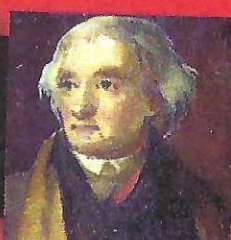
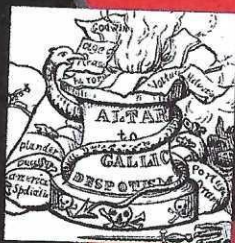


## networks

There's More Online!

- ✓ **CHARTS** Jefferson and Hamilton
- ✓ **GRAPHIC ORGANIZER** Role of Federal Government
- ✓ **PRIMARY SOURCE** Jefferson and the Constitution Political Cartoon
- ✓ **SLIDE SHOW** The Two-Party System



### Lesson 3

## The First Political Parties

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** How do governments change?

### IT MATTERS BECAUSE

Our nation's two-party political system developed from Americans taking opposing sides on political issues.

## Opposing Parties

**GUIDING QUESTION** How did different opinions lead to the first political parties?

The American people generally admired President Washington and his service to the nation. Still, harsh attacks appeared from time to time in newspapers. One paper even called Washington "the scourge and the misfortune of his country."

Most of the attacks on Washington came from supporters of Thomas Jefferson. They hoped to weaken support for the policies of Alexander Hamilton, which the president seemed to favor. In fact, by 1796, the supporters of Jefferson and Hamilton were beginning to form the nation's first political parties.

At that time, many Americans thought political parties were harmful to good government. The Constitution made no mention of parties because its authors saw no good use for them. Washington disapproved of political parties, or "factions" as they were known. He warned that they would divide the nation.

To others, though, it seemed natural that people would disagree about issues. They also knew that people who hold similar views tend to band together.

Washington's cabinet was clearly divided on key issues. Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson had very different views. They disagreed on economic policy and foreign relations.

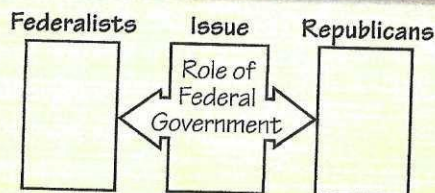
New York Academic Standards  
7.5c

Reading **HELPDESK** **CCSS**

### Taking Notes: Comparing and Contrasting

As you read, use a diagram like this one to compare and contrast the goals of the first two U.S. political parties.

256 The Federalist Era



### Content Vocabulary

- **partisan**
- **caucus**
- **alien**
- **sedition**
- **nullify**
- **states' rights**



They did not share the same opinion on the power of the federal government or on the meaning of the Constitution. Even Washington was **partisan** (PAHR•tuh•zuhn)—clearly favoring one faction. The president believed he stood above politics, but he usually supported Hamilton’s views.

## Political Parties Emerge

The differences found in Washington’s cabinet also existed in Congress and among the public. They formed the basis for two **distinct** political parties that emerged at this time.

One party was the Federalists. Led by Hamilton, this group favored a strong federal government. They believed the Constitution gave government “implied” powers. These implied powers are not enumerated, or listed clearly in the Constitution. Instead, Federalists believed the enumerated powers imply the power to do other things. Federalists believed Congress could make all laws “necessary and proper” to carry out its enumerated powers.

The Democratic-Republicans, or Republicans, stood against the Federalists. Jefferson and Madison led this faction. They believed in a strict reading of the Constitution. They rejected the Federalist idea of implied powers. They believed congressional powers were limited to what is absolutely necessary to carry out the enumerated powers.

Debate over the national bank highlighted these differences. The Constitution gave Congress specific powers to do such things as issue and borrow money. To Hamilton, this implied that the federal government could create a bank to help with these tasks. Jefferson disagreed.

## The Role of the People

The two parties also disagreed about the role of ordinary citizens in government. Federalists supported representative government, in which elected officials ruled in the people’s name. They did not believe it was wise to let the public become too involved in politics.

