**Abdelhafid Boussouf Mila University**

**Level: Third Year**

**Module: Etude de Textes de Civilisation**

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**Chapitre 3 : Early Years, Westward Expansion, and Regional Differences**

George Washington was sworn in as the fi rst president of the United States on April 30, 1789. He had been in charge of organizing an effective military force during the Revolution. Now he was in charge of building a functioning government.

He worked with Congress to create departments of State, Treasury, Justice, and War. The heads of those departments would serve as presidential advisors, his cabinet. A Supreme

Court composed of one chief justice and fi ve associate justices was established, together with three circuit courts and 13 district courts. Policies were developed for administering the western territories and bringing them into the Union as new states. Washington served two four-year terms and then left office, setting a precedent that eventually became law. The next two presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, represented two schools of thought on the role of government. This divergence led to the formation of the first political parties in the Western world. **The Federalists, led by Adams and Alexander Hamilto**n, Washington’s secretary of the Treasury, generally represented trade and manufacturing interests. They feared anarchy and believed in a strong central government that could set national

economic policies and maintain order. They had the most support in the North. **Republicans, led by Jefferson,** generally represented agricultural interests. They opposed a strong central government and believed in states’ rights and the self suffi ciency of farmers. They had the most support in the South.

By the time the War of 1812 ended, many of the serious difficulties faced by the new American republic had disappeared. National union under the Constitution brought

a balance between liberty and order. A low national debt and a continent awaiting exploration presented the prospect of peace, prosperity, and social progress. The most signifi cant

event in foreign policy was a pronouncement by President James Monroe expressing U.S. solidarity with the newly independent nations of Central and South America. T**he Monroe Doctrine** warn**ed against any further attempts by Europe to colonize Latin Americ**a. Many of the new nations, in turn, expressed their political affi nity with the United States bybasing their constitutions on the North American model.

The United States doubled in size with the purchase o**f the**

**Louisiana Territory from France in 1803 and Florida from Spain**

**in 1819.** From 1816 to 1821, six new states were created. Between 1812 and 1852, the population tripled. The young nation’s size and diversity defi ed easy generalization. It also invited contradiction. The United States was a country of both civilized cities built on commerce and industry, and primitive frontiers where the rule of law was often ignored. It was a society that loved freedom but permitted slavery. The Constitution held all these

different parts together. The strains, however, were growing.