Committees of Correspondence were formed all around the American colonies by colonial legislatures. Originally forming in Boston in the mid-1700s, these committees formed so that important legislatures and important and influential individuals could communicate throughout the colonies. Because of this, the issue of British injustices in the colonies did not fade and propaganda circulated through the colonies. The committees were important because they united the colonies, kept issues alive and discussed, and spread ideas and propaganda. When the colonies became connected and united in this way, they became stronger and able to fight back.

Intolerable Acts

The Intolerable Acts consisted of the Coercive Acts and the Quebec Act. These acts were passed by Parliament in the mid-late 1700s. The Coercive Acts affected all of the colonies, but mainly Massachusetts due to the colony's rebellious nature. Essentially, Massachusetts was being punished for the Boston Tea Party. The Coercive Acts closed Boston Harbor, revoked the Massachusetts charter, and expanded on the Quartering Act. The new Quartering Act allowed soldiers to be housed in empty private buildings. The Quebec Act gave land that Americans hoped to inhabit to Quebec. Furthermore, the official religion of Quebec became Catholicism and let some small debates be decided by French-style courts. This made colonists feel threatened. These acts are important because the colonists believed that they violated their rights. Colonists are forced to cooperate and stick together, eventually leading to the meetings of the Continental Congress.

Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*

Common Sense was written in the late 1700s by Thomas Paine. It challenged the authority of British rule, stating that America didn't need the help of Britain economically. *Common Sense* became popular among colonists all over America. The publication made many people realize that the king himself was to blame for the taxes, not just corrupt politicians. This is important because it changed colonists' feelings toward King George III and Britain and helped spread the idea of a revolution. It led to the signing of the Declaration of Independence and Americans' calls for freedom.

The Peace of Paris

The Peace of Paris was a set of treaties that ended the American Revolutionary War in the late 1700s. In Paris, France, representatives from both America and Britain signed the Peace of Paris while two other treaties were also being signed in Versailles. Through the Peace of Paris America gained its independence, as well as land east of the Mississippi River (minus Florida, which belonged to Spain). France won a victory against Britain, but it cost the nation dearly. The nation, now in debt, would enter the French Revolution soon after. The Dutch did not win nor lose much, but the Spanish on the other hand regained Florida. The Peace of Paris is important because it brought an end to the first British Empire, gave the Americans more freedom, and granted America and European powers more land. The Peace of Paris was also a precedent to British and American conflict because British forts stayed in America because the Americans owed the British and Loyalists as well.

Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation were crafted by John Dickinson in the late 1700s. After the end of the Revolutionary War, America needed a new national government. Under the Articles of Confederation, there was a single-chamber congress that was elected by state legislatures. States received only one vote, despite their differences in size and population. Congress could ask for money from the states but could not directly impose taxes unless every state agreed to it. There were no executive or judicial branches either. Congressional committees oversaw financial, diplomatic, and military affairs in America. The first President of the Continental Congress was John Hanson. The Confederation had its fair share of problems, since the national government was weak and Congress had limited power. The Articles of Confederation were designed weak in order to prevent a tyranny from forming. They did give us, however, the Northwest Ordinance. The Articles of Confederation are important because they unified all of the states together and this was a step towards the government we have today. The Articles were eventually replaced by the Constitution, but some aspects of the Articles were kept.

The Northwest Ordinance

The Northwest Ordinance was a law developed in the late 1700s. The law, which was established by the Continental Congress, designated all land above the Ohio River as part of the Northwest Territory. The Northwest Territory would one day be divided into different states, including Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. The Northwest Ordinance forbade slavery and set aside land to be used for education. Three stages were set up that allowed people to enter the union: a governor and judge were appointed, people wrote a temporary constitution and elected a legislature, and then a Congress-approved constitution would allow for the formation of a new state. The Northwest Ordinance is important because it helped lay the foundations for future states, influenced the movement of settlers, and set a precedent for a ban on slavery.