Federalists thought that educated, wealthier men should hold public office. They did not trust ordinary people to make good decisions. In Hamilton’s words, “The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right.”

## Thinking Like a HISTORIAN

### Analyzing Political Cartoons

Newspapers that supported Washington and Hamilton ridiculed Thomas Jefferson in print and in cartoons. In this cartoon, Jefferson is throwing the U.S. Constitution into a fire. The eagle is a symbol of the United States. What is the eagle trying to do in this cartoon? For more information about analyzing primary sources, read *Thinking Like a Historian*.

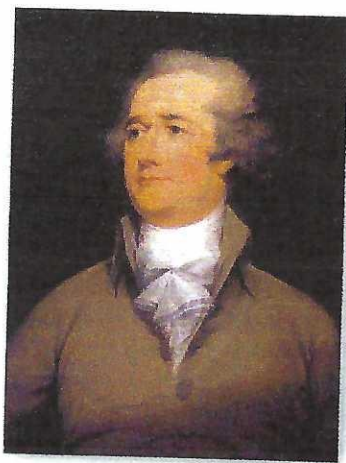


**partisan** firmly favoring one party or faction

### Academic Vocabulary

**distinct** clearly different from the others





Hamilton led the Federalist Party, which favored broad federal powers. They believed that wealthy, educated men should be elected to office and control the government.



Jefferson and the Republican Party wanted to limit federal powers and protect the powers of the states. They thought it was important for ordinary people to participate in government.

The Republicans feared a strong central government controlled by only a few people. They believed that democracy and liberty would be safe only if ordinary people took part fully in government. As Jefferson wrote in a letter, “I am not among those who fear the people. They, and not the rich, are our dependence [what we depend on] for continued freedom.”

### Washington’s Reaction

The growing differences between the parties—and between Hamilton and Jefferson—troubled President Washington. He tried to get his two cabinet members to work out their differences. He wrote to Jefferson, trying to persuade him: “I . . . ardently wish that some line could be marked out by which both of you could walk.”

Washington’s efforts to get Jefferson and Hamilton to work together failed. The split was so strong that Jefferson left the cabinet and his job as secretary of state. Soon afterward, Hamilton resigned as secretary of the treasury. The rival groups and their points of view moved further apart. As the election of 1796 approached, the two parties each prepared to seek control of the presidency.

### The Presidential Election of 1796

To prepare for the election, both parties held **caucuses** (KAW•kuhs•uhz). At these meetings, members of Congress and other leaders nominated, or chose, their parties’ candidates for office.

Each party chose two presidential candidates, and the electors voted for any two. The Federalists chose John Adams and Charles Pinckney. The Republicans chose Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. There was no candidate identified as a vice-presidential candidate on the ballot.

The Federalists carried the New England region. Republican strength lay in the Southern states. Adams got 71 electoral votes, winning the election. Jefferson finished second with 68 votes. Under the rules of the Constitution at that time, the person with the second-highest electoral vote total—Jefferson—became vice president. The administration that took office on March 4, 1797, had a Federalist president and a Republican vice president.

#### ✓ PROGRESS CHECK

**Contrasting** How did the election of 1796 differ from the first presidential elections?

#### Reading HELPDESK



**caucus** a meeting of members of a political party to choose candidates for upcoming elections

#### Reading Strategy: Identifying Points of View

Most quotations express a person’s point of view—what that person thinks or feels about a situation. Reread Hamilton’s and Jefferson’s quotations on the role of the people. Study the details. Try to restate the quotations in your own words. Then explain each person’s point of view.



# John Adams as President

**GUIDING QUESTION** *What important events occurred during the presidency of John Adams?*

John Adams spent most of his life in public service. He was well-known as one of Massachusetts's most active patriots in the period before and during the Revolutionary War. He served two terms as vice president under Washington before becoming president. His time in office, however, was troubled.

## The XYZ Affair

The nation was in the middle of a dispute with France when Adams took office. The French viewed the 1794 Jay's Treaty as an American attempt to help the British in their war with France. To punish the United States, the French seized American ships that carried cargo to Britain.

