



# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade** | Unit 4

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# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 804

## A Firm Foundation (1789–1820)

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# A Firm Foundation (1789–1820)

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## Introduction

The first forty years after the ratification of the Constitution was a time of foundation building. The new Constitution had to be transformed from ideas on paper to a practical, working government. Even with a good plan, a weak original government would set precedents that would be hard to change. It was up to first president, George Washington, and his advisors to use the blueprint of the Constitution to build a good foundation for the structure of the United States.

The early years of our nation were complicated by events in Europe. The French Revolution began in 1789. The king of France was overthrown and executed. The Revolution degenerated into a bloodbath called the Reign of Terror (1793-94). A war began in Europe as other monarchs tried to interfere. Finally, General Napoleon Bonaparte seized power in France (1799) and conquered much of Europe. He was defeated by an alliance led by Britain (1813) and went into exile (1814). In 1815 he returned to be defeated again.

The war put America in a difficult position. France had been America's ally in the Revolution, but Britain was America's biggest trading partner. Both sides had interfered with American trade during the long years of conflict, but the actions of the British were especially infuriating. The hard-pressed American leaders did not want to get into a European war. By 1812, the long-suffering Americans could take no more; war was declared on Britain. The second war of independence, the War of 1812, finished laying the foundation of America. With the foundation laid, the country built toward its future.

## Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the important events of the first five presidential administrations.
2. Describe the Great Seal of the United States.
3. Describe the course and nature of America's problems with Britain that led to the War of 1812.
4. Describe the growth, policies, and decline of the Federalist Party.
5. Describe the growth and policies of the Democratic-Republican Party.
6. Describe the course and results of the War of 1812.
7. Describe how America changed after the War of 1812.
8. Describe the development of the power of the Supreme Court under John Marshall.
9. Explain the reasons behind U.S. policy decisions from 1789 to the early 1820s.



# 1. FEDERALIST ERA

The Federalists led the victorious battle for the Constitution after the Constitutional Convention. When the first government was formed under the new plan in 1789, it was dominated by the same Federalists. They controlled the U.S. government through the Washington and Adams administrations, but they were driven from power in 1801 when Thomas Jefferson became president under the Democratic-Republican Party.

The republic faced many difficulties in the first twelve years under the Constitution. Washington had to establish exactly what all the

descriptions of his duties meant and what the newly created post required of him. Alexander Hamilton, the first secretary of the treasury, had to repair the poor state of the nation's finances. A rebellion broke out against the new taxes which such repairs required. America had to deal with the French Revolution and a European war. Trade problems threatened war with both Britain and France. Controversy brewed over a treaty with Britain and a bribery scandal with France. Finally, the Federalists began their own decline by threatening freedom of speech in an attempt to control the passions of the era.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the important events of the first five presidential administrations.
2. Describe the Great Seal of the United States.
3. Describe the course and nature of America's problems with Britain that led to the War of 1812.
4. Describe the growth, policies, and decline of the Federalist Party.
5. Describe the growth and policies of the Democratic-Republican Party.
9. Explain the reasons behind U.S. policy decisions from 1789 to the early 1820s.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.**

**agrarian** (u grar' ē an). Concerning agriculture or rural matters.

**bond** (bond). A certificate issued by a government or company which promises to pay back, with interest, the money borrowed from the buyer of the certificate.

**nominal** (nom' i nal). In name only; not real or actual.

**nullify** (nul' i fi). To deprive of legal force; make void.

**partisan** (pär' ti zan). A very strong supporter of a party, cause, or faction.

**repudiation** (ri pyoo' dē ā' shun). The act of rejecting the validity of something.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



