Madison, Madbury, Monroe, Quincy Alternate

Following Washington, Adams, and Jefferson as president was James Madison. Madison was a Democrat –Republican. He agreed with Jefferson that the central government needed to be limited. However, he had worked with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay to write the federalists papers in order to build popular support for the constitution. Why would he help Federalists get enough votes to pass the Constitution that formed a central government? Well, Madison was a primary author of the Constitution. He is therefore frequently called the Father of the Constitution. Madison was elected by the Anti-Federalists even though he agreed with the Federalists on several issues. This was probably because the Jeffersonians had lost some power after the mistakes Jefferson made in his second term. Despite some small disagreements, Madison would still work to accomplish much of what Jefferson had started.

Madison had been recognized in Jefferson’s administration. This was because he had been involved in an important court case. During Jefferson's first term in office was the issue of last minute appointments. A primary power of the Executive branch is that the president has the right to appoint members of the judiciary. By appointing judges, the executive can affect future court decisions by judges. Years earlier, John Adams had appointed several judges at the last minute before Thomas Jefferson took office. He did this so that Federalist ideas would continue to be important even after Adams stopped being President. Jefferson immediately set to work trying to block many of those appointments. One of them was a man by the name of Marbury. Jefferson ordered his Secretary of State to stop delivering the letters informing people they had been appointed as a judge. The acting Secretary of State obeyed. The remaining appointments were never delivered.

Marbury knew he had been appointed, so he sued the government. He claimed that the original appointment had been made legitimately. To Marbury, this meant the Jefferson Administration was required to complete the appointment. Jefferson did not want to do this because Marbury was a Federalist. Marbury then sued the State Department. Since James Madison was now the new Secretary of State, the court case was given the name of Marbury v. Madison.

The case ended up before the Supreme Court. The decision was written by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice had served as Adams' acting Secretary of State. Many people were afraid that he would side with the Federalist Marbury because he had also worked as a Federalist. People were also afraid that if Marbury won the case, then it would mean that the Judicial Branch was more powerful than the Executive Branch. This was because it would mean that the Judicial Branch could force the President to do something. This would destroy the balance of power in the government. The court decided that the Jefferson administration did not have the right to withhold the appointment. It also decided that Marbury had the right to sue under the Judiciary Act of 1789. This makes it sound like Marbury won. However, the Supreme Court also made a final ruling that changed the nature of American law. The Court said that the Judiciary Act of 1789 gave the Court some unconstitutional powers, like the ability to force the government to give Marbury his appointment. Therefore, the Act was partially unconstitutional and could not be enforced. This effectively denied Marbury his appointment. It also established the greatest power of the Judicial Branch: the right to review laws and dismiss them if they are decided to be unconstitutional. This was a much greater power, termed ***Judicial Review***.

As President, Madison would become famous for his role in two other events. First, he helped prevent the renewal of the contract giving the National Bank permission to exist. The Bank was supposed to print, borrow and loan money for the government. This was intended to provide funds for the government to work smoothly. Madison and Jefferson worried the bank would become a way to transfer money and power from the states to the federal government. The worried that people elected to the executive branch and congress would use the bank to make themselves and their friends rich. They thought it was a threat to the republic. When the contract expired during Madison's first term, the Bank of the United States ended.

This was unfortunate. Madison would soon learn the importance of having a national bank. In Europe, France was at war with most other nations, but mainly with Britain. As the Napoleonic Wars intensified, the British navy worked to shut down all trade with France. Britain was worried that France might win the war if they could keep buying goods from American merchant ships. This led to increasing conflict with American merchant ships at sea. Britain was stopping American ships and forcing them into British ports. Sometimes, American sailors were forcibly removed from American ships and forced to join the British Navy. This policy of kidnapping men and forcing them to join the Navy was called impressment. Americans felt this was a national insult. The next set of elections in America was in 1812. Many of the men elected wanted to fight Britain. One of the first votes in the new Congress admitted Louisiana as a state. The next declared war on Britain.

The resulting War of 1812 was a bit of a mixed bag. Canada was still a British colony. The Americans assumed that Canada would be willing to rebel against the British and join the USA if given the opportunity. The Americans also though it would be easy to invade and defeat Canada. The opposite was true. Fort Dearborn (in the future location of Chicago) was abandoned and Detroit was surrendered to British-Canadian forces. By 1813, British Naval and Army forces moved south to attack and invade across the Great Lakes. On Lake Erie, an American fleet led by Commodore Perry encountered British ships: confident of victory, he signaled "We have met the enemy and they are ours." By the end of the battle, his words would prove true. He destroyed the British naval forces in the Great Lakes. This led to the British abandoning Detroit. The Americans were then able to defeat the Natives who had fought for the British. This effectively ended the war on the western frontier.

Things were going reasonably well on the high seas as well. The British Navy had the reputation of being the best in the world, but they were not winning all their battles. The new American frigates such as the U.S.S. Constitution were so well made and sailed that tales were spreading that sometimes cannon shot that would punch through the sides of lesser ships simply bounced off the thick timbers made of American white oak, leading to the nickname "Old Ironsides." Several unexpected victories had been won. Despite American victories, the Americans did not have enough ships to protect their Atlantic coast. British ships landed troops wherever they wanted, attacking and burning as they pleased. In August of 1814, a British army landed and attacked Washington D.C., forcing the government to flee. This led President Madison to take command of the retreating U.S. army. This was the second and last time a President would lead an army in the field. The capital was looted, and many public buildings were set on fire, including the White House. (These buildings likely would have burned down, but a storm hit the city which put out the fires.)

