

The Louisiana Purchase



- ▶ Americans began moving west before the American Revolution but most people during the 1790's lived along the Atlantic Coast.
- ▶ “The West” was considered the area west of the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River.
- ▶ In the early 1800's, settlers began moving west of the Mississippi looking for land and opportunity.

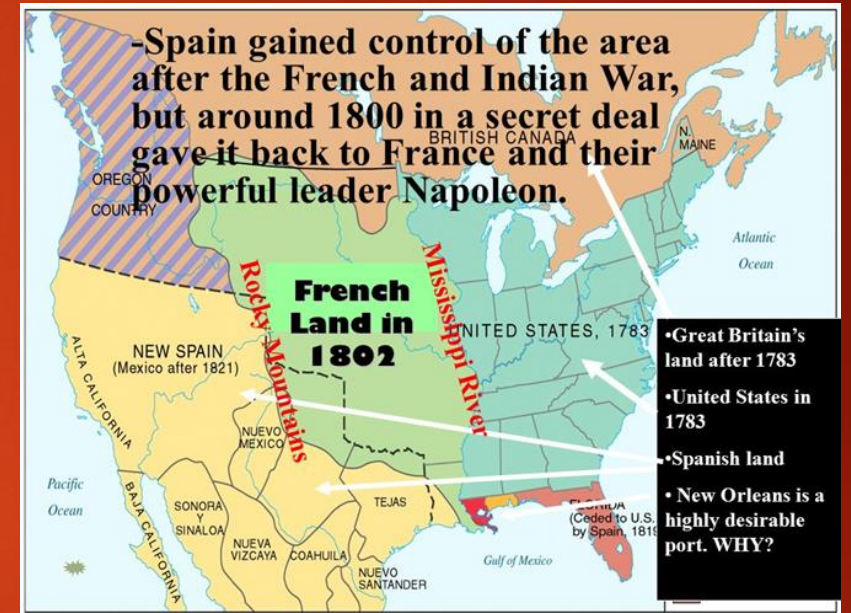




- ▶ Spain controlled the lower Mississippi & the port of New Orleans.
- ▶ Spanish control of the river and port sometimes caused problems for Americans that used the river to ship goods for trade.

The Louisiana Territory

- ▶ The land from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains was called the Louisiana Territory.
- ▶ This area had changed hands between France & Spain several times in the previous 100 years.
- ▶ In 1800 Spain ceded (granted) the land to France.
- ▶ When Jefferson found out, he worried that the new French dictator, Napoleon Bonaparte, who planned to conquer Europe, would attempt to build an empire in North America.
- ▶ He also worried that French control of the river and port would interfere with American trade & travel.





- ▶ Jefferson sent Robert Livingston, the ambassador to France, to offer to buy New Orleans and West Florida from Napoleon. James Monroe went along to negotiate the purchase.
- ▶ The House of Representatives authorized \$2 million dollars for the purchase but Jefferson told Monroe he could spend up to \$10 million.

A Caribbean Revolution

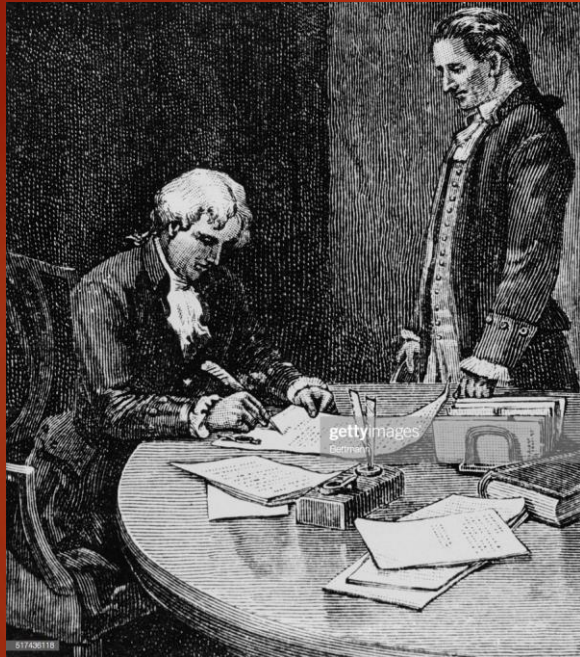
- ▶ During negotiations for the territory, a revolution in the Caribbean French colony of Saint Domingue began. This was a distraction for France from the negotiations.
- ▶ Napoleon sent an army to recapture and hold it.
- ▶ Later, England & France were at war again, Napoleon needed his army so he removed the from the Caribbean.
- ▶ The rebels took over again, regained their freedom from the French & set up the republic of Haiti.



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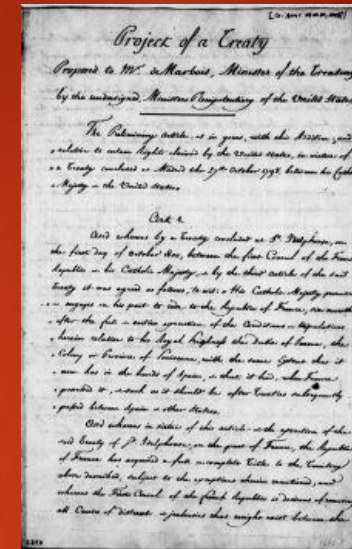
- ▶ The rebellion in the Caribbean & his war with England were a drain on Napoleons finances, his army, and on his desire to set up an empire in North America.
- ▶ Napoleon needed money. He also didn't want to see Britain get the land in North America so he ordered his foreign minister to ask Livingston how much the U.S. would pay for all of the territory, not just New Orleans & West Florida.
- ▶ Livingston and Monroe had only been authorized to by West Florida & New Orleans but Napoleon offered to sell the entire territory for \$15 million.

Controversy Over the Purchase



- ▶ Jefferson found himself in a difficult situation. The Constitution did not give the federal government the power to purchase territory from an other country. Jefferson believed in strictly following the Constitution.
- ▶ On the other hand, owning the land would not only expand the country but would end the problems with using the Mississippi River.
- ▶ Jefferson ended up using the Presidential power to make treaties and sent a treaty for the land to be approved in the senate.

- ▶ The Federalists opposed the purchase
fearing it would increase the power of
the southern states and add more
slavery to the U.S.
- ▶ They also did not support the cost of the purchase.
- ▶ Most Americans however liked the idea of so much new, open land.
- ▶ The Senate approved the treaty and
the United States nearly doubled in
size.



The Lewis & Clark Expedition



- ▶ Jefferson organized an expedition to explore and map the new land.
- ▶ He appointed Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead the expedition.

- ▶ At the end of Jefferson's first term as President, the U.S. was prosperous, at peace, and had just doubled its size because of the Louisiana Purchase.
- ▶ Jefferson easily won re-election in the election of 1804.
- ▶ His new Vice President was George Clinton

Election of 1804

Hamilton & Burr



- ▶ In 1804 Aaron Burr left the Democratic Republican party and ran for governor of New York.
- ▶ Alexander Hamilton campaigned against Burr and attacked his character, integrity, and moral values. Hamilton continued to speak badly about Burr publically even after Burr lost the election.
- ▶ Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel (gunfight).
- ▶ Hamilton agreed.
- ▶ In July of 1804, the two faced off. Burr shot Hamilton who died the next day from his injuries.