

## The First Political Parties

1. Where did most attacks on Washington come from and why? (268)
2. What does partisan mean? (268)
3. Who did Washington usually agree with in his cabinet? (268)
4. Name 5 beliefs of the Federalists. (268)
5. Name 5 beliefs of the Democratic-Republicans? (268)
6. What are implied powers? (268-269)
7. Why did Federalist support representative government? (269)
8. Who won the Election of 1796 and who became Vice-President? (270)
9. Which political party would a Boston factory owner most likely support? (270)
10. What was the XYZ Affair? (270)
11. What branch of the armed forces was created under John Adams? (270)
12. What were the Alien and Sedition Acts? (271)
13. What does Sedition mean? (271)
14. What were the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions? (271)
15. What does nullify mean? (271)
16. Why did Hamilton and other Federalists turn against John Adams? (272)



# SECTION 3

# The First Political Parties

### Main Idea

By the election of 1796, two distinct political parties with different views about the role of the national government had formed.

### Key Terms

partisan, limited power, federalism, republic, constitution



### Reading Strategy

**Classifying Information** As you read Section 3, create a diagram like the one below and list the differences between the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans.

Issue	Federalists	Democratic-Republicans
Role of federal government		

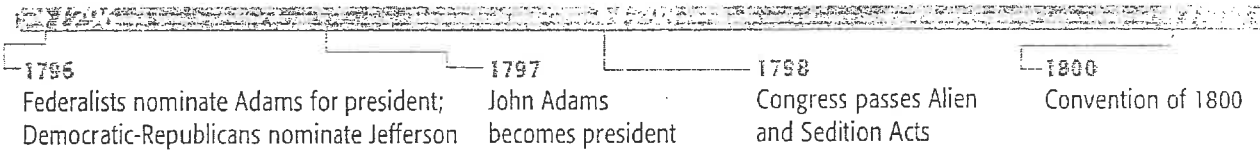
### Read to Learn

- how political parties got started and what positions they supported.
- how John Adams and Thomas Jefferson became candidates of opposing parties in the election of 1796.

### Section Theme

**Government and Democracy** Different values fueled the rise of the nation's first political parties.

### Preview of Events



## AN American Story

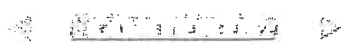
The Washington presidency was known for its dignity and elegance. The president rode in a coach drawn by horses and accompanied by mounted attendants. He and his wife, Martha, lived in the finest house in Philadelphia, the new nation's capital. They entertained a great deal, holding weekly receptions. Each year a ball was held on Washington's birthday. The president wore a black velvet suit with gold buckles, yellow gloves, powdered hair, an ostrich plume in his hat, and a sword in a white leather sheath. Despite these extravagances, Washington's character and military record were admired by most Americans.



George Washington

### Opposing Views

Although hailed by Americans as the nation's greatest leader, George Washington did not escape criticism during his two terms as president. From time to time, harsh attacks on his policies and on his personality appeared in newspapers. One paper even called Washington "the scourge and the misfortune of his country."



## Cause and Effects of Political Parties

### Causes

- Different philosophies of government
- Conflicting interpretations of the Constitution
- Different economic and regional interests
- Disagreement over foreign affairs

### Effects

- Federalists and Democratic-Republicans propose different solutions
- The two parties nominate candidates
- Political parties become a way of American life

### Group Organizer

Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton emerged as the leaders of the two opposing parties.

**Analyzing Information** How did the first two political parties emerge?

Most attacks on Washington had come from supporters of Thomas Jefferson. They were trying to discredit the policies of Washington and Hamilton by attacking the president. By 1796 Americans were beginning to divide into opposing groups and to form political parties.

At that time, many Americans considered political parties harmful. Parties—or “factions” as they were called—were to be avoided as much as strong central government. The nation’s founders did not even mention political parties in the Constitution.

Washington had denounced political parties and warned that they would divide the nation. To others it seemed natural that people would disagree about issues and that those who held similar views would band together.

In Washington’s cabinet Hamilton and Jefferson often took opposing sides on issues. They disagreed on economic policy and foreign relations, on the power of the federal government, and on interpretations of the Constitution. Even

Washington had been partisan—favoring one side of an issue. Although he believed he stood above politics, Washington usually supported Hamilton’s positions.

