

## CHAPTER

# 9 The Federalist Period

### *The New Government Begins*

#### VOCABULARY

inauguration	loose interpretation
tariff	strict interpretation
Cabinet	Bank of the United States
Judiciary Act of 1789	

**George Washington, our first President** April 30, 1789, was a sunny day in New York City. A happy and curious crowd had gathered in front of the new Federal Hall. The crowd had come to see the first **inauguration** of a President of the United States. An inauguration is the ceremony that is held when one takes office.

A little after noon a group of people stepped onto the balcony of Federal Hall, overlooking Broad Street. Everyone recognized the tall white-wigged figure of George Washington. The crowd cheered as he appeared. Only a few recognized Robert Livingston, the chief judge of New York's highest state court. Livingston was there to read the oath of office, which the new President would take.

Not many on the street below the balcony heard the words. Still, they knew that George Washington was taking the President's oath of office. As soon as the

oath was administered, Livingston turned to the crowd. In a voice heard by all, he cried, "Long live George Washington, President of the United States!" The people below responded with a loud cheer. Washington bowed and the crowd cheered again. With the ceremony over, the group on the balcony moved inside Federal Hall. There Washington gave his first inaugural address to Congress.

**Congress acts** Most of the men in the first Congress had supported the Constitution. Nearly half of the 26 senators had taken part in the Constitutional Convention. Most of the others had worked to bring about ratification. James Madison led a powerful group in the House of Representatives. Like their leader, members of this group supported the new, stronger central government.

The new government badly needed money to meet its expenses. Some money—but not enough—would come from the sale of western lands. So, as one of its first actions, Congress passed a tariff bill. A tariff is a tax on goods brought from another country. The tariff of 1789 put a tax of from 5 to 15 percent on about 80 manufactured articles imported into the United States. For more than a century, tariffs supplied most of the money the government needed.

*George Washington takes the oath of office as the first President of the United States.*

In Massachusetts, Virginia, and other states, Federalist leaders had promised to add a bill of rights to the Constitution. In the first Congress they worked hard to keep their promise. This meant amending—that is, making a correction or change in—the Constitution. Ten amendments were added in 1791, and these became the promised Bill of Rights. (See the Bill of Rights, starting on page 192.)

**The President's Cabinet** Congress knew that President Washington would need help to run the executive branch of government. So, within the executive branch Congress created the Departments of State, Treasury, and War. Each was headed by an official called a secretary.

Congress also authorized the office of attorney general to handle legal affairs. The chart on page 207 shows the duties of these officials and the names of the four men first appointed to these offices in the new government.

These four men soon became known as the President's Cabinet, which means “a group of advisers.” It was Washington who began the practice of consulting with the heads of the major departments in the executive branch of the government. The Constitution says nothing about advisers to the President, but every President since Washington has had a Cabinet. The number of Cabinet members has increased over the years as Congress has added new departments to the executive branch.

*At Washington's left are four Cabinet members: Henry Knox, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and Edmund Randolph. See the table on page 207 for their offices and duties.*



Samuel Osgood of Massachusetts became the first postmaster general under the Constitution. However, the office did not become a Cabinet post until 1829.

#### WASHINGTON'S FIRST CABINET

Office	Official	Duties
Secretary of State	Thomas Jefferson	To conduct the relations of the United States with other nations
Secretary of the Treasury	Alexander Hamilton	To handle the government's finances
Secretary of War	Henry Knox	To take charge of all military matters
Attorney General	Edmund Randolph	To act as chief legal adviser to the executive branch

In making appointments to his Cabinet, a President tries to gain support from different parts of the country. Thomas Jefferson and Edmund Randolph were from Virginia, Henry Knox was from Massachusetts, and Alexander Hamilton was from New York. From Washington's day on, Presidents have sought geographical balance in their Cabinets.

Washington—and the Presidents following him—tried to have different points of view represented in the Cabinet. Edmund Randolph had attended the Constitutional Convention but in Virginia had opposed ratification of the Constitution. Thomas Jefferson was not so firmly in favor of a strong central government as Hamilton and Knox were.

**The federal courts** Article III of the Constitution states that the judicial branch of the federal government will consist of a Supreme Court and any lower courts Congress wishes to establish. Acting under this authority, Congress passed the Judiciary Act of 1789. This act provided for a Supreme Court with a chief justice and five associate justices. The Judiciary Act of 1789 also set up lower courts on two levels. At the lower level

were 13 district courts, one for each state. There were three circuit courts at a higher level, between the district courts and the Supreme Court.

Since 1789, Congress has changed the number of associate justices on the Supreme Court as well as the number of district and circuit courts. Still, our federal court system today has the same framework as that set up by the Judiciary Act of 1789. Through this court system, justice is assured in the enforcement of federal laws.

**Hamilton's debt plan** Article VI of the Constitution required the new government to pay all debts contracted by the old government under the Articles of Confederation. Moreover, most of the states were still in debt for money they had borrowed during the War for Independence. The new federal government had no responsibility for the state debts. However, it arranged to pay these debts, too.

