

Eagles Cry (historical novel 1800-1804) by David Nevin (2000)

This begins at the death George Washington and the birth of the two political party system we have. The Federalist (led by Alexander Hamilton) wanted the rich to control government; and the Democrats (led by Jefferson & Madison) wanted the common man to control government. The infant government was broke from the revolutionary war and was struggling to stand on their own two feet. In 1800 the presidency went to the man with the highest number of electoral votes, the vice presidency to the runner up.

Aaron Burr was a self-seeking man who the Federalist helped create a tie so they could manipulate him in office. And because of it, Jefferson felt he could not be trusted and gave him no power. James Madison became Jefferson's right-hand man. Jefferson was a widower and so asked Dolly Madison to be the hostess of the new White House.

Napoleon wanted world power and he was getting it. Each country he would take over he would use their wealth to further propel his army. Britain was in his way. Both nations would take US merchant ships for their own good. 25,000 French troops invaded Haiti and were going to use it to launch their invasion on New Orleans (controlled by the Spanish). But the recently freed blacks on the island & yellow fever had destroyed 80% of Napoleon's men.

Madison & the US ambassador to France slowly & cleverly got Napoleon to realize it was in his best interest to sell Louisiana to the US. Jefferson sends out Meriwether Lewis to find a water passage across the continent. Judge Andrew Jackson is commander of the western militia and is as wild as the mythical frontier legends.

A horse responds more to the iron (courage) of the rider than the size or strength. High levels of any calling demand force of character. It was not for Thomas Jefferson to relinquish authority of the Lewis & Clark expedition; it was for Lewis to take command of it. If Napoleon took control of New Orleans our democracy would have had little chance of success. You can't reach for the heights without wanting the heights with all of your soul. If you don't know what you want you send signals that tells others.

Quotes: "Trust the honest heart of the common man." (Thomas Jefferson)

Books: 1812 (David Nevin)