

The Federalists in Charge

One American's Story

Benjamin Banneker was born a free man at a time when most African Americans were enslaved. Largely self-educated, he became a surveyor, astronomer, and mathematician, and he published a yearly almanac. In 1790 Washington appointed him to the commission planning the new nation's capital.

Banneker was an exceptional example of what African Americans could achieve if released from the bondage of slavery and racism. In a letter to Jefferson, Banneker reminded him that "all men are created equal."

PRIMARY SOURCE

“ [God] hath not only made us all of one flesh, but that he hath also, without partiality, afforded us all the same sensations and endowed us all with the same faculties; and that however variable we may be in society or religion, however diversified in situation or color, we are all of the same family, and stand in the same relation to him. ”

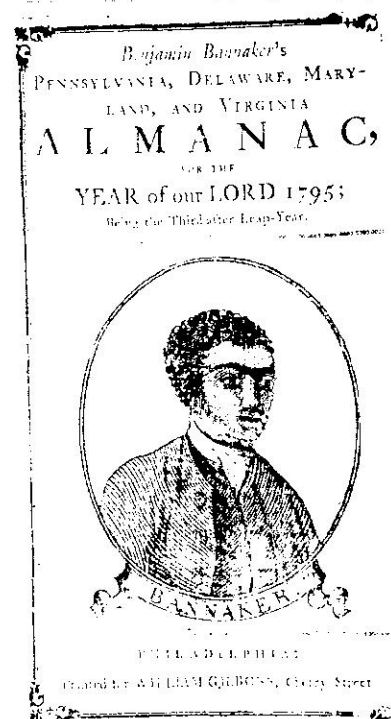
—Benjamin Banneker, letter to Thomas Jefferson 1791

Despite his efforts, Banneker was unable to change attitudes to slavery. However, Banneker will always be remembered as one of the outstanding Americans who helped launch the new republic.

Washington Retires

KEY QUESTION What dangers did President Washington warn against?

In 1796, President George Washington decided that two terms in office was enough. He wanted to return to Mount Vernon, his estate in Virginia. Throughout his eight years in office (1789–1797), he had tried to serve as a symbol of national unity. In large part, he succeeded.



(above) Benjamin Banneker helped to survey the new capital of Washington, D.C..

Connecting History

Isolationism

Washington's advice laid the ground for America's policy of isolationism, or steering clear of foreign affairs. This policy lasted through most of the country's history before World War II.

Terence Kennedy's 1847 *Political Banner* combined several symbols of the young nation. Would the banner have had greater appeal to Jefferson or Hamilton?



Washington's Final Concerns During Washington's second term, opponents of Jay's Treaty, and other critics, led attacks on the president's policies. Thomas Paine, for example, called Washington "treacherous in private friendship . . . and a hypocrite in public life" because he failed to support the French Revolution. Washington saw such attacks as the outcome of political disagreements. In his farewell address, he warned that such differences could weaken the nation. Despite this advice, political differences became a part of American politics.

Americans listened more closely to Washington's parting words on **foreign policy**, or relations with the governments of other countries. He urged the nation's leaders to remain neutral and "steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world." He warned that agreements with foreign nations might work against U.S. interests.

Political Differences Continue Despite Washington's warnings against political differences, Americans were deeply divided over how the nation should be run. Hamilton and Jefferson had hotly debated the direction the new nation should take. But, after his frustrated resignation from public office in 1793, Jefferson returned to Virginia. During Washington's second term, Madison replaced Jefferson in the debates with Hamilton.

The two sides disagreed notably on how to interpret the Constitution and on economic policy. Hamilton favored the British and wanted to preserve good relations with them. He opposed the French Revolution. Jefferson and Madison supported it. Hamilton believed in a strong central government. Jefferson and Madison feared such a government might lead to tyranny. Hamilton wanted a United States in which trade, manufacturing, and cities grew. Jefferson and Madison pictured a rural nation of farmers.

Growth of Political Parties These differences on foreign and domestic policy led to the nation's first political parties. A **political party** is a group of people that tries to promote its ideas and influence government. It also backs candidates for office.

Together, Jefferson and Madison founded the Democratic-Republican Party. The party name reflected their strong belief in democracy and the republican system. Their ideas drew farmers' and workers' support to the new political party.