# AMERICA from 1789 to 1820



**George Washington**  
1789–1797



**John Adams**  
1797–1801  
Federalist



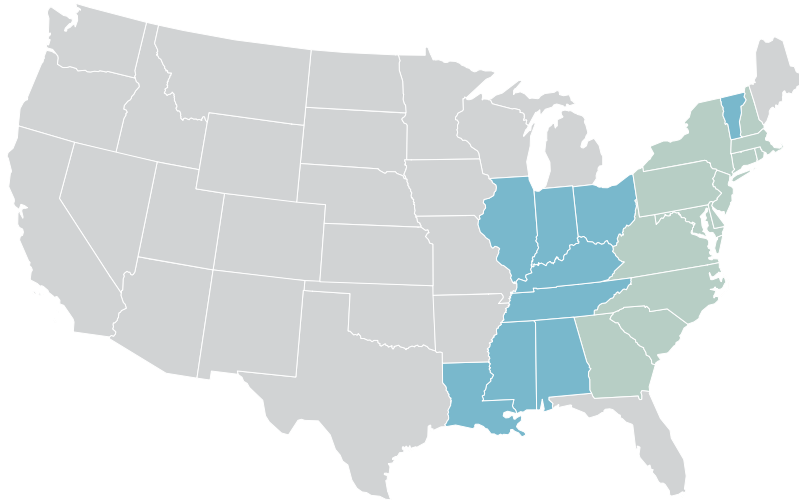
**Thomas Jefferson**  
1801–1809  
Democratic-Republican



**James Madison**  
1809–1817  
Democratic-Republican



**James Monroe**  
1817–1825  
Democratic-Republican



## STATES ADMITTED TO THE UNION

Vermont	1791
Kentucky	1792
Tennessee	1796
Ohio	1803
Louisiana	1812
Indiana	1816
Mississippi	1817
Alabama	1819
Illinois	1819

## POPULATION of the United States of America



## Washington's First Term

There was never any doubt as to who would be elected as the first president of the United States. George Washington was the one person who had the public trust and the stature to take the job. He had the support of both the Federalists and Anti-Federalists. It can reasonably be argued that the position was created with him in mind. The Constitution required each state to choose electors who would then choose a president. When the vote was counted in April of 1789, the tally was unanimous for Washington. (He was the only president to receive a unanimous electoral vote). John Adams was chosen as vice president.

The same qualities that made Washington a great general also made him a superb first president. He did not like politics and accepted the presidency only because he felt the nation needed him. He commanded the respect of his subordinates and gave his tremendous prestige to the new post. He was careful, fair, and methodical. He chose wise counselors and listened to them before making his decisions. He provided the stability and thoughtful leadership the new nation so desperately needed in those early years.

**Inauguration.** Washington received word of his election at his home in Mount Vernon, Virginia. He immediately left on the long journey to New York City, which was America's temporary capital. He was greeted all along the route by cheering crowds. He took the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall, overlooking Wall Street, on April 30, 1789. He then gave an inaugural address in the chambers of the Senate.

Washington set a formal tone for the new office, mainly because of his own rather formal personality. He would bow, not shake hands, to greet visitors. He dressed richly and drove about in a handsome coach. Visitors could see him during his weekly open house or make an appointment. His wife Martha held a formal



| George Washington's Inauguration

reception every Friday evening that the president attended. The office of president was less than a king, but more than a simple politician.

**Cabinet.** The new Congress created three departments to help the president run the government: foreign affairs (state), war, and treasury. An attorney general, the attorney for the government, was added later. Washington chose men he knew and trusted to head these departments. They came to be his personal advisors and eventually met together to discuss decisions, forming the president's cabinet.

Washington stayed out of **partisan** politics as much as he could, but he recognized the conflicts of the day and represented both sides in his cabinet. Thomas Jefferson was the first secretary of state. He was a firm believer in a weak federal government, an **agrarian** country, and rule by the "common people." He eventually became the leader of the Democratic-Republican Party. Alexander Hamilton was the first secretary of the treasury. He was a Federalist leader who believed in a strong central government, a commercial nation, and rule by the "elite." The other cabinet members were



Secretary of War Henry Knox and Attorney General Edmund Randolph.

Washington did not officially attach himself to either of the new political parties. However, mainly on the basis of Hamilton's arguments, he supported much of the Federalist agenda. As a result, Washington came under attack from the Anti-Federalists, who eventually developed into the Democratic-Republican Party.

**Finances.** The main problem facing the new government was the same one they had faced under the Articles of Confederation—money. The nation was deeply in debt and had no stable currency. Hamilton proposed the government pay the debt at full value and assume the Revolutionary War debts of the states as well. Hamilton intended to build the power of the federal government by establishing it financially and having the people look to it, not the state governments, for their money.

There was a tremendous amount of opposition to Hamilton's plan. Few people believed the **bonds** issued by the Revolutionary government would ever be paid. The war veterans and people who originally held the bonds had sold them for a fraction of what they were worth. Most were owned by wealthy men who could afford to hold them and wait. Many felt that it was unfair to give the profit to these men. Hamilton wanted the support of these wealthy citizens for the new government. He wanted to give the rich and well-born a stake in the new system.