Shays' Rebellion

Shays' Rebellion took place in the late 1700s. The rebellion took place because of an economic depression that hit Massachusetts especially hard, along with a huge tax increase. To make matters worse, bankers and merchants demanded to be paid in specie (gold and silver), which many poor farmers had very little of. Angry farmers, led by Daniel Shays, attempted to close courts in order to prevent sheriffs' auctions and foreclosures on mortgages. They were fighting against a "new tyranny"- the Massachusetts government. The Founding Fathers were upset and realized that the Articles of Confederation were too weak. Eventually, many of the rebels were captured and the rebellion ended. Shays' Rebellion is important because it was the first rebellion after the Revolutionary War and showed the rebellious spirit still present in Americans. The rebellion also led to the Philadelphia Convention and the adoption of the Constitution.

Checks and Balances

A system of checks and balances was put in place by the framers of the Constitution, including James Madison, in the late 1700s. This system was implemented so that no single part of government had too much power and that a tyranny did not develop. Checks and balances were put in place in Philadelphia while the Constitutional Convention discussed the new government. Under the checks and balances, people were represented equally and by population (due to having a bicameral legislature). The president in the executive branch could veto laws and choose the members of his cabinet, with the approval of senate. This is important because checks and balances prevented anyone in the new government from having too much power. Today, we are still protected from tyranny because of these checks and balances.

Federalists vs Antifederalists

When the Constitution was being created in Philadelphia in the late 1700s, people both supported and opposed it. Americans who were for the Constitution were called Federalists. Federalists believed that the Articles of Confederation were weak and needed to be replaced with a plan with a stronger national government. The national government would protect the people and there was no need for a bill of rights. Federalists were usually wealthier and had more influence. Important Federalists included George Washington and Alexander Hamilton. On the other hand, Antifederalists believed that the Articles of Confederation could be saved and that a strong national government would be harmful and threaten everyone's rights. They also disliked the fact that the proposed Constitution did not have a bill of rights. Important Antifederalists included Patrick Henry, James Monroe, and Thomas Jefferson. Antifederalists and Federalists are both important because they influenced the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These two groups were also the start of political parties in America.

Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights was created in the late 1700s at the nation's capital (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) by the First Congress, with James Madison in the lead. The Bill of Rights was adopted after the Massachusetts Compromise, which was between Federalists and Antifederalists. The Bill of Rights consisted of the first ten amendments in the Constitution. The first eight amendments gave citizens more guaranteed freedoms without declining the national government's authority. These rights had not been specifically granted by the Constitution, and before the Bill of Rights was written Antifederalists had worried about the rights of the people. The First Amendment, for instance, guaranteed five basic freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and the right to petition. Other rights protected by the first eight amendments included the ability for states to create militias, protection from standing armies, and limitations of state police power. The final two amendments gave people or the states power that the federal government did not have. The Bill of Rights is important because it guaranteed Americans more individual freedoms, as the Antifederalists had hoped. The country could not fall into tyranny because of the rights that states and citizens now possessed.

Strict vs. Loose Interpretation of the Constitution

The Constitution was ratified in the late 1700s and from the very beginning Americans had different interpretations of it. Federalists, led by Alexander Hamilton, believed in a looser interpretation of the Constitution. On the other hand, Antifederalists (Republicans) led by Thomas Jefferson had a stricter interpretation of the document. Antifederalists thought that in order for America to thrive there needed to be defined rights for the states and citizens. These liberties, they believed, could only be granted by a strict interpretation of the Constitution. On the other hand, Federalists believed that all rights that were undefined should automatically go to the federal government. They preferred a stronger federal government. Hamilton's national bank idea was the first clear-cut argument over strict and loose interpretations of the Constitution. Hamilton's bank was based on a loose interpretation of the Constitution since the Constitution did not have any clear rules regarding a national banking system. George Washington was unsure about the bank and asked for Jefferson's opinion. Jefferson, being Antifederalist, disliked the idea and told Washington this. Nevertheless, Washington still followed Hamilton's plan. This is important because it set a precedent for loose interpretations of the Constitution. Political parties also formed due to the differing interpretations.