Jefferson and Madison's Democratic-Republican party eventually turned into the Democratic Party that is still active today. Hamilton and his friends formed the Federalist Party which reflected their belief in a strong national government. Many Northern merchants and manufacturers became **Federalists**, following the supporters of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

▲ **SUMMARIZE** List the dangers Washington warned about.

COMPARING Political Parties

Events in France not only affected politics in the United States, they influenced styles of clothing as well. Political differences could often be detected by observing different styles of dress and appearance.

DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICANS

LEADERS:

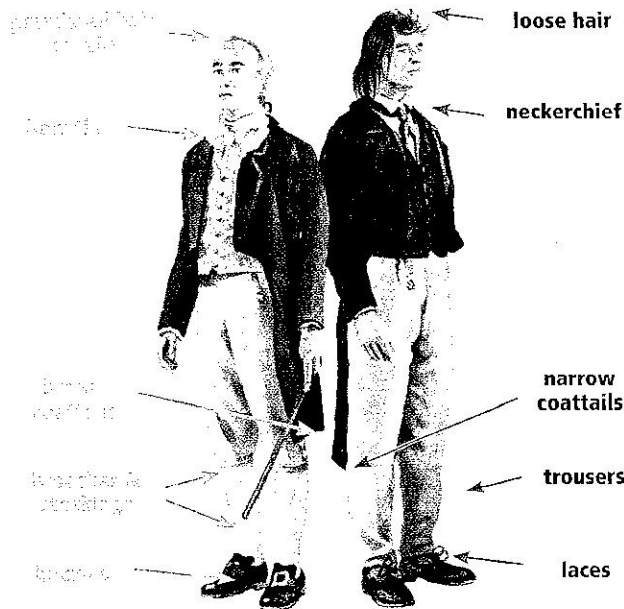
Hamilton, Adams

SUPPORTERS:

lawyers, merchants, manufacturers, clergy

BELIEFS:

- strong national government
- loose construction of the Constitution
- favored national bank
- economy based on trade



LEADERS:

Jefferson, Madison

SUPPORTERS:

farmers, urban workers

BELIEFS:

- limited national government
- strict construction of the Constitution
- opposed national bank
- agricultural economy

CRITICAL THINKING Compare and Contrast Why might the Federalists be considered more supportive of business than the Democratic-Republicans?

John Adams's Administration

▼ **KEY QUESTION** What issues divided Americans during Adams' presidency?

In 1796, the United States held its first elections in which political parties competed. The Federalists picked vice-president **John Adams** as their candidate for president. The Democratic-Republicans chose Jefferson.

In the Electoral College, Adams received 71 votes and Jefferson 68. The Constitution stated that the runner-up should become vice-president. Therefore, the country had a Federalist president and a Democratic-Republican vice-president. Adams became president in 1797. His chief rival, Jefferson, was his vice-president.

Problems with France When Washington left office in 1797, relations between France and the United States were tense. With Britain and France still at war, the French began seizing and harassing U.S. ships. Within the year, France had looted more than 300 U.S. ships.

Some Federalists called for war with France, but Adams hoped talks would restore calm. He sent Charles Pinckney, Elbridge Gerry, and John

The XYZ Affair

"The Paris Monster" is the official title of this 1798 political cartoon satirizing the XYZ Affair. On the right, the five members of the French Directory, or ruling executive body, are shown demanding money. On the left, the three American representatives declare "Cease bawling, monster! We will not give you sixpence!!"

The French Directory is a three-headed monster—demanding "Money, Money, Money!!"

The Americans answer, "Cease bawling, monster! We will not give you sixpence!!"



CRITICAL THINKING Compare and Contrast How would you contrast the cartoon's depiction of the American representatives with its depiction of the French Directory?



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R24.

Marshall to Paris. Arriving there, they requested a meeting with the French minister of foreign affairs. For weeks, they were ignored. Then three French agents—later referred to as X, Y, and Z—took the Americans aside to tell them the minister would hold talks. However, the talks would occur only if the Americans agreed to loan France \$10 million and to pay the minister a bribe of \$250,000. The American representatives refused.

Adams received a full report of what became known as the **XYZ Affair**. After Congress and an outraged public learned of it, "Millions for defense, not one cent for tribute!" became the popular slogan of the day. In 1798, Congress canceled its treaties with France and allowed U.S. ships to seize French vessels. Congress also set aside money to expand the armed forces.

