

**CHAPTER 6 Section 2** (pages 190–196)

# Foreign Affairs Trouble the Nation

## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you learned how Washington and Congress set up the new government.

In this section, you will learn how the United States dealt with foreign affairs.

## AS YOU READ

Use this chart to take notes about foreign-affairs issues the United States faced with each country shown in the chart.

### TERMS AND NAMES

- neutrality** To support neither side
- Edmond Genêt** French diplomat who tried to get American support against the British
- Thomas Pinckney** Negotiated treaty with Spain over Spanish lands east of the Mississippi River
- Little Turtle** Native American leader who led Native American confederacy against Americans in the Battle of Fallen Timbers
- John Jay** Negotiated a treaty with Britain over territory
- sectionalism** Practice of placing the interests of one region over those of the nation as a whole
- XYZ Affair** American anger over bribes demanded by French diplomats
- Alien and Sedition Acts** Laws that made it harder to become a citizen and created harsh punishments for people who criticize the government
- nullification** The idea that states had the right to nullify or void any law they deemed unconstitutional

FRANCE	GREAT BRITAIN	SPAIN
<i>President Washington issues a declaration of neutrality.</i>		

## U.S. Response to Events in Europe (pages 190–192)

### What were America's earliest foreign policy problems?

In 1789, the French overthrew their monarchy. Then the French went to war against Britain. The United States had a treaty with France. Democratic-Republicans wanted to honor the treaty and support France. Federalists wanted to back the British. Washington decided on **neutrality**—which is to

support neither side.

In April 1793, the French sent a diplomat, **Edmond Genêt**, to the United States to win American support. Genêt, however, did not present himself to President Washington. Instead, he tried to get Americans to help the French against Great Britain. Washington was outraged that the French did not respect his country's neutrality.

Meanwhile, the United States and Spain worked to negotiate an agreement over lands west of the Appalachian Mountains. In 1795, U.S.

Ambassador **Thomas Pinckney** negotiated a treaty with Spain. Under the agreement, known as Pinckney's Treaty, Spain gave up its claims to the land east of the Mississippi River. Spain also agreed to open the Mississippi River to American traffic. This treaty paved the way for American expansion west of the Appalachian Mountains.

### 1. Why was Pinckney's Treaty favorable for the United States?

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## Native Americans Resist White Settlers (pages 192–194)

### *How did U.S. expansion affect Native Americans?*

Even before Pinckney's Treaty in 1795, Americans had been moving west of the Appalachians in search of new lands to settle. One region many Americans streamed into was the Northwest Territory. This area included Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

American settlers encountered much trouble in this land, however. First, despite losing the Revolutionary War, the British still maintained forts in the area. In addition, numerous Native Americans inhabited the region.

As American settlers moved in, Native Americans there grew angry. Conflicts eventually broke out between the Native Americans and the white settlers. One *notable* clash occurred in 1790. Under the leadership of **Little Turtle**, a chieftain of the Miami Tribe, Native Americans defeated American troops as they fought for control of what would become Ohio. In 1794, the American general defeated Native Americans at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. This defeat ended Native American *resistance* in Ohio.

That same year, U.S. diplomat **John Jay** negotiated a treaty with Britain. Under the Jay Treaty, the British agreed to give up their forts in the Northwest Territory. Still, the British continued to bother American ships in the Caribbean. Thus, the treaty did not resolve this problem of British *harassment*.

### 2. Why did American expansion make Native Americans angry?

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## Adams Provokes Criticism

(pages 194–196)

### *What were the Alien and Sedition Acts?*

George Washington retired from the presidency after two terms. In a close election, Federalist John Adams was elected president in 1796. Back then, the second-place finisher became vice-president. In this case, it was Thomas Jefferson, a Democratic-Republican.

The election highlighted the dangers of **sectionalism**—placing the interests of one region over those of the nation as a whole. Almost all the electors from Southern states voted for Jefferson. Nearly all the electors from Northern states voted for Adams.

Shortly after the election, America faced yet another foreign affairs crisis. France had begun to interfere with American shipping. During negotiations to *resolve* the matter, three French officials demanded *bribes* from the Americans in order to help them. This incident became known as the **XYZ Affair**. Some Americans felt insulted and called for war against France. But Adams settled the matter through *diplomacy*.

Republicans cheered Adams's handling of the XYZ Affair. However, they criticized him on numerous other issues. As a result, Adams and his party considered Republicans a threat to the nation. The Federalists also viewed immigrants as a threat because many of them were active in the Republican Party.

Acting on their fears, the Federalists pushed through Congress the **Alien and Sedition Acts** of 1798. These acts made it harder for immigrants to become American citizens. The acts also handed out harsh punishments for people who criticized the government.

Democratic-Republicans loudly criticized the law. Two states, Kentucky and Virginia, passed resolutions refusing to obey the acts. They claimed to be acting on the principle of **nullification**. Under this principle, states could refuse to obey federal laws that they thought were unconstitutional.

### 3. Why might some states feel justified in refusing to obey the Alien and Sedition Acts?

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