The XYZ Affair

The XYZ Affair took place in Paris, France in the late 1700s. The French were attacking American ships and taking men from them, so John Adams sent over a peace commission (Charles Pinckney, John Marshall, and Elbridge Gerry) to Paris. The French foreign minister, Charles de Talleyrand, refused to meet the Americans and instead sent three agents who were only known as "X, Y, and Z" to talk to them. France demanded a large loan and bribe in order to start discussing their relations, which the Americans refused. Americans were upset by this, and this led to anti-French and anti-immigrant feelings in America. Americans wanted to be respected, but the French had not shown them much respect. The XYZ Affair is important because although it didn't do anything about the French impressment (in fact, the fighting went on in an event known as the Quasi War), it caused America to pass the Alien and Sedition Acts. These acts were geared towards Republicans and immigrant, and these Americans had supported the French. American feelings towards the French (at least in the cases of the Federalists) sank due to this event and the Quasi War.

Alien and Sedition Acts

The Alien and Sedition Acts were laws passed in the late 1790s at the nation's capital. The laws were passed and approved by the Federalist-dominated Congress and John Adams. They were supposed to protect national security in America. The Alien Enemies Act prevented wartime spying, the Alien Friends Act allowed for foreigners to be expelled from the country (by the chief executive if they were considered dangerous), and the Naturalization Act changed the procedures that let immigrants become citizens. The Alien Acts targeted Irish and French immigrants the most and also impacted their abilities to vote. The Sedition Act forbade people from opposing the government. The Sedition Act affected both Americans and foreigners. It could be interpreted to mean that all criticism could be punished. The act violated freedom of speech, which was protected by the Bill of Rights. These acts, made to hurt immigrants, were ultimately supposed to harm Republicans. Federalists were losing support, so they were trying to make it harder for immigrants (supporters of Republicans) to vote. These acts are important because it showed that the downfall of Federalists was coming. They also led to the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions.

Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions

The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions were written by James Madison and Thomas Jefferson in the late 1790s. These resolutions were created because they believed that the Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional. Jefferson and Madison, who were Republicans, believed that states should have more power and disliked how much power the federal government had. They decided to draw up their resolutions and present them to the Virginia and Kentucky legislatures. The men wanted the states to be able to “nullify” laws that they deemed unconstitutional, such as the Alien and Sedition Acts. The two states agreed and passed these resolutions, and this nearly led to a civil war. The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions are important because the resolutions could have potentially led to a civil war and to violence. States declared that they were equal and didn't have to listen to every law, and this issue would arise later on in history during the Civil War-era.

Marbury v. Madison

Marbury v. Madison was a court case that took place in the early 1800s between William Marbury and James Madison. On his last day in office, President John Adams appointed many judges (“the midnight judges”) including the Federalist Marbury as Justice of the Peace in the District of Columbia. Marbury's commission had never been granted however, and the new Secretary of State (James Madison) refused to release the commission. Marbury wanted a writ of mandamus that would force them to make the delivery. Chief Justice John Marshall eventually decided that the Judiciary Act (which allowed for such a writ to be issued) was unconstitutional and Marbury thus did not get his writ. Furthermore, both Federalists and Antifederalists were happy with the result of the court case. Federalists were glad that Marbury did not get his writ, while Antifederalists were pleased with the implementation of judicial review since it made sure Congress did not have too much power. This court case is important because it was the first time that an act of Congress was seen as unconstitutional. This event set a precedent for similar events and gave the courts the power of judicial review.

John Marshall

John Marshall was a Chief Justice in the Supreme Court in the early 1800s. Marshall, before being on the Supreme Court, had been merely the son of a farmer in Virginia. His service in the Continental Army made him feel like part of the Union as a whole instead of one particular state. Marshall was the Chief Justice during multiple cases that shaped American history. In *Marbury v. Madison* for instance, he found an act of Congress unconstitutional. He paved the way for judicial review and tended to have a relatively loose interpretation of the Constitution (since he was Federalist). He helped shape the Supreme Court as it is today through his rulings. He helped define the rights of the people, states, and federal government within the young nation. John Marshall is important because he was the first member of the Supreme Court to declare a law unconstitutional (which led to judicial review). He set a precedent for events occurring later on in the century.