President Adams sent a team to Paris to try to **resolve** the dispute in the fall of 1797. French officials chose not to meet with the Americans. Instead, the French sent three agents, who demanded a bribe and a loan for France from the Americans. The Americans refused.

When Adams learned what had happened, he was furious. The president urged Congress to prepare for war. In his report to Congress, Adams used the letters X, Y, and Z in place of the French agents' names. As a result, the event came to be called the XYZ affair.

## Alien and Sedition Acts

When the public found out about the XYZ affair, many grew angry at foreign attempts to influence their government. They became more suspicious of **aliens**—residents who are not citizens. Many Europeans who had come to the United States in the 1790s supported the ideals of the French Revolution. Some Americans questioned whether these aliens would remain loyal if the United States went to war with France.

In response to these concerns, Federalists in 1798 passed the Alien and Sedition Acts. **Sedition** (sih•DIH•shuhn) means activities aimed at weakening the government. The Alien and Sedition Acts allowed the president to imprison aliens. The president could also deport—send out of the country—those thought to be dangerous. President Adams was a strong supporter of these laws.

## Connections to TODAY

### Modern Political Parties

Today's Democratic Party started as the Democratic-Republican Party, which Thomas Jefferson and James Madison helped create in the 1790s. The Federalists no longer exist. The modern Republican Party was founded in the 1850s during the antislavery movement. These two political parties—Democrats and Republicans—now dominate the political process, filling most offices across the country. You can use the Internet to learn about the Democratic and Republican Parties of today.

**alien** a person living in a country who is not a citizen of that country

**sedition** activities aimed at weakening the established government by inciting resistance or rebellion to authority

### Academic Vocabulary

**resolve** to find a solution; to settle a conflict



# THE ALIEN AND SEDITION ACTS

**Naturalization Act**  
Required that aliens be residents for 14 years instead of 5 years before they became eligible for U.S. citizenship

**Alien Acts**  
Allowed the president to imprison aliens and to send those he considered dangerous out of the country

**Sedition Act**  
Made it a crime to speak, write, or publish "false, scandalous, and malicious" criticisms of the government

**Why they were passed**  
The Federalist-controlled Congress wanted to:

- strengthen the federal government
- silence Republican opposition

Results	Reaction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discouraged immigration and led some foreigners already in the country to leave</li> <li>• Convicted 10 Republican newspaper editors who had criticized the Federalists in government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opposition to Federalist party grows</li> <li>• Led to movement to allow states to overturn federal laws</li> </ul>

## CHART SKILL

**1 COMPARING** How were the Naturalization and Alien Acts alike?

**2 SUMMARIZING** What were the goals of the Sedition, Alien, and Naturalization Acts?

**3 CRITICAL THINKING**  
*Determining Cause and Effect* What was one cause and one effect of the Sedition Act?

## Domestic and Foreign Affairs

Democratic-Republicans saw the Alien and Sedition Acts as Federalist tyranny. They looked to the states to respond and protect people's liberties. Madison and Jefferson wrote statements of protest that the Virginia and Kentucky legislatures passed as resolutions.

The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions of 1798 and 1799 claimed that the Alien and Sedition Acts violated the Constitution. They declared that the states should not put them into action. The Kentucky Resolution further said that states could **nullify** (NUH•luh•fy)—legally overturn—federal laws they thought were unconstitutional.

