

April 22-23, 1778

American naval raid on Whitehaven, England

John Paul Jones leads a detachment from the U.S.S. Ranger, setting 3 ships on fire while also spiking the guns of two forts protecting the port.

April 15, 1783

Congress ratifies the preliminary peace treaty signed in November 1782.

April 19, 1783

Washington informs his troops that hostilities have ended.

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743, was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and later served as the third President of the United States from 1801 to 1809. A proponent of democracy, republicanism, and individual rights motivating American colonists to break from Great Britain and form a new nation, Jefferson, who thought the national government should have a limited role in citizens' lives, . During his two terms in office the U.S. purchased the Louisiana Territory and Lewis and Clark explored the vast new acquisition, reduced the national debt by a third. He also sent a naval squadron to fight the Barbary pirates and he signed the Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves in 1807.

Quotes

“We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”

“On matters of style, swim with the current, on matters of principle, stand like a rock.”

“The man who reads nothing at all is better educated than the man who reads nothing but newspapers.”

“I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.”