Impressment

After the Treaty of Amiens collapsed in the early 1800s, France and England began fighting while America remained neutral. American ships were seized and British sailors who abandoned the Royal Navy were taken back. Sailors had been deserters because they were paid less and British ships were brutal. Impressed sailors were continually escaping and being recaptured. Many deserters had even become American citizens, but if they were born British they were still considered Britons. Sometimes American-born citizens were taken as well. The Chesapeake Affair, where the British ship called the Leopard seized the American ship called the Chesapeake right near the coast. The practice died down after the British defeated Napoleon in the Battle of Trafalgar and no longer needed the manpower of impressed sailors. Impressment is important because it created conflicts between America and Britain, ultimately leading to the War of 1812. This also somewhat led to the formation of the Embargo and Non-Intercourse Acts.

Missouri Compromise

The Missouri Compromise came to be in the early 1800s. At this time, Missouri was entering (or trying to) as a slave state to the Union. James Tallmadge, Jr. wanted an amendment that prohibited more slaves from entering Missouri and gave slave offspring freedom at age 25. The south did not support it, but the north did. A compromise was made between northern Federalists and southern Republicans. The Missouri Compromise allowed Missouri to become a slave state as long as Maine (which also was applying for statehood) became a free state. Slavery was also prohibited north of 36°30' which meant that the Northwest Territory was free of slaves. This compromise almost fell apart after Missouri declared that free blacks were not allowed in the state. Missouri was stopped from becoming a state until Henry Clay came up with a resolution. Missouri couldn't discriminate against other states' citizens but had control over its own people. The Missouri Compromise is important because it declared that the Northwest Territory would lead to free states. It also showed that Congress could allow or prohibit slavery, which would be an issue in the future.

Monroe Doctrine

The Monroe Doctrine was President James Monroe's message to Congress in Washington D.C. (but written mostly by John Quincy Adams) in the early 1800s. The Doctrine was written after Britain proposed that it and America make a statement that opposed interference (like that of the Holy Alliance) in South America and that neither would annex any part of Spain's old empire. Adams wanted the United States, however, to issue a separate statement from Britain. The message stated that America would stay out of European wars unless it involved their interests, "American continents" were not for the colonization of European powers, and any attempt at American colonization would be seen as an "unfriendly act." The Doctrine itself didn't have a huge effect (the British navy did). Monroe's Doctrine is important because America promised to stay out of European affairs, including revolutions and wars. It also claimed America's position in the New World.

Indian Removal Act

The Indian Removal Act was a law that was passed in the early 1800s by Andrew Jackson. This act allowed Jackson to use money and force to remove Native Americans from their lands. Natives were removed from lands (mainly in the southeast-Tennessee and Georgia) and forced to live in federal territory across the Mississippi River. Southerners liked the act because they wanted to take lands occupied by the Five Civilized Tribes (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee-Creek, Seminole) for themselves. Some natives wanted to resist, but were eventually pressured into signing treaties and leaving their land. Many European-Americans were happy about the treaties, but some missionaries were not. Some Native Americans (Creek mostly) under Chief Black Hawk tried to go back to their old lands because they disliked Iowa and the surrounding area. They had come in peace but were met with violence from European-Americans, causing Black Hawk's War. The Cherokee people tried a different approach and tried to fight using the legal system. This resulted in two cases, *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* and *Worcester v. Georgia*. John Marshall found that the Cherokee had rights to their land in Georgia and shouldn't be forced off. Andrew Jackson then delivered his famous quote of, "John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it!" The Indian Removal Act is important because this act led to the emigration of thousands of natives and gave European-Americans more farmland in the process. It led to the Treaty of New Echota and the Trail of Tears, which was a dark part of our history. The removal of the natives led to bitter feelings as well.

