



# Alexander Hamilton's French alliance

by Anton Chaitkin

The alliance between the Americans and the French, in the American Revolutionary War, represented the commitment of statesmen in both countries to political freedom and national development as Colbert had fought for in France in the 17th century. At the close of the war, the alliance became identified, within the U.S.A., with the premier American "Colbertist," Alexander Hamilton. We will sketch here the birth and temporary death of the alliance. In a succeeding article, we will describe the resurrection of the alliance and its successful use by America's military and scientific leaders to begin to turn this country into the world's greatest power.

The French statesman, Etienne François de Choiseul (1719-85), was committed to breaking the power of the British-centered international financial oligarchs over world affairs. He banned the pro-oligarchical Jesuit order from France in 1762, as had been done in Portugal three years earlier by the bold prime minister, the Marquis de Pombal.

In 1767, British Chancellor of the Exchequer Charles Townshend, officially advised by economist Adam Smith, tried to solve growing British deficits by imposing new taxes on the Americans. The Duc de Choiseul, now France's minister of war, watched with fascination as the angry Americans protested against these "Townshend Acts."

In 1768, Choiseul sent a veteran, German-born French officer, Johann de Kalb, to Britain's American colonies as a spy. De Kalb's instructions were to look into the possibility of an American revolt against Britain. Basing himself in Ben Franklin's Philadelphia, de Kalb established a network of agents throughout the colonies.

The following year, Choiseul reported to King Louis XV that the bankruptcy of the British world financial system would produce a revolutionary upheaval in America, and the French could then break Britain's power.

## Allies to win independence

When that revolution came a decade later, Johann de Kalb went to America as the mentor and guide of the young Marquis de Lafayette; General de Kalb died of 11 wounds suffered at Camden, South Carolina.

American and French arms, combined under the diplomatic and political management of Benjamin Franklin, pre-

vailed against the British, and the United States won independence. It is in the period following the Revolutionary War that Alexander Hamilton emerged as the American leader of that alliance, holding with his friend the Marquis de Lafayette a clear vision of the universal republican future of mankind.

Immediately after the British withdrawal from New York City in 1783, the French consul to New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey, Jean Crèvecoeur, set up his office. Alexander Hamilton secured a charter for his Bank of New York early in 1784, and Crèvecoeur established his consular post in the office of the Bank's cashier, William Seton.

Hamilton sent cashier Seton to Philadelphia to learn how to run a bank from Robert Morris at the Bank of North America, and Seton was, simultaneously, the deputy Consul of France for his longtime confidant, Jean Crèvecoeur!

During the 1790s, Treasury Secretary Hamilton would quietly use Seton, at the Bank of New York, for transactions in the bond market, to counter Wall Street speculators who were trying to destroy the value of government securities.

It was to Seton that Crèvecoeur had addressed his colonial-period *Letters from an American Farmer*, made into a famous descriptive book virtually recruiting Europeans to immigrate to free and prosperous America. Both the French Crèvecoeur and Scot Seton had stayed behind British lines during the war, likely in the service of American intelligence. Crèvecoeur had then been made consul by French Foreign Minister Vergennes, the leader of his government's "American party." Crèvecoeur's mission was to advance the commercial, technological, and scientific interests of the two allied developing nations, in the face of opposition to that development from the imperial oligarchic center, London.

Within a week of the British withdrawal from New York, Crèvecoeur reported to the American Congress the establishment of a line of packet boats from New York to Le Havre, intended to open a new era of bilateral trade. Thomas Jefferson, who had replaced Benjamin Franklin as U.S. ambassador to France, reportedly helped on the French end with the arrangements for this shipping line.

Crèvecoeur, coordinating with Franklin, Vergennes, and republican economist Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours, sought to establish a French Office of Information, to cen-

tralize technological exchange between France and the United States. Franklin and du Pont were particularly interested in changing the British-centered nomenclature and systems of measurement for a non-imperial new trading system. Crèvecoeur visited U.S. scientific societies, seeking an interchange of ideas with the European continent that would, unfortunately, be blocked by disaster until a generation later.

### **Financing for developing nations**

The lobbying and investment activities of Consul Crèvecoeur gave French government backing to the development of the Ohio territory. American expansion into Ohio and the unsettled areas of the eastern states was a great project of the veteran Revolutionary War generals, organized in the Society of the Cincinnati, and of the Franklin party in Philadelphia, led by Robert Morris and James Wilson.

The allies were determined to take the west, despite continued, illegal British occupation of frontier forts, and sponsorship of Indians' terrorism. *Marietta*, Ohio, the capital of the Northwest Territory, was named in 1788 for France's Queen Marie Antoinette. The following year, the city of *Cincinnati*, named for the Society, was founded in *Hamilton* County, Ohio.

Western frontier settlement was the fulcrum of efforts by Hamilton and Robert Morris to develop an international banking system for economic growth, not imperial looting. Robert Morris sent Gouverneur Morris, his former assistant at the Bank of North America, to Europe as his agent. The Morris and Hamilton sought to arrange an American-based corporation that would buy the U.S. war debt from France, and make new investments in American government projects, with financing from the sale of frontier land.

This investment plan, plus the assumption by the new central U.S. government of all the states' war debts, an initial suspension of payment of the debt until the United States could arrange its finances to assure its sovereignty, and a national bank modeled on Robert Morris's Bank of North America, constituted the founding financial strategy of the U.S.A. Hamilton wrote to Lafayette on Oct. 6, 1789, "You will . . . have heard . . . that I have been appointed to the head of the Finances of this Country. . . . I venture to say to you, as my friend, that if the installments of the Principal of the [American] debt could be suspended for a few years, it would be a valuable accommodation to the United States. . . ."