A major problem for the war was how exactly the U.S. was to pay for it. There was no money in the treasury. A proposal was made to re-establish a national bank. This bank could sell savings bonds and loan money to the government to pay for the war. Congress voted on the bill to create this bank, and it passed. Madison vetoed the legislation against the advice of his Secretary of the Treasury.

The war had dragged on, with successes for both sides. Both sides would have made money peacefully trading. Instead, they lost money fighting another expensive war. At the City of Ghent in Belgium, diplomats signed a new peace treaty. This news that the war had ended would take time to cross the oceans and be approved by Congress and Parliament. Even then, the news would take time to reach armies in the field. Even though the war was technically over, another major battle was about to be fought. An American army under the leadership of General Andrew Jackson had fortified the city of New Orleans, and a British force was on its way to attack. This would be the most lopsided battle of the war. While Jackson's men crouched behind fortified walls, the British marched across open ground in their attack in the first weeks of 1815. Thousands of British would be slaughtered.

During the entire New Orleans campaign, the Americans would report 333 casualties, compared to 2459 British casualties. This military success would launch General Jackson to political fame. Two months later in February, the treaty arrived in the U.S. and was approved by Congress. The War of 1812 was over. The days of British intervention with natives in America were at an end, honor had been upheld, and peace had been reestablished.

Following the war, the economy improved and westward expansion accelerated. Soon, the former Indian territory of Indiana was admitted as a state in 1816, and Madison's second term would draw to a close. The only other major event of his administration would be the passage of a new charter to create the Second National Bank of the United States. The war had taught Madison a valuable lesson about the need for a central bank. He would be followed by yet another Democrat-Republican: James Monroe, the last of the “founding fathers” to serve as president. He would serve two terms, overseeing continued westward expansion. Under his term five states would be added, one each year starting in 1817. Mississippi joined in 1817, then Illinois in 1818, Alabama in 1819, Maine would split off from Massachusetts to become a state in 1820, and Missouri joined in 1821. Like all of his presidential predecessors with the exception of John Adams, he owned slaves, and in many ways his term would reveal the major problem the U.S. would confront over the next half-century.

By this time, slavery had become **the** divisive issue for the nation. The North was largely anti-slave, and the South remained largely pro-slave. Missouri was a territory that allowed slavery. It applied to be accepted as a state. Congress rejected this application because of the votes of Senators from Northern non-slave states. For the next two years, an argument raged in Congress. One group proposed a compromise where Missouri would be allowed to enter into the union as a slave state, but there would be a timetable to eliminate slavery in the future. This was rejected. Both the North and South were worried about adding new states, because the new Senators and Representatives for that state might tip the balance of power in the government. If this happened, one group might be able to permanently modify the Constitution to make slavery legal or illegal forever. The final compromise was this: Missouri would be allowed to enter as a slave state if Maine was also admitted as a free state. This would maintain the balance of power in the House and Senate. Furthermore, all future states north of latitude 36/30' N were to be admitted as Free states, while Southern states would be admitted as Slave states. The hope was that if equal numbers of Northern free and Southern slave states joined the Union in the future, then the balance of power would continue to be maintained. That deal was the Missouri Compromise. It was a bad bargain that was still the best deal possible. It would keep the peace for the next several decades.

Monroe's other contributions were somewhat minor. He blocked legislation to provide federal funding for a road leading westward. He did this because he believed that such projects should be funded by states. He also ordered Andrew Jackson (the hero of New Orleans in the War of 1812,) to fight Seminole Indians in the state of Georgia. In the process, Jackson crossed over the Florida border into Spanish Territory. This was pretty much an illegal action, but it was so popularly supported that neither General Jackson nor President Monroe experienced negative effects. In a way, America had crossed an important line. America was so certain that its destiny lay in the west that it was willing and even happy to break treaties and laws in order to claim land. Because of this certainty that the USA should conquer North America and be a leader among republics, Monroe issued the eponymous Monroe Doctrine. By the 1820's, most of Central and South Americas were in the grip of revolt as new nations emerged after throwing off colonial rule. With the agreement of Britain, Monroe announced that the United States would not interfere in European wars, essentially creating a policy of isolation. At the same time, though, he assured the world that any interference in the affairs of any nation anywhere on the American continents would be interpreted as an act of war. To this day, the Monroe Doctrine remains as a feature of American Policy.

When Monroe left office, he was replaced by the last of the Democrat-Republicans, the famed diplomat and congressman John Quincy Adams. He was also the son of the second president and a strong abolitionist. Unfortunately, his anti-slavery views and the diminished power of the Democrat-Republican party meant that this wise man would be opposed at almost every turn by enemies in Congress. He would accomplish little of note during his single turn. With the end of the Quincy Adams Presidency, the First Party System came to an end. The days of the Federalists and Jeffersonians were over, and our nation was no longer young. A whole new era was about to begin.

Answer the following questions using SARs format.

1. Explain Madison's political background and beliefs.

2. Describe the Marbury vs. Madison case, and explain its importance.

3. Explain the causes and effects of the War of 1812.

4. Explain Madison's opinions about the U.S. National Bank.

5. Explain the causes and effects of the Missouri Compromise.

6. Explain the purpose of the Monroe Doctrine.