Trail of Tears

The Trail of Tears was/were the path(s) taken by the Cherokee people across the Mississippi River in the mid-1800s. The natives travelled hundreds of miles across the American South after being forced to leave their native land by Andrew Jackson. Jackson's Indian Removal Act helped move the natives (by force if necessary). Some natives, like Black Hawk, tried to return to their old lands but found themselves engaged in a bloody battle with the white Americans. The Cherokees decided to take a different approach. The Cherokees tried to fight for their land legally in cases such as *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* and *Worcester v. Georgia*. John Marshall found them to have rights to the land. Andrew Jackson is famous for saying, "John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it!" Jackson did not want to listen to the ruling and wanted to remove the Cherokee people regardless. This led to the signing of the Treaty of New Echota. Jackson would have (or at least should have) been impeached, but many Americans agreed with Jackson over Marshall. The Cherokee people were forced to leave and settled out west. The Trail of Tears is a dark spot in our history but is still important because native peoples were forced to move from their lands and they took their culture with them. Many died, and the survivors suffered physically and spiritually. European-Americans took Cherokee lands and built plantations, which helped their economy.

The Panic of 1819

In 1819 (early 1800s), the economy went downhill very quickly because of over-speculation in America. State banks had issued their own banknotes, but had given out too many and made bad investments. Also, after the Napoleonic Wars ended in Europe, European soldiers were able to leave the battlefield and return to their farm fields. With European farmers able to grow their own bumper crops (like wheat) again, they no longer relied on American farmers—just as Americans began to depend on their support. Land prices fell, and so did the market for crops. Since Europe no longer needed Americans' crops, the prices of said crops were nearly cut in half. Land prices fell, which hurt farmers and speculators. At this time, the Second Bank of the United States wanted all of its loans to be repaid in specie (gold) instead of in state bank notes. The states found this to be a problem because they had printed more bank notes than they had specie. They needed their loans to be paid by the farmers so that they could pay the national bank. The farmers, however, had very little specie to pay the states with. Because the banks needed specie and they were not receiving it from the farmers, they stopped issuing credit. Without credit, no one bought anything and thus land sales declined. Everyone faced bankruptcy and unemployment. The Panic of 1819 is important because it left a bitter taste in people's mouths when it came to banks. People, including Andrew Jackson, especially distrusted the Second National Bank. Jackson would later decide not to re-charter the bank when he became president. The panic also stimulated demands for higher tariffs such as the Tariff of Abominations (1828). It also marked the end of the "Era of Good Feelings."

Fulton's Clermont

The Clermont (also known as the North River Steamboat) was the first commercial steamboat, created by Robert Fulton and Robert R. Livingston in the early 1800s. The Clermont was introduced on the Hudson River, and the two men were granted the ability to run a ferry service between New York and New Jersey by Congress. They profited greatly from this opportunity, prompting competitors to challenge their success. This led to the court case of *Gibbons v. Ogden* in which John Marshall found that people did not have exclusive rights to a monopoly. The Clermont is important because the steamboat allowed goods and people to travel faster than before and also allowed them to travel upstream. Steamboats would be improved so that goods could travel farther and safer. The Clermont and other early steamboats led to the canal boom and the creation of the Erie Canal, which connected the Midwest to the East Coast.

Alexis de Tocqueville

Alexis de Tocqueville was a Frenchman who spent time in America in the early 1800s. He recognized that there was inequality, but thought America was more equal than France. In his two-volume *Democracy in America*, he said that equality among the people was the fundamental shaping force of American society. This book, written in the mid-1800s, examined a democratic revolution that de Tocqueville believed had been going on for several hundred years. He also wrote other works that examined living standards and social classes in Western society. He was a critic of individualism and thought that if people came together they would be able to overcome selfish desires. Individualism, a term coined by de Tocqueville himself, was described by him as being a kind of selfishness that disposed humans to be concerned with only their own family and friends. He thought that it sapped the virtues of public life. Alexis de Tocqueville is important because he observed and recorded American life. He also reinforced our feelings about being unique and different.