Most of the southern states had already paid off their war debts. They objected to also paying off the northern debts through the federal government. Eventually, they agreed to the plan in exchange for placing the new national capital in the south, on the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia. The rest of Hamilton's plan was accepted because Congress believed that a government should pay its lawful debts and knew it would be impossible to find the original owners of the bonds.

The third part of Hamilton's plan called for the establishment of a national bank. The bank would be partially owned by the government and would be used to deposit government funds. It also would issue a stable paper currency backed by the deposits in the bank.

The bank ran into violent opposition in Congress. Most of the supporters came from the north which favored a strong currency and bank to build trade and manufacturing. State's rights advocates did not want a large central bank which would compete with their state banks. The measure was passed after a heated debate and was sent to Washington for his signature.

Washington was deeply concerned about whether the bill was constitutional. He asked Jefferson (against) and Hamilton (for) to each give him a written opinion on the matter. Jefferson argued that the Constitution did not specifically authorize a bank. He favored a "strict construction" of the Constitution. The government could only do things specifically allowed by the Constitution, a position that would have severely limited federal power. Hamilton, on the other hand, persuasively argued for a "loose construction." The Constitution said that the Congress could pass any laws "necessary and proper" to carrying out the powers of the government. Since the government was authorized to collect taxes, a bank was both necessary and proper to fulfill that function. Washington agreed with Hamilton and signed the bill.

Money to pay the debts and finance the bank came from taxes. The primary tax of that day was the tariff, a tax on goods imported from other countries. A tariff also made foreign goods more expensive, thus protecting the few American manufacturers. This fit well with Hamilton's far-sighted plan for America to become a manufacturing nation. Congress also passed an excise tax on distilled liquor to supplement the tariff income.

The prosperity of the new government depended on trade which produced tariff income. Most of America's trade was with Britain. Thus, Hamilton and the Federalists came to

favor England over France in foreign policy. This created yet another difference with Jefferson's supporters who favored France, a country that found itself in the middle of its own revolution.



### Match these people.

- |     |                          |    |                                    |
|-----|--------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| 1.1 | _____ George Washington  | a. | secretary of war                   |
| 1.2 | _____ John Adams         | b. | attorney general                   |
| 1.3 | _____ Thomas Jefferson   | c. | chosen unanimously by the electors |
| 1.4 | _____ Alexander Hamilton | d. | vice president                     |
| 1.5 | _____ Edmund Randolph    | e. | secretary of state                 |
| 1.6 | _____ Henry Knox         | f. | secretary of the treasury          |

### Answer these questions.

- 1.7 What were Hamilton's three main proposals for the nation's finances?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.8 What did the southern states get in exchange for the federal government taking over the state's debts? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.9 What form of taxation was the main source of income for the new government? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.10 Why did some people not want the war bonds to be paid at full value? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



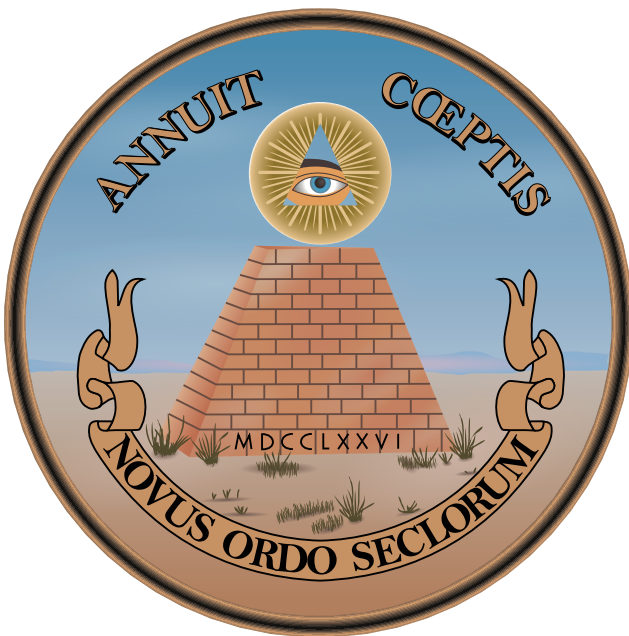
Put an “H” beside the policies supported by Hamilton and a “J” beside those supported by Jefferson.