## Political Parties Emerge

In Congress and the nation at large, similar differences existed. By the mid-1790s, two distinct political parties had taken shape.

The name **Federalist** had first described someone who supported ratification of the Constitution. By the 1790s the word was applied to the group of people who supported the policies of the Washington administration.

Generally Federalists stood for a strong federal government. They admired Britain because of its stability and distrusted France because of the violent changes following the French Revolution. Federalist policies tended to favor banking and shipping interests. Federalists received the strongest support in the Northeast, especially in New England, and from wealthy plantation owners in the South.

Efforts to turn public opinion against Federalist policies began seriously in late 1791 when Philip Freneau (Freh•NOH) began publishing the *National Gazette*. Jefferson, then secretary of state, helped the newspaper get started. Later he and Madison organized people who disagreed with Hamilton. They called their party the **Republicans**, or the **Democratic-Republicans**.

The Republicans wanted to limit government’s power. They feared that a strong federal government would endanger people’s liberties. They supported the French and condemned what they regarded as the Washington administration’s pro-British policies. Republican policies appealed to small farmers and urban workers, especially in the Middle Atlantic states and the South.

## Citizenship

### Views of the Constitution

One difference between Federalists and Republicans concerned the basis of government power. In Hamilton’s view the federal government had **implied powers**, powers that were not expressly forbidden in the Constitution.

Hamilton used the idea of implied powers to justify a national bank. He argued that the Constitution gave Congress the power to issue money and regulate trade, and a national bank would clearly help the government carry out these responsibilities. Therefore, creating a bank was within the constitutional power of Congress.

Jefferson and Madison disagreed with Hamilton. They believed in a strict interpretation of the Constitution. They accepted the idea of implied powers, but in a much more limited sense than Hamilton did: Implied powers are those powers that are "absolutely necessary" to carry out the expressed powers.

### The People's Role

The differences between the parties, however, went even deeper. Federalists and Republicans had sharply opposing views on the role ordinary people should play in government.

Federalists supported representative government, in which elected officials ruled in the people's name. They did not believe that it was wise to let the public become too involved in politics. Hamilton said:

“The people are turbulent and changing. . . . They seldom judge or determine right.”

Public office, Federalists thought, should be held by honest and educated men of property who would protect everyone's rights. Ordinary people were too likely to be swayed by agitators.

In contrast, the Republicans feared a strong central government controlled by a few people. They believed that liberty would be safe only if ordinary people participated in government. As Jefferson explained:

“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 Dilemma

Washington tried to get his two advisers to work out their differences. Knowing Jefferson was discontented, Washington wrote:

“I have a great sincere esteem and regard for you both, and ardently wish that some line could be marked out by which both [of] you could walk.”

Nevertheless, by 1793 Jefferson was so unhappy that he resigned as secretary of state. In 1795, Alexander Hamilton resigned, too, as secretary of the treasury. The rival groups and their points of view moved further apart.

### The Election of 1796

In the presidential election of 1796, candidates sought office for the first time as members of a party. To prepare for the election, the Federalists and the Republicans held meetings called **caucuses**. At the caucuses members of

Differences Between the First Political Parties	
<p><b>Federalists</b></p> <p><b>Leader:</b> Alexander Hamilton</p> <p><b>Favored:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rule by the wealthy class</li> <li>• Strong federal government</li> <li>• Emphasis on manufacturing</li> <li>• Loose interpretation of the Constitution</li> <li>• British alliance</li> <li>• National bank</li> <li>• Protective tariffs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Democratic-Republicans</b></p> <p><b>Leader:</b> Thomas Jefferson</p> <p><b>Favored:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rule by the people</li> <li>• Strong state governments</li> <li>• Emphasis on agriculture</li> <li>• Strict interpretation of the Constitution</li> <li>• French alliance</li> <li>• State banks</li> <li>• Free trade</li> </ul>

**Analyzing Information** Which leader would American business owners favor, and why?

**Student Web Activity**Visit [arvo11.glencoe.com](http://arvo11.glencoe.com)and click on **Chapter 8—****Student Web Activities**

for an activity on the first political parties.

Congress and other leaders chose their party's candidates for office.

The Federalists nominated Vice President John Adams as their candidate for president and Charles Pinckney for vice president.

