

Marbury v. Madison:

Marbury v. Madison was a court case that took place in the **early 1800s** between **William Marbury** and **James Madison**. On his last day in office, **President John Adams** appointed many judges (“**the midnight judges**”) including the **Federalist Marbury** as **Justice of the Peace** in the **District of Columbia**. Marbury’s **commission had never been granted** however, and the new **Secretary of State** (James Madison) **refused to release the commission**. Marbury wanted a **writ of mandamus** that would force them to make the delivery. **Chief Justice John Marshall** eventually decided that the **Judiciary Act** (which allowed for such a writ to be issued) was **unconstitutional** and Marbury thus did not get his writ. Furthermore, both **Federalists and Antifederalists were happy with the result** of the court case. **Federalists** were glad that **Marbury did not get his writ**, while **Antifederalists** were pleased with the **implementation of judicial review** since it made sure Congress did not have too much power. **This court case is important because it was the first time that an act of Congress was seen as unconstitutional. This event set a precedent for similar events and gave the courts the power of judicial review.**

John Marshall:

John Marshall was a **Chief Justice** in the Supreme Court in the **early 1800s**. Marshall, before being on the Supreme Court, had been merely the **son of a farmer** in **Virginia**. His service in the **Continental Army** made him feel like part of the **Union** as a whole instead of one particular state. Marshall was the Chief Justice during multiple cases that shaped American history. In **Marbury v. Madison** for instance, he found an **act of Congress unconstitutional**. He paved the way for **judicial review** and tended to have a relatively **loose interpretation** of the Constitution (since he was **Federalist**). He helped shape the **Supreme Court** as it is today through his rulings. He helped define **the rights of the people, states, and federal government** within the young nation. **John Marshall is important because he was the first member of the Supreme Court to declare a law unconstitutional (which led to judicial review). He set a precedent for events occurring later on in the century.**

Impressment:

After the **Treaty of Amiens collapsed** in the **early 1800s**, **France and England** began fighting while **America** remained neutral. **Americans ships were seized** and **British sailors** who abandoned the Royal Navy were **taken back**. Sailors had been deserters because they were **paid less and British ships were brutal**. Impressed sailors were continually **escaping and being recaptured**. Many deserters had even become **American citizens**, but if they were born British they were still considered Britons. Sometimes **American-born citizens** were taken as well. The **Chesapeake Affair**, where the British ship called the **Leopard seized the American ship called the Chesapeake** right near the **coast**. The practice died down after the **British defeated Napoleon in the Battle of Trafalgar** and no longer needed the manpower of impressed sailors. **Impressment is important because it created conflicts between America and Britain, ultimately leading to the War of 1812. This also somewhat led to the formation of the Embargo and Non-Intercourse Acts.**

Missouri Compromise:

The Missouri Compromise came to be in the **early 1800s**. At this time, **Missouri** was entering (or trying to) as a **slave state to the Union**. **James Tallmadge, Jr.** wanted an amendment that **prohibited more slaves from entering Missouri** and gave slave offspring **freedom at age 25**. The **south** did not support it, but the **north** did. A **compromise was made** between **northern Federalists and southern Republicans**. **The Missouri Compromise allowed Missouri to become a slave state as long as Maine** (which also was applying for statehood) **became a free state**. **Slavery was also prohibited north of 36°30'** which meant **that the Northwest Territory was free of slaves**. This compromise almost fell apart after Missouri declared that free blacks were not allowed in the state. Missouri was stopped from becoming a state until **Henry Clay** came up with a resolution. Missouri couldn't discriminate against other states' citizens but had control over its own people. **The Missouri Compromise is important because it declared that the Northwest Territory would lead to free states. It also showed that Congress could allow or prohibit slavery, which would be an issue in the future.**

Monroe Doctrine:

The Monroe Doctrine was **President James Monroe's** message to **Congress in Washington D.C.** (but **written mostly by John Quincy Adams**) in the **early 1800s**. The Doctrine was written after **Britain** proposed that it and **America** made a **statement that opposed interference** (like that of the Holy Alliance) in **South America** and that **neither would annex any part of Spain's old empire**. Adams wanted the United States, however, to **issue a separate statement** from Britain. The message stated that **America would stay out of European wars unless it involved their interests, "American continents" were not for the colonization of European powers, and any attempt at American colonization would be seen as an "unfriendly act."** The Doctrine itself didn't have a huge effect (the British navy did). **Monroe's Doctrine is important because America promised to stay out of European affairs, including revolutions and wars. It also claimed America's position in the New World.**