- 1.11 \_\_\_\_\_ favored Britain
- 1.12 \_\_\_\_\_ strong central government
- 1.13 \_\_\_\_\_ agrarian society
- 1.14 \_\_\_\_\_ favored France
- 1.15 \_\_\_\_\_ weak federal government
- 1.16 \_\_\_\_\_ “strict construction” of Constitution
- 1.17 \_\_\_\_\_ “loose construction” of Constitution
- 1.18 \_\_\_\_\_ commercial society

### THE GREAT SEAL

Nations are represented by symbols. The most famous symbol of the United States is our flag, the Stars and Stripes. Another important symbol is the Great Seal, which was adopted in 1782 by the nation’s first government, the Second Continental Congress. Most people have probably seen the front or “obverse” of

the Great Seal of the United States. It appears on federal buildings, vehicles, laws, and documents as well as coins and currency. The back or “reverse” is less well known, but it does appear on the back of the one-dollar bill. The Seal is rich with symbolism, much of which refers to the Christian foundation of our nation.



| The Great Seal of the United States

## The Obverse of the Great Seal

On the obverse side of the seal are these symbols:

1. **The Crest:** At the top of the seal is a cluster of thirteen white stars on a blue field, which represents the original thirteen states. A ring of golden light is breaking through a white cloud which surrounds the stars. This light is a symbol of God's constant protection and guidance.
2. **The National Coat of Arms:** The remainder of the seal is our nation's coat of arms, which consists of these symbols;
  - a. **American Eagle:** The eagle was selected to represent the United States because of its dignity, size, strength, and majestic appearance. The head and tail feathers are white, the claws and beak are yellow. Franklin wanted our symbol to be a turkey, but he was wisely outvoted by the committee.
  - b. **Shield:** On the eagle's breast is a shield. The solid blue bar at the top represents the national government (originally just Congress). The seven white stripes and six red stripes stand for the first thirteen states.
  - c. **Scroll and Motto:** Held by the eagle's beak is a golden scroll on which are written these words in Latin:  
*E PLURIBUS UNUM*  
The English translation of this motto is "One out of many." Many states make up the one nation, the United States of America.
  - d. **Thirteen Arrows:** The eagle's left talon is clutching a bundle of thirteen arrows. This suggests that we will defend our nation.

- e. **Olive Branch:** The eagle's right talon is clutching a green olive branch with thirteen blue-tinted olives. The olive branch is a symbol of peace. Since the right side is considered to be more important, holding the olive branch in the right talon indicates that the United States prefers peace to war. The eagle is also facing the peace side rather than the war side.

## The Reverse of the Seal

This part of the Great Seal is not as well known. The parts and their meanings are:

1. **The Pyramid:** In the center of the Seal is a pyramid built on the earth with a blue sky background. On the base of the pyramid are the Roman numerals MDCCLXXVI (1776), the year our nation was born. Thirteen layers of stone are in the pyramid, representing the original thirteen states. The pyramid is unfinished, indicating that our nation will continue to grow. The pyramid shape symbolizes the strength and stability of the United States.
2. **The Eye:** Above the pyramid is a large eye within a blue triangle surrounded by a golden light. The eye is a symbol that God is watching over our nation. The light represents God's glory and majesty.
3. **Latin Mottoes:**
  - a. *ANNUIT COEPTIS* is written across the top of the Seal in golden letters. This means: *He (God) has favored our undertaking.*
  - b. *NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM* is written in black letters on a golden scroll across the bottom. This means: *A new order of the ages.*



## The Great Seal



**On the Great Seal:**

**1.19** Name five ways that the original thirteen states are represented.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.20** Name two ways the presence of God is represented.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.21** Why is the olive branch in the eagle’s right talon? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.22** What does “E Pluribus Unum” mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Washington’s Second Term**

Washington wanted to retire after his first term. However, his friends urged him to stay on for another term for the sake of the country. He agreed and was unanimously re-elected in 1792. In March 1793, he was inaugurated in Philadelphia, which was the new temporary capital. Adams also returned as vice president.

**European War.** Washington received word of a general war in Europe a month into his second term. France was at war with Britain, Austria, Spain, and Prussia. France had been America’s primary ally during the Revolution, and the treaty of alliance obligated the U.S. to aid them now. However, that treaty had been signed with the king of France who had been executed in the French Revolution. Supporters of the French Revolution wanted to honor the treaty. But even Jefferson was reluctant to get into another war. The Federalists feared the effect that war with Britain would have on trade and urged neutrality.

