

Challenges to the New Government

One American's Story

Settlers moving west often met fierce resistance from Native Americans. In 1790 and 1791, for example, Chief Little Turtle of the Miami tribe of Ohio had won decisive victories against U.S. troops.

In 1794, the Miami again faced attack by American forces. Little Turtle warned his people about the troops led by General "Mad Anthony" Wayne.

PRIMARY SOURCE

“We have beaten the enemy twice under separate commanders. . . . The Americans are now led by a chief [Wayne] who never sleeps. . . . We have never been able to surprise him. . . . It would be prudent [wise] to listen to his offers of peace.”

—Little Turtle quoted in *The Life and Times of Little Turtle*



Chief Little Turtle was willing to negotiate with U.S. leaders, but his tribal council voted for war.

While the council members weighed Little Turtle's warning, President Washington was making plans to secure, or to guard or protect, the western borders of the new nation.

Problems at Home

▼ **KEY QUESTION** How did two crises reveal the power of the national government?

Washington had always supported the idea of a strong national government. During his presidency, the government revealed its strength when dealing with a number of threatening situations.

Competing Claims to Territory Washington knew the nation needed peace to prosper. But trouble brewed in the Trans-Appalachian West, the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. The source of

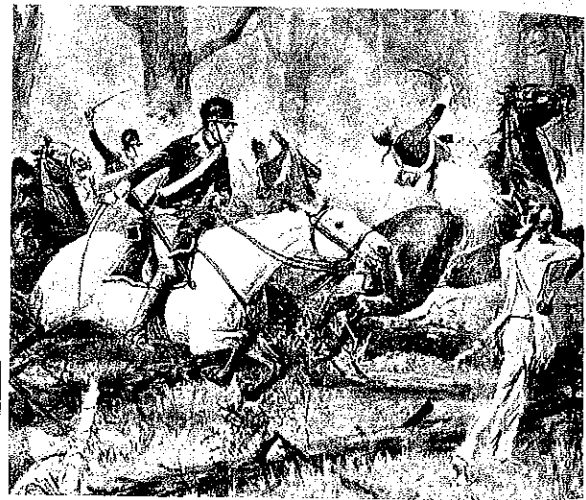
conflict was competing claims for these lands. The 1783 Treaty of Paris had tried to resolve the claims. And some years later, Spain, Britain, the United States, and Native Americans all claimed parts of the area.

The strongest resistance to white settlement came from Native Americans in the **Northwest Territory**. This territory was bordered by the Ohio River to the south and Canada to the north. Native Americans in that territory hoped to unite to form an independent Native American nation. The British, who still held forts north of the Ohio River, supported Native Americans because they did not want to lose their access to trade in these territories.

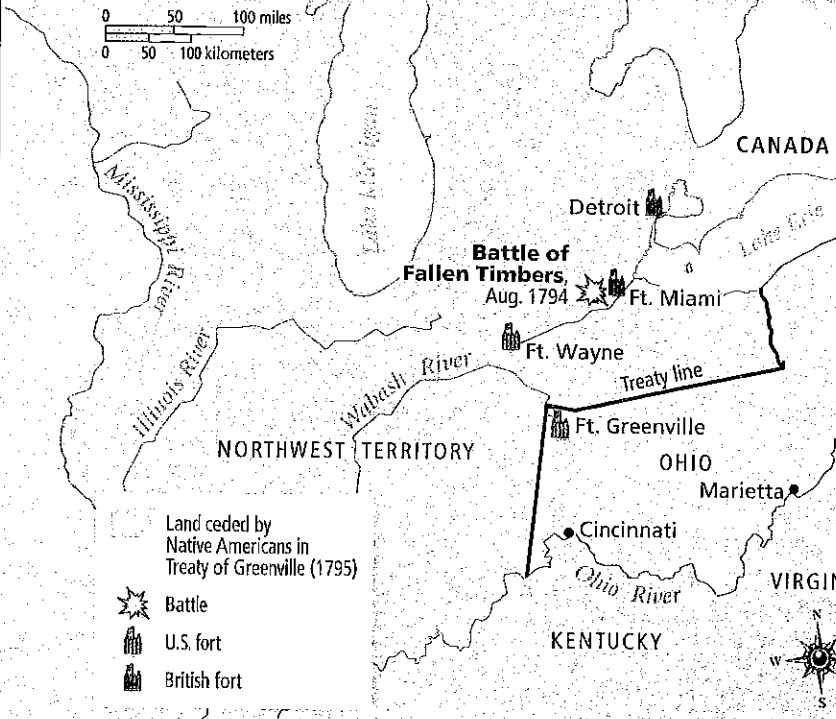
Washington sent troops to the Northwest Territory to defend American interests. In 1790 this first federal army was no match for warriors led by Little Turtle. A second American force was defeated in 1791. Washington then formed another army and gave command to Revolutionary hero General Anthony ("Mad Anthony") Wayne.