The Republicans put forth former secretary of state Jefferson for president and Aaron Burr for vice president. Adams and Jefferson, who had been good friends, became rivals. The Federalists expected to carry New England. The Republicans' strength lay in the South, which would give most of its votes to Jefferson.

In the end Adams received 71 electoral votes, winning the election. Jefferson finished second with 68 votes. Under the provisions of the Constitution at that time, the person with the second-highest number of electoral votes became vice president. Jefferson therefore became the new vice president. The administration that took office on March 4, 1797, had a Federalist president and a Republican vice president.

**Reading Check Explaining** Which political party would a Boston factory owner most likely support?

Fict. Fiction Folklore

### American Heroes

**Did Johnny Appleseed scatter apple seeds in the wilderness?** There was a real Johnny Appleseed. Johnny, whose real name was John Chapman, was born in Massachusetts in 1774. When the rich lands west of the Ohio River were opened for settlement in the early 1800s, he was among the first to explore the new territory. Johnny Appleseed did not scatter seeds as he wandered, as many people believe. As he traveled, he would spot good sites for planting. There he would clear the land and plant the seeds. His orchards varied in size. Some covered about an acre. Others covered many acres. When settlers arrived, they found Johnny Appleseed's young apple trees ready for sale.

## President John Adams

John Adams had spent most of his life in public service. One of Massachusetts's most active patriots, he later became ambassador to France and to Great Britain. He helped to negotiate the Treaty of Paris that ended the Revolution. Under Washington, he served two terms as vice president.

### The XYZ Affair

When Adams took office, he inherited the dispute with France. The French regarded Jay's Treaty, signed in 1794, 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.

Adams wanted to avoid war with France. In the fall of 1797, he sent a delegation to Paris to try to resolve the dispute. French foreign minister **Charles de Talleyrand**, however, refused to meet with the Americans. Instead, Talleyrand sent three agents who demanded a bribe and a loan for France from the Americans. "Not a sixpence," the Americans replied and sent a report of the incident to the United States. Adams was furious. Referring to the three French agents as X, Y, and Z, the president urged Congress to prepare for war. The incident became known as the **XYZ affair**.

### Undeclared War With France

Congress responded with a program to strengthen the armed forces. It established the Navy Department in April 1798 and set aside money for building warships. Congress also increased the size of the army. George Washington was appointed commanding general.

Between 1798 and 1800, United States and French naval vessels clashed on a number of occasions, although war was not formally declared. Adams's representatives negotiated an agreement with France in September 1800 that ensured peace.

In the view of most Americans, France had become an enemy. The Republican Party, friendly toward France in the past, hesitated to turn around and condemn France. As a result, in the 1798 elections, Americans voted some Republicans out of office.

# MORE ABOUT

## 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, or 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.

## The Alien and Sedition Acts

### Why they were passed

The Federalist-controlled Congress wanted to:

- strengthen the federal government.
- silence Republican opposition.

### Results

- Discouraged immigration and led some foreigners already in the country to leave.
- Convicted 10 Republican newspaper editors who had criticized the Federalists in government.

### Reaction

- Opposition to Federalist party grows.
- Led to movement to allow states to overturn federal laws.

## Alien and Sedition Acts

The threat of war with France made Americans more suspicious of aliens, immigrants living in the country who were not citizens. Many Europeans who came 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.

Federalists in Congress responded with strict laws to protect the nation's security. In 1798 they passed a group of measures known as the **Alien and Sedition Acts**. **Sedition** refers to activities aimed at weakening established government.

## Citizenship

### Domestic and Foreign Affairs

For some Americans, fears of a strong central government abusing its power seemed to be coming true. The Republicans looked to the states to preserve the people's liberties and stand

