Formative Events in the Life of John Marshall
(Adapted from Center for Learning Materials, AP U.S. History, Lesson 14)

Listed below are nine important events in the life of John Marshall. Explain the significance of each factor in shaping his political philosophy.

1. John Marshall (1755-1835) served in the Revolutionary Army for four years and suffered through Valley Forge with George Washington whom he greatly admired.

2. John Marshall served in the Virginia legislature (1783-1789) when Virginia planters refused to pay their debts to English merchants.

3. During the period Marshall served in the Virginia legislature (1783-1789), Daniel Shays led his rebellion and the U.S. experienced a depression as well as disrespect from Europe.

4. The bloody tales of the French Revolution filtered across the Atlantic to America. Many Americans believed that the situation in France had become chaotic.

5. President Washington was attacked because of the Proclamation of Neutrality in 1793, his actions to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion, and his acceptance of the unpopular Jay Treaty.
6. John Marshall was sent to France in the late 1790s to try to stop French raids on American shipping. Talleyrand tried to bribe Marshall and the other American representatives. Marshall also saw Napoleon emerging from the chaos of the French Revolution.

7. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison wrote the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions which were debated during the period 1799-1800.


9. Thomas Jefferson, a Democratic-Republican, became president (1801), and the Democratic-Republicans took control of Congress.