Native Americans are Defeated On August 20, 1794, a force of around 2,000 Native Americans met Wayne's 1,000 troops near the future site of Toledo, Ohio. The Native Americans were easily defeated. The battlefield was covered with trees that had been struck down in a storm so the Americans called it the **Battle of Fallen Timbers**.

Native Americans were defeated by U.S. troops at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. They were disappointed when the British did not come to their aid.



Trans Appalachian West 1791-1795



Connect Geography & History

- 1. Region** What does the yellow area of the map represent?
- 2. Critical Thinking** Why might the British forts be located near water?

The Native Americans withdrew. The British, not wanting war with the United States, refused to help them. The Battle of Fallen Timbers crushed Native American hopes of keeping their land in the Northwest Territory. Twelve tribes signed the **Treaty of Greenville** in 1795. They agreed to **cede**, or surrender, much of present-day Ohio and parts of Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana to officials of the U.S. government.

Trouble in the Backcountry In spite of the Battle of Fallen Timbers, Washington felt he had to put another army into the field. The conflict arose over the government's tax on whiskey. To raise extra revenue, Hamilton had pushed through Congress a tax to be levied specifically on the manufacture of whiskey.

Most whiskey producers were small backcountry farmers. Their major crop was corn, but corn was too bulky to carry across the Appalachian Mountains and sell to the settled areas along the Atlantic. Therefore, the farmers distilled the corn into whiskey, which could be more easily sent to market on the backs of mules.

In addition, their customers paid more for whiskey than grain. With little money to buy goods, let alone pay the tax, the farmers used whiskey like money to get whatever supplies they needed.

Farmers Revolt In the summer of 1794, a group of farmers in western Pennsylvania staged the **Whiskey Rebellion** against the tax. One armed group attacked and burned the home of the regional tax collector. Others threatened an armed attack on Pittsburgh.

Most backcountry farmers had a long tradition of independent living and resistance to authority. And backcountry rebelliousness had helped defeat the British. That same rebelliousness was now seen as a threat to the new republic, and Washington and Hamilton needed to keep order. They looked upon the Whiskey Rebellion as an opportunity for the federal government to show it could enforce the law along the western frontier. Hamilton scolded the rebels for resisting the law.

PRIMARY SOURCE

“Such a resistance is treason against society, against liberty, against everything that ought to be dear to a free, enlightened, and prudent people. To tolerate it were to abandon your most precious interests. Not to subdue it were to tolerate it.”

—Alexander Hamilton, *The Works of Alexander Hamilton*

In October 1794, General Henry Lee, with Hamilton at his side, led an army of 13,000 soldiers into western Pennsylvania to put down the uprising. As news of the army's approach spread, the rebels fled. After much effort, federal troops rounded up a group of about 20 accused leaders. Washington had proved his point. He had shown that the government had the power and the will to enforce its laws. Meanwhile, events in Europe gave Washington a different kind of challenge.

▲ **SUMMARIZE** Describe how Washington dealt with two early crises.

Connecting History

Individual Rights vs Majority Rule

The Whiskey Rebellion marked the first major challenge to the authority of the federal government. When the armed rebels gathered in Pittsburgh in 1794, they were angry not only about the whiskey tax but also about their underrepresentation in the state legislatures.



History through Art

This engraving, *The Women of Les Halles Marching to Versailles, 5th October 1789*, is by French artist Jean-Francois Janinet (1752–1814).

The work shows hungry, angry French women marching in support of the revolution. They are out to confront the French royal family who live in the palace of Versailles, about 15 miles (24 km) southwest of Paris, the capital of France.

CRITICAL VIEWING Why did the artist choose to portray some ordinary people of the revolution?

Problems Abroad

▼ **KEY QUESTION** Why did events in Europe create problems for America?