America was not strong militarily or politically. There was no army, and the new government

had only been in place for four years. The pressures of a war could easily destroy all that had been built. Washington decided that the nation could not afford to be involved in a European war and issued a Proclamation of Neutrality on April 22nd. This continued to be the policy of the U.S. for most of the remaining years of this long war. American leaders desperately tried to keep out of the conflict as long as they could in order to buy time for their nation to grow strong.

**Citizen Genêt.** The republican government of France sent a new representative to America in April of 1793. He was Citizen (the title used by all in the Revolution) Edmond Genêt, an enthusiastic and tactless man. He had been commissioned to renew the treaty of friendship with America and obtain a new trade treaty. What he did was create a huge mess for Washington.

Genêt was received with joy by French supporters in America. He began at once to commission privateers to attack British shipping from American ports. He also tried to organize

expeditions against the Spanish and British lands in America. Washington received him coolly, but Genêt did not take the hint. He ignored the Neutrality Proclamation and appealed to the American people to support France in the war. All this activity threatened to convince Britain that America was not truly neutral. Washington finally asked France to recall Genêt. He was stripped of his authority by a new government in France and stayed in the U.S. for fear of execution upon his return. American neutrality held.

**Whiskey Rebellion.** The excise tax passed by Congress during Washington's first administration had hit the northwestern farmers hard. It was difficult for these frontier farmers to make a profit shipping their grain to markets in the east because of the cost. Therefore, they routinely distilled their grain into liquor which was easier to transport and provided a good profit. The excise tax was immensely unpopular among these men and sparked a frontier revolt called the Whiskey Rebellion.

The Whiskey Rebellion began in 1794 in western Pennsylvania. The farmers there drew up resolutions against the tax, attacked the tax collectors, and terrorized court officials. The governor refused to act, so Washington called out the militia in the other states to enforce the law. The response was an army of over 13,000 men, more than Washington had for much of the Revolution. The rebellion scattered, and Washington pardoned the two culprits who were caught. The government's firmness made rebellious individuals use voting, rather than fighting, as the best means for pursuing their goals.

**Problem with Britain.** During his second term, Washington had to deal with the increasing problems with Great Britain. England still kept possession of several western forts in U.S. territory. It continued to support the Indians there, hoping to use them as a buffer between the U.S. and Canada. As the war progressed with France, Britain began seizing U.S. ships and



| John Jay, Negotiator with the British

cargoes trading with France or French colonies. The British also would search U.S. ships for British sailors who had become U.S. citizens. These men and many others who had never been British citizens were “impressed” or forced into serving in the British navy. Americans were outraged by this treatment of their vessels and citizens.

**Jay's Treaty.** Washington, hoping to avoid a war, and at the urging of the Federalists, sent John Jay to London to negotiate a settlement. He succeeded in obtaining a treaty in late 1794. The British agreed to evacuate the American forts, pay some compensation for the seized cargoes, and improve U.S. trading rights with Britain. However, the agreement mentioned nothing about ending their interference with American shipping or impressing of American sailors. The treaty restated the obligation of Americans to pay back debts owed to Britain from before the Revolution. Washington, believing it was the best he could get, submitted it to the Senate for approval.

The treaty was violently unpopular. Westerners were angry that it did not deal with the English

support of the Indians. Southerners were angry that it did not require Britain to pay for slaves taken during the Revolution. Supporters of France saw it as a rejection of the nation’s obligation to the French people. Patriotic Americans were angered by the extension of trade with a nation that freely mistreated American citizens. Even Hamilton, who needed the treaty to prevent a war and keep his financial system on track, did not like it. However, the pro-British, pro-trade Federalists dominated the Senate and after weeks of debate, it was approved. The nation was able to avoid a war for the time being.

Jay’s Treaty did have one positive effect. Spain became nervous over the possibility of a British-American alliance in North America and settled some of her outstanding disputes with the U.S. A Spanish-American treaty was signed in 1795. It gave Americans the right to use the Mississippi and bring their goods through the Spanish-controlled port of New Orleans without paying any duty. It set the southern boundary of the U.S. and contained a Spanish promise to control Indians in their territory. This treaty helped restore the damaged national pride.

**Farewell address.** Washington had come under savage attack for his policies and Jay’s Treaty during his second administration. He was weary of public life and discouraged by the division of the government into factions. Washington believed political parties were a threat to the unity of the nation, but he had been unable to prevent them. Jefferson had even resigned from the cabinet because of Washington’s support of Hamilton.

