

Washington

&

Jefferson

How have Washington and Jefferson's presidencies impacted the presidential office?

I) George Washington (1789 - 1797)

A) The two terms limit

- Washington introduced the **two terms limit** which was respected by all the presidents till F. D. Delano
- Now it is written in the Constitution (**22nd Amendment**)

B) The President, guardian of the Constitution

- Washington ensured the balance of power and helped develop the system of **checks and balances**.

C) The establishment of the Presidential Cabinet

- Washington appointed **secretaries** to head **key departments** (Alexander Hamilton at the Treasury Department)
- This way he created a strong institutional structure for the federal government.

D) American isolationism

- Washington's set a precedent for the government to practice **isolationism** as its main foreign policy for over a hundred years when he decided to stay neutral during the French Revolution.

II) Thomas Jefferson (1801 - 1809)

A) America's westward expansion

- The **Louisiana purchase** widened the interpretation of presidential power in acquiring territories and conducting foreign policy.

B) The enlargement of central government

- Jefferson claimed that he wanted to reduce the central government but he enlarged it more than Washington or Adams ever did. (**The embargo** + the Louisiana purchase)

C) The emergence of political parties

- **The Democratic-Republicans** (leader : Thomas Jefferson / South)
 - States' rights
 - Strict interpretation of the Constitution
 - Support an economy based on agriculture
- **The Federalists** (leader : Alexander Hamilton / North)
 - Strong central government
 - Loose interpretation of the Constitution,
 - Support an economy based on manufacturing, commerce, finance, and overseas trade.