

# The Legacy of the Marshall Court (1801-1835)



Chief Justice John Marshall  
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## I. Major Goals of Marshall, who was appointed by Pres. Adams in 1801

- A. Increase the powers of the national government
- B. Diminish the powers of the states
- C. Perpetuate the Federalist principle of centralization.
- D. Property rights of individuals need to be protected from government interference

## II. Strengthening the National Government

### A. Cases expanding the authority of the Supreme Court

1. **Marbury v. Madison** (1803) gave the Court the power of judicial review. First overturning of a law (Judiciary Act of 1789).
2. **U.S. v. Peters** (1809) established the Court's right to coerce a state legislature
3. **Martin v. Hunter's Lessee** (1816) confirmed the Court's right to overrule a state court
4. **Cohens v. Virginia** (1821). States were no longer sovereign in all respects since they had ratified the Constitution. State courts must submit to federal jurisdiction.

## B. Cases expanding the powers of Congress

1. **McCullough v. Maryland** (1819) upheld the right of Congress to charter a national bank and be free from taxation by a state, thus putting into national law the doctrine of implied powers. Maryland's lawyers argued that Congress did not have the right to charter a national bank. "The power to tax involves the power to destroy," responded Marshall, upholding the bank's right to exist and be free from taxes.
2. **Gibbons v. Ogden** (1824) gave the national government undisputed control over interstate commerce by ruling invalid a steamboat monopoly chartered by New York state. This freed internal transportation from state restraint.

## III. Weakening the States

- A. **Fletcher v. Peck** (1810) established the principle that state laws were invalid when in conflict with the Constitution and that contracts must be upheld. A land grant given by the Georgia legislature to speculators was revoked by a later legislature. Marshall ruled for the speculators, giving federal protection to purchasers of state-owned lands.
- B. **Dartmouth College v. Woodward** (1819) -- By forbidding the state legislature to alter the college charter, Marshall established the principle that charters were contracts which could not be impaired.
- C. **Martin v. Mott** (1827) denied a state the right to withhold its militia from service.

## IV. Legacy of Marshall

- A. Established the primacy of federal government over states in exercising control of economy
- B. Opened the way for an increased federal role in promoting economic growth
- C. Affirmed protection for corporations and other private economic institutions from local governmental interference. This allowed for the growth of the new industrial capitalist economy.

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Feldmeth, Greg D. "The Legacy of the Marshall Court," *U.S. History Resources* <<http://www.polytechnic.org/faculty/gfeldmeth/lec.marshall.html> ( Revised 30 June 2004).