### **The alliance is suspended**

The Vergennes-Lafayette party in France had urged the Americans on to the adoption of our new strong central government in 1788, and were using American success to press for constitutional reforms in France. But Anglo-Swiss oligarchists fought the new republican era with every tactic and every mole at their disposal.

The Swiss Albert Gallatin suddenly emerged into public

view that year, leading the fight against the ratification of the Constitution in Pennsylvania, together with Tories, spies, and dupes in other states. A machine for the dirty operations of riots and terrorism was simultaneously put in place in France, supervised by the director of British Secret Intelligence, the Marquess of Lansdowne, known more widely as Lord Shelburne.

One of Lansdowne-Shelburne's official secret agents, Benjamin Vaughan, wrote a fateful letter to the American ambassador to France, Thomas Jefferson, on June 6, 1788. It was a letter of introduction for Professor Dugald Stewart, whose rank in British imperial affairs would be the equivalent in today's world of, say, a Soviet Politburo member who was also a KGB General.

Vaughan's recommendation to Jefferson said that "when Dr. Adam Ferguson accompanied the commission of peace to America as its secretary, Mr. Stewart was suddenly requested to lecture to his class in Moral Philosophy." The "commission" to which Vaughan here openly refers, was a group of royal "peace" agents, controlled by Stewart's intimate friend Ferguson, which went to America during the Revolution to try to split the Colonials apart politically; they were unceremoniously ejected from the country by General Washington and the Congress.

Jefferson thus knew the political character of the man with whom he was dealing, but he admired the sort of "Maoist" radical-agrarian philosophy taught by Dr. Stewart. Thirty years later, March 3, 1820, Jefferson wrote to John Adams, "It was after you left Europe that Dugald Stewart, concerning whom you inquire, and Lord Dare, the second son of the Marquis of Lansdowne, came to Paris. . . . I became immediately intimate with Stewart, calling mutually on each other and almost daily, during their stay at Paris, which was of some months."

As usual with people in his business, all incriminating papers of Dugald Stewart were destroyed by his son after his death—"in a fit of madness, induced by the hot sun in India"—thus leaving a very skimpy biography. Some letters were preserved, that could give a purely "literary" character to the man as a cover story. Stewart coordinated his continental mission with his intimate colleague from the British Intelligence Service, Professor Pierre Prevost of Geneva University. This Prevost was the translator of British imperial economists Adam Smith and (later) Thomas Malthus. Prevost's Swiss relatives swarmed through the British service: one recruited Aaron Burr as a British spy; another started the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in America; still another taught young Albert Gallatin radically anti-Christian concepts of history and politics.

It was an intense tutelage of Jefferson by this revolutionary Dr. Stewart which had a profound impact on Jefferson's life and beliefs. This recruitment of America's ambassador was an important part of British efforts to destroy the French-American challenge. Paid agents of Britain and of Lord Shel-

burne's freemasonic soulmate the Duc d'Orléans, went on to murder "the aristocracy" and "the oppressors." These victims included Antoine Lavoisier, who discovered oxygen, who taught du Pont about explosives, and who was a key Franklin agent in winning French financing for the American Revolution. Many other scientists, republican fighters, and American allies, were guillotined or murdered in the streets. Lafayette fled into exile, and was imprisoned by Hapsburg Austria.

First the British-French Free Trade (Eden) treaty of 1786, then the Khomeini-style destruction of France beginning in 1789, ended the chance for an American-French commercial alliance. America, and its Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, were forced to seek expanded trade with Britain.

This is what Jefferson, *in his old age*, himself said about the French Revolution. He was writing on Feb. 14, 1815, to Lafayette, about the British fifth column in New England which, under cover of "Federalism," was preaching Northern secession at the Hartford Convention:

"The foreigner gained time to anarchise by gold the government he could not overthrow by arms, to crush in their own councils the genuine republicans, by the fraternal embraces of exaggerated and hired pretenders. . . . The British have hoped for more in their Hartford Convention. Their fears of republican France now being done away, they are

directed to republican America, and they are playing the same game for disorganization here which they played in your country. The Marats, the Dantons, and Robespierres of Massachusetts are in the same pay, under the same orders, and making the same efforts to anarchise us, that their prototypes in France did there."

### Jacobins in America

But back in 1789, Jefferson had sided with the Jacobins. He returned to the United States that year to join President Washington's cabinet as Secretary of State. Nevertheless, Jefferson started a political movement of protest against the administration, the "Democratic Societies," modeled on the Jacobins. Swiss oligarch Albert Gallatin became the economic theoretician of this movement.

The movement was developed in tandem with an opposition to itself, the "Federalist Party," centered in Boston. The "Jeffersonians" represented, not the republican movement in France, but the deluded mob attacks on it. The Federalist Party, reacting to Jefferson, attacked "French excesses" and urged alliance with England!

Thus the alliance so carefully built by Hamilton and Lafayette, came to near war between the United States and France—thanks to the subversive influence of the British, promoting both mobs and oligarchy on both sides.

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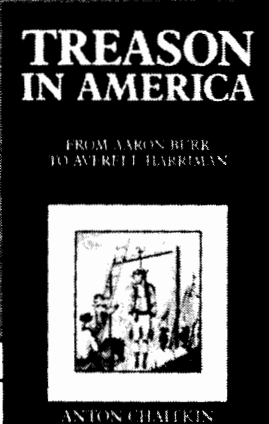
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