Washington announced that he would not accept re-election again. He set a “two-terms only” precedent which was followed by every president until Franklin Roosevelt in 1940. (After that, the president was limited to two terms by a constitutional amendment). He also published the *Farewell Address* that issued two warnings to the American people. The first was to avoid party politics. This was ignored. The second was that America should avoid all permanent alliances like the one made with France during the Revolution since they would draw us into foreign wars. This admonition became a key part of American foreign policy for generations. America did not sign a permanent military alliance again until after World War II (1938-1945).



**Complete the following.**

- 1.23 Washington reacted to the War in Europe in 1793 by issuing the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.24 In 1793 France was at war with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.25 The French republican representative to the U.S. in 1793 was (including his title)  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.26 Name three things the French envoy did that threatened U.S. neutrality.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.27** What were the problems America was having with Britain?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.28** What did the British agree to do under Jay's Treaty?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.29** Why did so many Americans object to Jay's Treaty? \_\_\_\_\_

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**1.30** What was the Whiskey Rebellion and how was it settled? \_\_\_\_\_

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**1.31** What two things did Washington recommend that Americans avoid in the *Farewell Address*?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**1.32** Washington set the precedent that the president serves \_\_\_\_\_ terms.

## Adams Administration

**Election of 1796.** The elections of George Washington had been uncontested. In the election of 1796, however, there were three candidates. Hamilton was too unpopular to run as a candidate, so the Federalist faction supported John Adams or John Pinckney (backed by Hamilton). The Democratic-Republicans supported Thomas Jefferson. With Washington no longer acting as a unifying factor, the verbal mud flew back and forth, further separating the two developing political parties. Adams won by three electoral votes. The system at the time

did not take political parties into account, and the runner-up in electoral votes, Thomas Jefferson, received the vice presidency. The messy situation of having a president from one political party and his vice president from another was eventually prevented by the 12th Amendment to the Constitution, adopted in 1804.

John Adams was a lawyer from Massachusetts and had been an active participant in the political end of the Revolution. He had worked to oppose the Stamp Act, followed his conscience in defending the British soldiers responsible for



the Boston Massacre, served in the First and Second Continental Congress, and represented America in Europe during the Revolutionary War. He assisted in the negotiations with Britain at the end of the war and was America's first ambassador to the former mother country. He returned home in 1788 and was selected to serve under Washington as vice president.

Adams was a very capable statesman but tended to be cold and sharp in person. He and Thomas Jefferson had become friends during the Revolution. Their political differences would temporarily end their relationship until after both had retired from office. Adams and Hamilton did not get along at all. Adams represented the moderate part of the Federalist party while Hamilton's views were more extreme. This split would do tremendous damage to the Federalist Party.

Adams kept all of Washington's cabinet when he took office in 1797. Hamilton had resigned earlier, but most of the other cabinet members kept him informed of their activities and relied on his advice. This further aggravated the problems between the two men and their supporters. Adams also inherited from Washington the problems in Europe, and those would dominate his time in office.

**XYZ Affair.** The Jay Treaty had triggered a crisis with France. The French saw it as a **repudiation** of the French-American treaty signed during the Revolution. The latest French government, the Directory, began to seriously harass U.S. trade and insultingly refused to receive a new American ambassador. Adams sent a special three-man delegation to France to try to resolve the dispute.

The American delegation arrived in France in 1797 and was approached by three representatives of Talleyrand, the French foreign minister. These three coolly requested a huge bribe for both the Directory and Talleyrand before negotiations could even begin! The Americans firmly refused and left. They filed a full report with

Adams, calling the three French representatives X, Y and Z.

The XYZ Affair triggered a tremendous outcry when it became public in America. The insult to the national honor excited everyone. The extreme Federalists under Hamilton led the call for war. Taxes were raised to improve the navy and army. An aging George Washington was named as the **nominal** head of the army, with Alexander Hamilton in actual command. Americans put aside their own differences, and even Democratic-Republicans joined in the cry of "Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute."

Through it all, Adams kept his head. He realized the new nation could not afford a war. He proceeded with preparations, but with the support of the moderate Federalists, never called for declaration of war. An undeclared war went on between the ships of both sides for about two years. Finally, Talleyrand realized he could not afford to add America to the list of countries fighting France. He let Adams know that a new delegation would be received properly.