Democracy in America

Democracy in America was a two-volume book written in the mid-1800s by Alexis de Tocqueville. He had come to America and observed the different social classes. Equality among the people, according to the volumes, shaped the society. It explored America's history with democracy and its effect on the people. It recognized the changes America was going through at the time as well. *Democracy in America* is important because it was read by other important political figures and also discussed democracy's effect on people. It talked about our unique society and how we should strive to be equal. It made us feel unique.

Calhoun and the South Carolina Exposition and Protest

The *South Carolina Exposition and Protest* was written in the early 1800s anonymously, but John C. Calhoun eventually took credit for it. The document protested against the Tariff of 1828, also known as the Tariff of Abominations. This tariff was passed in Washington, D.C. under John Quincy Adams, but the next president, Andrew Jackson, also supported it for the most part. The *Exposition and Protest* stated that the tariff was unconstitutional because it was not justified by public necessity. The tariff prohibited foreign trade and protected manufacture, the latter of which is in no way a constitutional power. The document threatened that if the tariff was not repealed, South Carolina would leave the Union. The *South Carolina Exposition and Protest* is important because the issue of nullification once again arose and the power of the federal government was questioned. It also almost led to a Civil War and showed that sectionalism was present in the United States. It showed that judicial review was still present in America. It led to the Compromise Tariff and Force Bill as well.

The Second Great Awakening

The Second Great Awakening began in around Connecticut and Vermont in the late 1700s. It spread to the majority of the country during the early 1800s. At first, educated Congregationalists such as Timothy Dwight (Yale's President) led the revivals. Soon, however, camp meetings had more influence. Camp meetings were where many denominations gathered outside (since a building could not hold the huge number of people) and revivalists discussed the Second Coming of Jesus. Baptist and Methodist memberships rose the most and many revival leaders belonged to one of the two groups. People reacted against previous ideas such as skepticism, deism, and rational Christianity. New denominations formed and millions joined congregations. The Awakening was especially strong in the Northeast and Midwest. An important revivalist during this time was Charles Grandison Finney. Finney believed that the Gospel could reform society. As a Methodist, he also believed that religion was a matter of the heart (a personal matter) and that we had control over our own lives. He also allowed women to pray in public and developed "anxious benches" for those considering becoming Christians as well. The Second Great Awakening is important because it led to the launch of more schools and created more religious groups and converts. More abolitionist and women's rights groups formed during the Age of Reform. People believed that they could control their destiny and their future. Law and order was also promoted during this time and the Second Great Awakening showed the changes that were happening in society.

Horace Mann

Horace Mann was an education reformist and the “Father of the Common School Movement” in the early and mid-1800s. He represented Massachusetts in the House of Representatives and the Senate. He also served as the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education. He built public schools because he thought that a good way to turn unruly children into disciplined republicans. Other Whig members supported his ideas. Mann used lessons from the Prussian school system and promoted the use of high-quality teachers and a uniform curriculum. His schools caught on the most in the North and Midwest. His schools taught trust, patience, respect, and promptness. He wrote many books and also founded and edited *The Common School Journal*. Many of his schools were religiously passive. Horace Mann is important because his ideas about education influenced schools in the North and Midwest. He began teaching students American ideals that we still value today.

William Lloyd Garrison and *The Liberator*

The Liberator was an anti-slavery newspaper published by the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison in the mid-1800s. This paper, originally printed in Massachusetts, was frequently read by black slaves. The newspaper spoke out against slavery and for the equal rights of all Americans. Despite being a fairly small publication, it gained fame due to Garrison’s radical views. Garrison called for the immediate emancipation of slaves- quite a radical idea at the time. Even abolitionists were unsure about this idea because it was widely believed that black slaves would not be able to assimilate into the white world very easily. William Lloyd Garrison also had less radical ideas, including that slaves should be freed through peace and nonviolence. He promoted education on slavery, feeling that this education could, in a sense, “kill” slavery. Women leaders, such as Lucy Stone, were also elevated by his call for equality. William Lloyd Garrison and *The Liberator* are important because of the ideas of freedom that were portrayed and spread to people, including slaves. It called for legal and civil rights for slaves and eventually helped elevate women leaders as well.