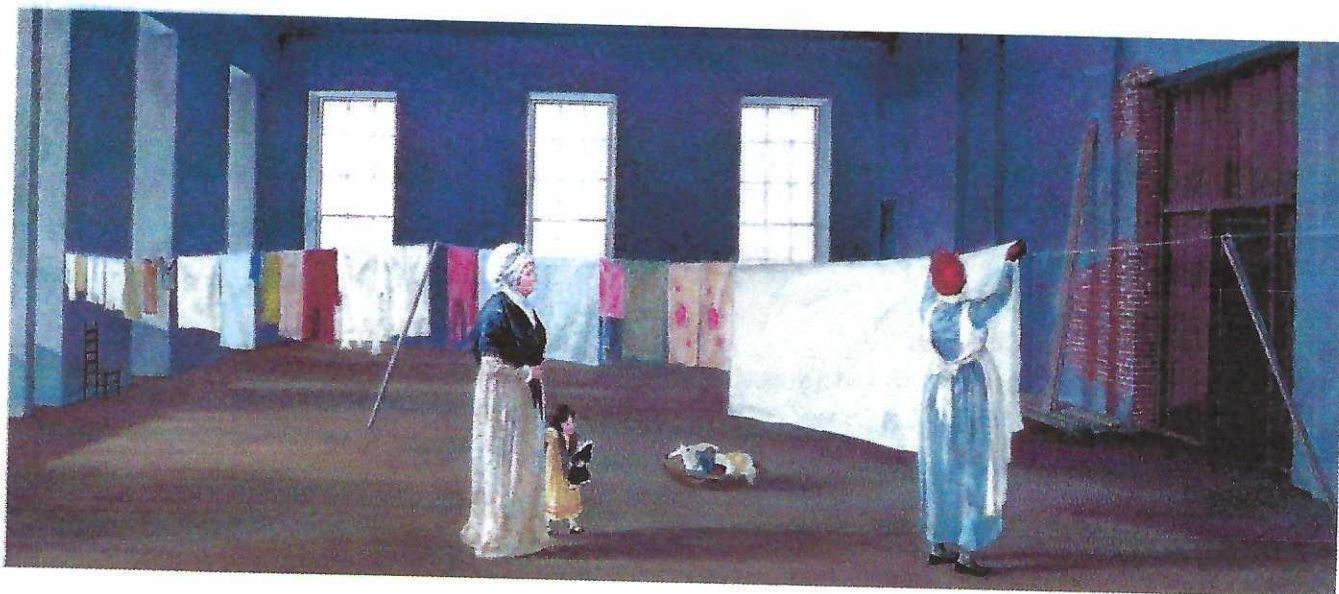
The resolutions supported the principle of **states' rights**. This principle held that the powers of the federal government were limited to those clearly granted by the Constitution. To

## Reading HELPDESK CCSS

**nullify** to legally overturn

**states' rights** the idea that states should have all powers that the Constitution does not give to the federal government or forbid to the states





Abigail Adams was the first First Lady to occupy the White House. She lived there while the building was still under construction. Adams found the unfinished East Room so large that she used it for hanging the family laundry.

prevent the federal government from becoming too powerful, the states should have all other powers not expressly forbidden to them. The issue of states' rights would remain an important issue in American politics for many years.

Meanwhile, the Federalists urged Adams to declare war on France. Adams, however, resisted this pressure. Instead, he sent a representative to seek peace with France.

In 1800 the French agreed to a treaty and stopped their attacks on American ships. Though it had benefits for the United States, the agreement with France was unpopular and hurt Adams's chance for reelection. Rather than cheering the agreement, Hamilton and his supporters opposed their own president. The Federalists were now split. This improved Democratic-Republican hopes for winning the presidency in the 1800 election.

### ✓ PROGRESS CHECK

**Specifying** What was important about the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions of 1798 and 1799?

## LESSON 3 REVIEW



### Review Vocabulary

- Use the following words in a sentence about the development of political parties.  
a. partisan   b. caucus
- Use the following terms in a paragraph about the presidency of John Adams.  
a. alien   b. sedition  
c. nullify   d. states' rights

### Answer the Guiding Questions

- Contrasting** What was the belief of those who opposed the formation of political parties? What was the belief of those who supported them?
- Recalling** What happened in the XYZ affair?
- ARGUMENT** Choose the candidate that you might have supported in the election of 1796 and make a campaign poster using words and illustrations to promote your candidate.