**Convention of 1800.** Adams authorized a new delegation to go to France in 1799 over the severe objections of much of his own party. The government in France had changed yet again by the time the Americans arrived. Napoleon Bonaparte was now the dictator of France, and he wanted to clear up foreign disputes to leave himself a free hand in Europe. The two sides negotiated (without bribes) the Convention of 1800. The Convention officially ended the old French-American treaty of alliance and temporarily settled the differences between the two nations. Adams had won the peace, but his refusal to give in to war hysteria cost him his popularity. He deserves a great deal of credit for stubbornly putting his country ahead of his political ambitions.

**The Alien and Sedition Acts.** The Federalists had regained strength in Congress after the XYZ Affair. They took advantage of the

anti-French hysteria to pass a series of laws in 1798 to suppress the Democratic-Republican opposition. The first part of the laws, the Alien Acts, had wide support in the country. These acts increased the time an immigrant must live in America to become a citizen from five to fourteen years. They also allowed the president to deport dangerous aliens or to imprison them during war time.

The Alien Acts were aimed at new immigrants who tended to support the more democratic party of Jefferson. They were also aimed at the hundreds of political refugees who had fled from the law in their own countries to cause trouble in America. The laws were never enforced, but their existence served to encourage many of the worst radicals to leave, and many others decided never to come.

The Sedition Act was aimed squarely at the rights of American citizens to free speech and freedom of the press. It required fines and imprisonment for such “crimes” as publishing any false, scandalous, or malicious statements against the government or organizing to oppose federal laws. This law was used very little, and then exclusively against Democratic-Republican publishers (only ten were convicted).

The Democratic-Republicans obviously led the opposition to the acts. Jefferson and Madison went overboard in opposing them. They succeeded in having the state legislatures in Kentucky and Virginia pass resolutions to **nullify** the laws. The Kentucky and Virginia Resolves were based on the theory that the federal government was a creation of the states, and the states could disallow its laws. Such a position would rob the federal government of all authority over the states. Fortunately, the other states did not join in this extreme position, but it was to be used again in the years leading up to the Civil War. The offensive laws were repealed or allowed to expire over the next two years.

**Election of 1800.** The election of 1800 was the first that can be described as a fight between



| John Adams was the only Federalist President.

two political parties. Adams faced an uphill battle for re-election. His Federalist Party was divided. The Hamilton wing openly fought against him. The Alien and Sedition Acts had given the Democratic-Republicans an issue to use against the Federalists. Moreover, after all the taxes and preparations, John Adams had not given the country the war they wanted. The well-organized Democratic-Republicans rallied behind Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr who ran as a president/vice president team.

The Democratic-Republicans won the election, but the rules for the election caused a serious problem. Each elector was to cast two votes, the one with the most votes became the president, the one in second place became the vice president. The Democratic-Republicans electors loyally cast their two votes, one each for Jefferson and Burr, who therefore tied! A tie was resolved by voting between the candidates in the House of Representatives, which was still under Federalist control. The Federalists

supported Burr who was a professional politician, over the idealistic Jefferson. As a result, neither could get the necessary majority in thirty-five consecutive ballots. Finally, Jefferson won on the thirty-sixth when some of the Federalists abstained from voting. (They may have been convinced to do so by Hamilton, who had a strong dislike for Burr). This event brought about the 12th Amendment in 1804 which separated the voting for the two offices.

**Federalist legacy.** John Adams was the last Federalist president. The party slowly died after that. The divisions within the party hampered its ability to win elections. Its appeal to leadership by the elite did not fit with the growing

democratic spirit of the nation. Moreover, once the Democratic-Republicans were in power, they began to support a strong federal government, gaining Federalist supporters as they moved toward Federalist ideas.

However, the Federalists left a rich legacy in America. They set up the basic structure of the national government, established a solid financial system, and protected the new nation from early wars that might have destroyed it. They also established the “loose construction” of the Constitution, giving the new government the flexibility to deal with the changes that were ahead.