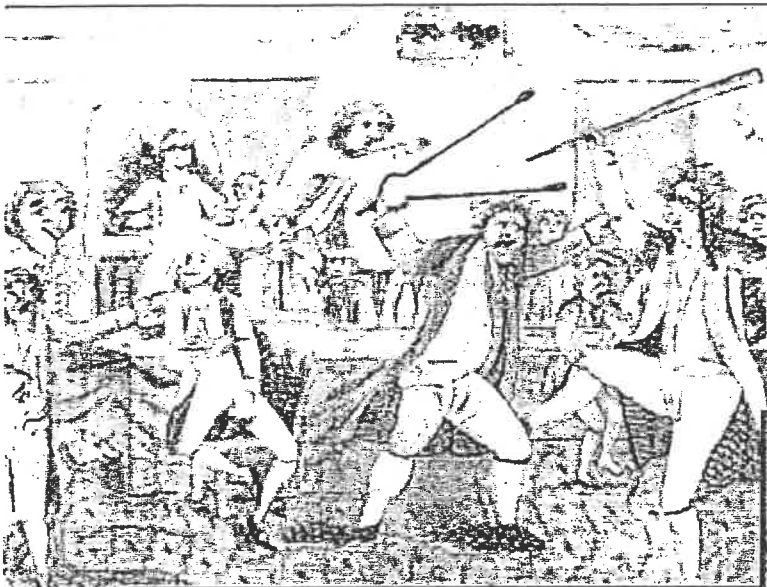
up to what they regarded as Federalist tyranny. Madison and Jefferson drafted documents of protest that were passed by the Virginia and Kentucky legislatures.

The **Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions** of 1798 and 1799 claimed that the Alien and Sedition Acts could not be put into action because they violated the Constitution. The Kentucky Resolutions further suggested that states might **nullify**—legally overturn—federal laws considered unconstitutional.

The resolutions affirmed the principle of **states' rights**—limiting the federal government to those powers clearly assigned to it by the Constitution and reserving to the states all other powers not expressly forbidden to them. The issue of states' rights would arise again and again in the nation's early history.

As the election of 1800 approached, the Federalists found themselves under attack. They urged Adams to step up the war with France. They hoped to benefit politically from the

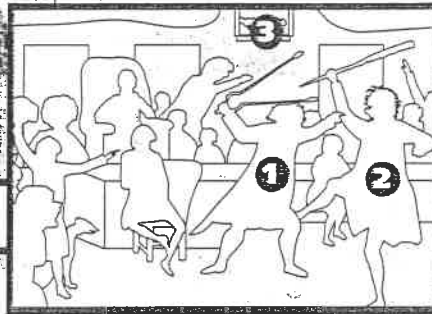




### Analyzing Political Cartoons

**Fighting in Congress** The Sedition Act led to hard feelings, even violence. This cartoon provides a humorous look at a fight in Congress. Federalist Roger Griswold attacks Republican Matthew Lyon with a cane. Lyon seizes a pair of fire tongs and fights back. On the wall is a painting named "Royal Sport" showing animals fighting. How are the other members of Congress reacting to the fight?

1 Matthew Lyon 2 Roger Griswold 3 painting



patriotic feelings that war would unleash. Adams refused to rush to war, especially for his own political gain. Instead he appointed a new commission to seek peace with France.

In 1800 the French agreed to a treaty and stopped attacks on American ships. Although the agreement with France was in the best interest of the United States, it hurt Adams's chance for re-election. Rather than applauding

the agreement, Hamilton and his supporters now opposed their own president. With the Federalists split, the Republican prospects for capturing the presidency improved. The way was prepared for Thomas Jefferson in the election of 1800.

**Reading Check Summarizing** How did the peace agreement with France affect the Federalists?

## SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

### HISTORY

**Study Central™** To review this section, go to [tarvo1.glencoe.com](http://tarvo1.glencoe.com) and click on **Study Central™**.

#### Checking for Understanding

- Key Terms** Write a short newspaper article about the election of 1796 in which you use the following terms: *partisan, implied powers, caucus.*
- Reviewing Facts** Who was elected president in 1796, and who became vice president?

#### Reviewing Themes

- Government and Democracy** How were the Federalists different from the Republicans in how they felt about a powerful central government?

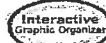
#### Critical Thinking

- Drawing Conclusions** Do you think the development of political parties was necessary? Why or why not?
- Classifying Information** Re-create the diagram below. Provide information about the election of 1796 in the spaces provided.

Presidential Election of 1796		
Candidate		
Party		
Electoral votes		
Winner (check column)		
Vice President (check column)		

#### Analyzing Visuals

- Graphic Organizer Skills** Study the diagram on page 271. Who are aliens? Why were the Alien and Sedition Acts passed? How did their passage affect the Federalist Party?



**Art** Choose the presidential candidate for whom you would have voted in 1796. Design a campaign poster or button using words and illustrations to help promote your candidate.