The United States was now independent, but it remained tied to European nations by treaty and through trade. Britain was still the United States's biggest trading partner. France was allied with the United States by a treaty of 1778. When European nations went to war, Americans feared being dragged into the conflict.

Trouble in France In 1789, a financial crisis led the French people to rebel against their government. As in the American Revolution, the French revolutionaries demanded liberty and equality. At first, Americans supported the **French Revolution**. By 1792, however, the revolution had become very violent. Thousands were killed. Then, in 1793, the revolutionaries executed both the king and queen of France.

Other European monarchs believed the revolution threatened their own thrones by spreading outside of France. They joined in opposition to the revolution. France soon declared war on Britain, Holland, and Spain. Britain took the lead in the fight against France.

France and Britain at War War between France and Britain put the United States in an awkward position. France had backed America in the Revolution against the British. Also, many ordinary Americans saw France's revolution as proof that the American cause had been just.

Jefferson felt that a move to crush the French Revolution was an attack on liberty everywhere. But Hamilton argued that Britain was the United States' primary trading partner, and British trade was too vital to risk war. In April 1793, Washington declared that the United States would remain **neutral**, meaning it would not take sides. Congress then passed a law forbidding the United States to help either Britain or France.

Hamilton and Jefferson came to agree that entering a war was not in the new nation's interest. But Federalists attacked Jefferson for his support of France anyway. Jefferson was also tired of Washington's support of Hamilton's ideas. In 1793, Jefferson resigned as secretary of state.

Britain made it hard for the United States to remain neutral. The British were seizing the cargoes of American ships carrying goods from the French West Indies. Chief Justice John Jay went to England for talks about the seizure of U.S. ships. Jay also hoped to persuade the British to give up their forts on the northwest frontier.

Jay's Treaty During the talks in 1794, news came of the U.S. victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Fearing another entanglement, the British agreed to leave the Ohio Valley by 1796. In what is called **Jay's Treaty**, the British also agreed to pay damages for U.S. vessels they had seized. Jay failed, however, to open up the profitable British Caribbean trade to Americans. Because of this, Jay's Treaty got through the House and Senate with great difficulty. Western settlers, for example, were angry that the British were still allowed to continue their fur trade on the American side of the U.S.-Canadian border. In spite of criticism, Jay's Treaty did help to reduce frontier tensions.

Like Jay, U.S. diplomat Thomas Pinckney helped reduce tensions along the frontier with the signing of **Pinckney's (PINK•neez) Treaty** of 1795. The United States won favorable terms with Spain in the peace treaty.

- Americans had the right to travel freely on the Mississippi River,
- U.S. goods could be stored at the port of New Orleans free of customs duties.
- Spain accepted the 31st parallel as the northern boundary of Florida and the southern boundary of the United States.

Together, Jay's Treaty and Pinckney's Treaty gave Americans a greater sense of security. With far less fear of European hostility, more Americans were moving west. But when Washington announced he would not run again for president, Americans were deeply divided over how the nation should be governed.

ANALYZE Describe how crises in Europe created challenges for the new American government.

2

Section Assessment



ONLINE QUIZ

For test practice, go to [Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com](http://InteractiveReview@ClassZone.com)

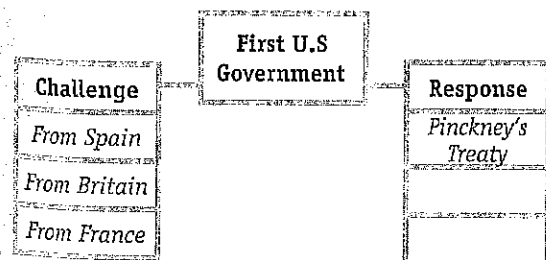
TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of:

- Battle of Fallen Timbers
- French Revolution
- Treaty of Greenville
- Jay's Treaty
- Whiskey Rebellion
- Pinckney's Treaty

USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Summarize** Complete the diagram you started at the beginning of the section.



KEY IDEAS

- Why did Washington consider it important to put down the Whiskey Rebellion?
- How did the French Revolution create problems for the United States?

CRITICAL THINKING

- Evaluate** What were some of the advantages of the new nation remaining neutral?
- Connect Today** The Whiskey Rebellion threatened civil order. What are some more current example of citizens threatening civil order in the belief that their cause is just?
- Connect Economics & History** How did Pinckney's Treaty protect American interests?
- Geography/Art Map** Make a map that shows a plan of the Battle of Fallen Timbers, or draw a scene from that battle.