**Name the item or person.**

- 1.33 \_\_\_\_\_ Allowed the president to deport dangerous aliens and increased the time of residency to become a citizen
- 1.34 \_\_\_\_\_ Party that won the 1800 elections
- 1.35 \_\_\_\_\_ Second president of the United States
- 1.36 \_\_\_\_\_ Treaty that triggered a crisis with France
- 1.37 \_\_\_\_\_ State resolutions to nullify Alien and Sedition Acts
- 1.38 \_\_\_\_\_ Agreement with France under Napoleon that ended the current disputes with America and the alliance
- 1.39 \_\_\_\_\_ An attempt by the French government to get bribes for negotiations
- 1.40 \_\_\_\_\_ Federalist law that attacked freedom of speech and the press



**Answer these questions.**

**1.41** Who were the two leaders of the Federalist factions? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.42** What single decision cost John Adams his popularity? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.43** Publishers with what political party were prosecuted under the Sedition Act? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.44** What was the rallying cry of the nation preparing for war after the XYZ Affair? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.45** Who won the electoral vote in 1800? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.46** Who was Adams' vice president and why was that a problem? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.47** What was the legacy of the Federalists?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_



**Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

# SELF TEST 1

**Match these people** (each answer, 2 points).

- |              |       |                    |    |  |
|--------------|-------|--------------------|----|--|
| <b>1.01</b>  | _____ | Napoleon Bonaparte | a. | obtained an unpopular treaty with Britain under President Washington           |
| <b>1.02</b>  | _____ | Alexander Hamilton | b. | first secretary of state   |
| <b>1.03</b>  | _____ | Thomas Jefferson   | c. | first secretary of the treasury  |
| <b>1.04</b>  | _____ | George Washington  | d. | vice presidential candidate who tied with Jefferson in electoral votes in 1800 |
| <b>1.05</b>  | _____ | John Adams         | e. | dictator of France   |
| <b>1.06</b>  | _____ | Edmond Genêt       | f. | troublesome minister from France to America under Washington                   |
| <b>1.07</b>  | _____ | Edmund Randolph    | g. | unanimously chosen president by the electors                                   |
| <b>1.08</b>  | _____ | John Jay           | h. | first and last Federalist president  |
| <b>1.09</b>  | _____ | Aaron Burr         | i. | first secretary of war   |
| <b>1.010</b> | _____ | Henry Knox         | j. | first attorney general   |

**Name the item being described** (each answer, 3 points).

- |              |       |   |
|--------------|-------|---|
| <b>1.011</b> | _____ | Political party that believed in rule by the elite, a strong central government, and was pro-British      |
| <b>1.012</b> | _____ | Political party that believed in rule by the common people, a weak federal government, and was pro-French |
| <b>1.013</b> | _____ | Structure on the reverse of the Great Seal  |
| <b>1.014</b> | _____ | A revolt in Pennsylvania in 1794 against the excise tax   |
| <b>1.015</b> | _____ | The side that America fought with in the European war that began in 1793                                  |
| <b>1.016</b> | _____ | Scandal that erupted under John Adams when the French demanded a bribe before they would negotiate        |
| <b>1.017</b> | _____ | Laws passed by the Federalists to control immigrants and silence opposition to their government.          |

- 1.018** \_\_\_\_\_ Agreement between America and France that ended their alliance and settled their current disputes
- 1.019** \_\_\_\_\_ The English translation of “E Pluribus Unum”
- 1.020** \_\_\_\_\_ Washington’s statement that recommended the nation avoid political parties and foreign alliances

**Answer these questions** (each answer, 4 points).

**1.021** What were the three parts of Hamilton’s financial plan?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.022** What was Thomas Jefferson’s argument against the National Bank?

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.023** What are three legacies of the Federalist Era?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.024** What were some of the problems America was having with Britain under Washington?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

Write true or false on the blank (each answer, 1 point).

- 1.025 \_\_\_\_\_ The national capital was to be built in the south in exchange for a lower tariff rate.
- 1.026 \_\_\_\_\_ Alexander Hamilton was vice president under John Adams.
- 1.027 \_\_\_\_\_ Citizen Genêt was a British ambassador who negotiated a treaty with the U.S.
- 1.028 \_\_\_\_\_ George Washington served two terms as president.
- 1.029 \_\_\_\_\_ “Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute” was the rally cry against the British during Washington’s term.
- 1.030 \_\_\_\_\_ The French and British interfered with American trade.
- 1.031 \_\_\_\_\_ Washington did not attach himself to any political party.
- 1.032 \_\_\_\_\_ The obverse of the Great Seal has an eagle on it.
- 1.033 \_\_\_\_\_ Washington liked politics and eagerly sought the presidency.
- 1.034 \_\_\_\_\_ Hamilton favored an agrarian society with a weak federal government.
- 1.035 \_\_\_\_\_ John Adams’ commitment to peace cost him his popularity.

	<b>SCORE</b> _____	<b>TEACHER</b> _____	initials	date
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