Seneca Falls Convention

The Seneca Falls Convention was a women’s rights convention that took place in the mid-1800s in Seneca Falls, New York. Women planned the event upon the arrival of Philadelphia Quaker Lucretia Mott. Mott was unique for her time because women were not supposed to speak out in public. Elizabeth Cady Stanton also helped organize the convention. Stanton was a non-Quaker who wrote the Declaration of Sentiments. The Declaration of Sentiments was a document based on the Declaration of Independence and it demanded that women got equal rights. Stanton worked with and was mentored by Mott. The two women and the Seneca Falls Convention are important because they demanded equal rights for all and it was the first women’s rights convention in America. They helped with the women’s suffrage movement and influenced other women, including Susan B. Anthony.

American Renaissance

The American Renaissance was a period of time where American inventions, writing, and the arts thrived. This American progression took place mostly in the mid-1800s in New England (Boston, Concord, New York, etc.). This was mainly a literary movement where writers such as James Fenimore Cooper and Edgar Allen Poe became household names in America and Europe. The work of authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne showed the hypocrisy of Puritan New England. Ralph Waldo Emerson, another essayist, preached individualism and self-reliance. Poets such as Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson also thrived. The American Renaissance took off because people at this time were able to purchase books. The American Renaissance is important because it signified our final social break and independence from Europe and showed that we could achieve literary greatness just like Europe could. It made people such as Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, and Poe household names.

Minstrel Shows

Minstrel shows were popular forms of entertainment that became especially popular in the mid-1800s. They originated in New York but soon spread across America, with the first minstrel shows being linked to individuals such as Thomas Dartmouth “Daddy” Rice. In minstrel shows, white men would blacken their faces and perform routines that commonly included singing, dancing, and racist “comedy.” These shows normally painted a negative image of blacks- labeling them as inappropriate, lazy, or unintelligent. Common names in these shows include Jim Crow, Zip Coon, and Mr. Tambo. Popular minstrel shows included the Virginia Minstrels, Christy Minstrels, and Bryant’s Minstrels (led by Daniel Bryant). These shows were important because of their popularity and negative and usually untrue portrayal of blacks. They intensified political conflicts over race as well.

Henry Thoreau’s *Civil Disobedience*

Civil Disobedience was written in the mid-1800s by Henry Thoreau. Thoreau refused to pay a poll tax because the revenue was being used to fund the Mexican-American War. Thoreau viewed this as a southern conspiracy to extend slavery (which the Massachusetts-born Thoreau disliked). He was jailed, and this event prompted him to write *Civil Disobedience*. This essay defended his right to disobey unjust or unfair laws. He believed that the federal government should not overrule their consciences and people should not obey unfair laws. This, however, had to be done peacefully. *Civil Disobedience* is important because it claimed that people should disobey unjust laws peacefully, and this led to future nonviolent protests. It also emphasized that people should be more independent and think for themselves.

Nat Turner’s Rebellion

Nat Turner’s Rebellion (aka the Southampton Insurrection) was a slave rebellion that happened in Southampton County, Virginia in 1831. This rebellion, led by Nathaniel Turner, had the highest number of fatalities compared to any other slave uprising in the American South with 55 whites killed. Nat Turner, a very religious man, had visions that told him slaves were meant to rule. He was known by other slaves as “the Prophet” and after a solar eclipse (which he saw as a sign from God) he led the rebellion. Turner assembled a militia of sorts and began to kill whites. The rebellion ended after a significantly larger white militia caught up with them. Nat Turner’s Rebellion is important because it led to the fear, distrust, and hatred of blacks as well as harsher slave codes. People were drawn to the issue of slavery and this event was proof to northern abolitionists that slaves in the South were not happy being slaves.

Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass was an escaped slave from Maryland who became a leader of the abolitionist movement in the mid-1800s. Douglass wrote several autobiographies, such as *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* that depicted his time as a slave. Before the Civil War, Douglass was known as a great orator and writer. He proved that slaves could be just as intelligent as whites. He tried to end slavery using politics and united with the Liberty Party (1840), the Free Soil Party (1848), and the Republican Party (1850s). He met with others such as John Brown and William Lloyd Garrison, and with the latter he educated whites and created more abolitionists. After the Civil War he still spoke out for freedom and equality of all Americans. Frederick Douglass is important because he spoke out for equal rights and broke the black stereotype of minstrel shows.

The Mudsill Theory

The Mudsill Theory is a proposition that there must be a lower class for the upper classes to rest upon. This term was first used by South Carolina Senator James Henry Hammond, a Southern plantation owner. He used this term in the mid-1800s during a senate speech in the nation's capital. Hammond argued that slaves and the lower class preferred work that enabled the rich to move civilization forward. According to him, abolishing slavery and promoting equality would hurt civilization as a whole. Many people found this to be a weak explanation for inequality. Southerners were afraid of losing their slaves, abolitionists countered. The Mudsill Theory is important because it was an important pro-slavery argument from the South and an effort to persuade abolitionists that fighting slavery was wrong. The South claimed that they were bettering society by employing the lower classes. This was an indication of Southern attitude at the time.

The Alamo

The Alamo was a historic Franciscan mission near San Antonio where the Battle of the Alamo took place in the mid-1800s. This battle was between Mexican troops, led by General Antonio López de Santa Anna and Texan and Tejano defenders, under the command of Colonel William B. Travis. Key defenders also included Jim Bowie and David Crockett. This battle was fought in order to help defend Texan lands from the Mexican army. The defenders were able to hold off the intruders for a while, but Santa Anna's men eventually broke through and killed all of the men inside the Alamo. The Alamo is important because the men sacrificed themselves for the good of their country and chose to die protecting their freedom. The Alamo became a war cry during later fights. It also motivated Texans to fight for their independence.

Manifest Destiny

Manifest Destiny, a term coined by politicians in the mid-1800s, was used to explain the need for westward expansion on the American continent by the United States. People believed that it was their "national destiny" to expand across the continent. Walt Whitman and John O' Sullivan were a few of many individuals who wanted take certain parts of Mexico and add them to the Union. Democrats supported expansion while Whigs believed that Southerners were trying to expand slavery (although this had rarely been the case at this time). James K. Polk explained that since America had technology, democracy, and God on its side it had a "divine right" to do this. Manifest Destiny is important because this idea caused people to spread across the American continent. Westward expansion occurred, and people spread across the continent. People tried to get as much land as possible for the United States, especially land on the west coast due to trading opportunities out there. This also pushed us into many conflicts.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed in the mid-1800s and ended the Mexican-American War. Mexico and America had been fighting over land claims, and due to ideas of Manifest Destiny, Americans wanted to take Mexican lands such as Texas and California. Although part of Texas had previously been freed, Americans wanted much more land, all the way to the Rio Grande River. Mexico tried to fight, but they were relatively unfit to do so. Proposed under James K. Polk and signed by Santa Anna, this treaty gave America more Texan land, New Mexico, and California. Mexico was given money in return. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was important because it ended the Mexican-American War and gave America more land, known as the Mexican Cession (California, Nevada, and Utah, as well as portions of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming) that would later lead to conflicts over slavery and slave states.

The Wilmot Proviso

The Wilmot Proviso was created by David Wilmot in the mid-1800s, after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the end of the Mexican-American War. This proposal was trying to prohibit slavery in land acquired from Mexico, including California and New Mexico. This proposal hoped to keep the work and jobs in these areas for white men to benefit from. The proposal was never accepted by both houses in Congress, however. While northern Democrats were for it, southern Democrats strongly disliked anything that tried to limit slavery. The Wilmot Proviso is important because it brought to light issues within the Constitution about whether slavery could be limited or not and questioned whether slaves were human or property. It was one of the main factors that led to the outbreak of the Civil War and led in part to the creation of the Republican Party.