

Situation 2: The Louisiana Purchase (use page 306-309)

In the 1800's, France still had control over the land west of the Mississippi River and wanted to expand their presence in North America. However, Napoleon Bonaparte, the leader of France, was getting himself into some trouble. He was winning battles all over Europe when his colony of Haiti began rebelling. Haiti began draining his energy, time and resources. Napoleon was worried his problems in Haiti could cause him to lose his strong position in Europe. President Jefferson thought so too and saw this as an opportunity to buy the city of New Orleans for \$10 million to gain control of the Mississippi River. Jefferson was hoping Napoleon would give up New Orleans easily considering all his other problems. Instead, Napoleon offered to sell not only New Orleans but all of the Louisiana territory for \$15 million. Jefferson was excited to hear this but he had a problem. Jefferson believed in a strict interpretation of the Constitution and the Constitution doesn't say anything about giving the President the power to buy land.

Did Jefferson buy the land?

yes

How did he justify it?

He said the Constitution implied it. He called this a treaty

Who were Lewis and Clark?

Explorers who explored the new land