The Alien and Sedition Acts Conflict with France made Adams and the Federalists popular with the public. Many Democratic-Republicans, however, were sympathetic to France. One Democratic-Republican newspaper called Adams "the blasted tyrant of America. Angered by criticism in a time of crisis, Adams blamed the Democratic-Republican newspapers and new immigrants,

many of whom were sympathetic to the Democratic-Republicans. To silence their critics, the Federalist Congress passed the **Alien and Sedition Acts** in 1798. These acts targeted **aliens**, or immigrants who were not yet citizens.

One act increased the waiting period for U.S. citizenship from 5 to 14 years. Other acts gave the president the power to arrest suspicious aliens or deport them in wartime. Another act outlawed **sedition**, or stirring up rebellion against a government. Ten Democratic-Republican newspaper editors were convicted of opinions damaging to the government. With these acts, the Federalists clamped down on freedom of speech and the press and tried to silence their opposition.

The Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions Jefferson and Madison looked for a way to fight the Alien and Sedition Acts. They found it in a theory called **states' rights**—the idea that states have certain rights that the federal government cannot overrule. Madison's resolution was approved by the Virginia legislature. Jefferson's resolution was adopted by the Kentucky legislature. This idea of states' rights set a precedent for future conflicts in the nation between the states and the national government.

CONNECT to the Essential Question

What political traditions and tensions first appeared in the early years of the new republic?

SOLUTIONS

Washington faces many challenges

He creates first cabinet members

Authority of state and federal courts is in question

Declares U.S. neutrality in foreign affairs
Congress passes Federal Judiciary Act.

Nation's finances are in crisis

Hamilton sets up National bank.

French Revolution in progress: France and Britain at war

U.S. declares neutrality in foreign affairs

Conflict arises in the Northwest
Britain seizes American ships.

(1795) Native Americans sign Treaty of Greenville.
Jays' Treaty reduces U.S.—Britain border disputes

U.S. challenges Spanish trade restrictions.

Pinckney's Treaty establishes 31st parallel as U.S. southern boundary

Disagreements over interpretation of the Constitution

Two political parties develop: Federalist Party and Democratic-Republican Party.



CRITICAL THINKING Draw Conclusions How did the United States manage to stay out of overseas wars during this period?

The Kentucky Resolution, in particular, insisted on the principle of **nullification**, or the idea that a state could nullify, or cancel, any act of Congress that it considered unconstitutional. The **Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions** warned of the dangers that the Alien and Sedition Acts posed to a government of checks and balances as these checks and balances were guaranteed by the Constitution. Jefferson and Madison were not successful in overturning the acts while Adams was President. However, within two years the Democratic-Republicans won control of Congress, and they either reversed the acts or let them expire between 1800 and 1802.

Peace with France While Federalists and Democratic-Republicans battled at home, the United States made peace with France. Although war fever was high, Adams reopened talks with France. This time the two sides quickly signed the Convention of 1800, an agreement to stop all naval attacks. This treaty cleared the way for U.S. and French ships to sail the ocean in peace.

Adams's actions made him enemies among the Federalists. Despite this, he was proud of having saved the nation from bloodshed. In 1800, Adams became the first president to govern from the nation's new capital city, Washington, D.C. In 1800, however, he lost the presidential election to Thomas Jefferson.

▲ **MAIN IDEAS & DETAILS** Explain the issues that divided Americans during Adams' presidency.

3

Section Assessment



ONLINE QUIZ

For test practice, go to
Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com

TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of:

- John Adams
- XYZ Affair
- Alien and Sedition Acts
- states' rights
- nullification
- Kentucky & Virginia Resolutions

USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Main Ideas and Details** Complete the diagram you started at the beginning of the section.

rise
of political
parties

Federalist
concerns

states'
rights

KEY IDEAS

3. What did Washington warn against before he left office?
4. What led to the rise of political parties?
5. Why did Congress pass the Alien and Sedition Acts?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Evaluate** Why was Washington's warning about political parties not heeded?
7. **Make Inferences** Why do you think so many merchants and manufacturers were Federalists?
8. **Draw Conclusions** How did the XYZ Affair show the young nation's growing confidence?
9. **Synthesize** How might the theory of states' rights undermine the federal government?
10. **Connect Today** What are some issues that the two leading American political parties disagree on today?
11. **Writing Editorial** Imagine you are a newspaper editor in 1798. Write an editorial in favor of, or opposed to, the Alien and Sedition Acts.