

# Washington & Jefferson



## I) GEORGE WASHINGTON

### **A) Establishment of the presidential function according to the Constitution**

- Hero of the war of independence
- Elected in 1789 by the Electoral College
- He defined his role as “preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States ”
- He created many presidential traditions which still offer today
- He appointed the first justices to the United States Supreme Court and respected the independence of the judicial branch
- First ideal president, refused a third mandate

### **B) Affirmation of the executive power**

- Washington created the President's Cabinet by appointing key advisors to assist him in making decisions and managing government affairs shortly after his inauguration in 1789
- The institution of the Presidential Cabinet still exists today even if it is not established in the Constitution
- Washington was the supreme head of the executive branch, and the Cabinet served to exemplify this executive unity under his leadership
- He had a vision of a strong Federal state
- Farewell Address

## II) THOMAS JEFFERSON

### **A) Jefferson's role as Vice President and drafter of the Declaration of Independence**

- Vice Presidency under Washington: Jefferson served as Vice President under George Washington, but their differing political ideologies caused tensions.
- Authorship of Declaration of Independence: Jefferson's drafting of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 established him as a designer of liberty and democracy, showcasing his ideology

### **B) Jefferson's constitutional interpretation and practical application as President**

- Strict Constructionism: Jefferson advocated for a strict interpretation of the Constitution, limiting federal power to delegated authorities explicitly stated in the document.
- Enlightenment Influence: Influenced by Enlightenment philosophy, Jefferson believed in decentralized governance and states' rights, drawing inspiration from thinkers like John Locke and Montesquieu.