This came about through a plan proposed by Alexander Hamilton. In 1789, Congress asked him, as secretary of the treasury, to prepare a report on government finances. In his report, Hamilton suggested that the new government pay

both the federal and the state debts. Hamilton argued that the federal government would be strengthened by taking responsibility for the state debts. People who had lent money to the states would look to the federal government for payment. Therefore, they would support the federal government and would work for its success.

**The federal district** Virginia and other southern states had paid nearly all their state debts. They had no quarrel with the plan to pay the federal debt. But their leaders were unwilling to have the federal government take over the task of paying the state debts. If this happened, southern leaders said, their citizens would be taxed to help pay the debts of northern states.

As it happened, Congress was trying to decide the location of a new capital at the same time that Hamilton's debt plan was being considered. This presented an opportunity for compromise. Thomas Jefferson knew that people in the South wanted the permanent capital of the United States in or near their part of the country. So he persuaded some Virginia congressmen to vote for Hamilton's plan. In return, Hamilton used his influence to place the new capital in a federal district between Maryland and Virginia. Philadelphia was to be the capital for 10 years. Then the United States government would move to Washington in the newly formed District of Columbia.

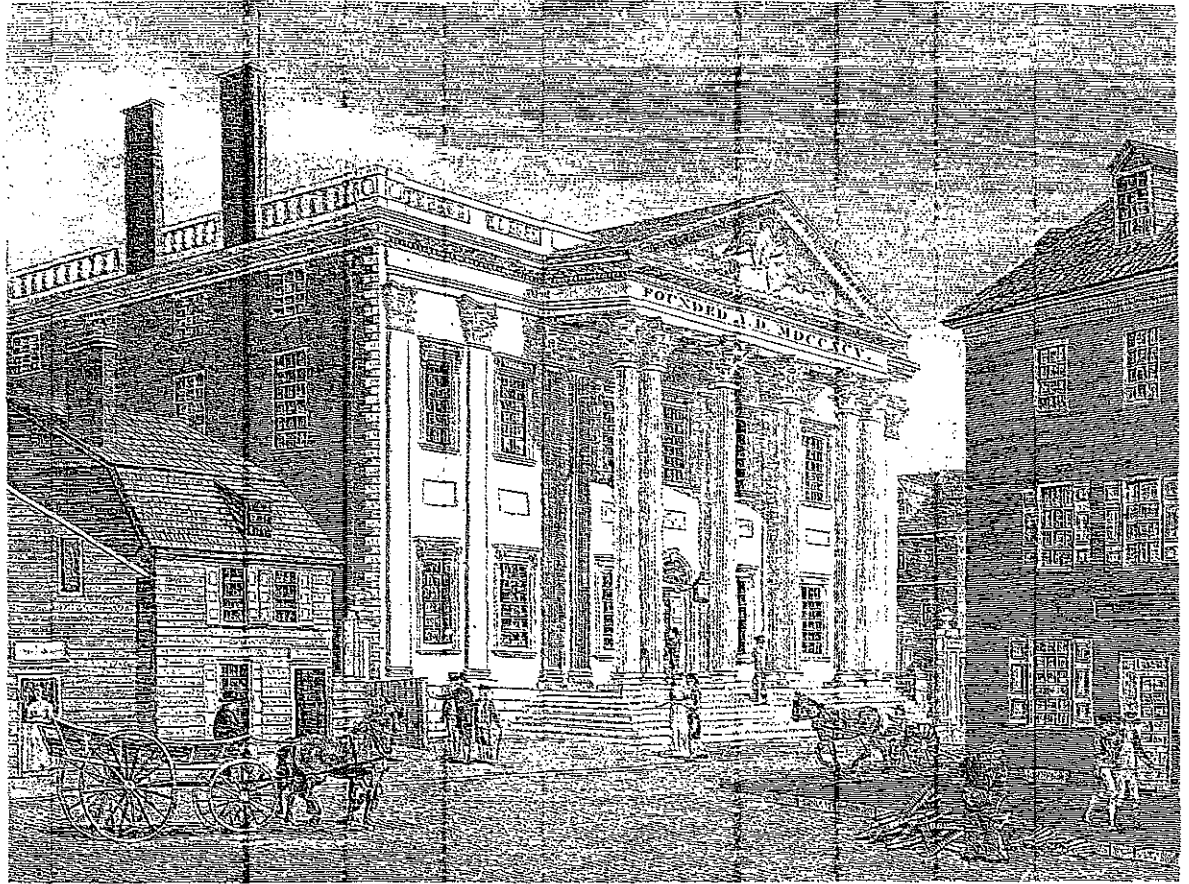
**A national bank** Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson were successful in working out a compromise on the debt

question. On another matter, however, the two leaders disagreed. Hamilton proposed that the United States Congress charter a national bank, modeled on the Bank of England. A national bank, Hamilton said, should be owned partly by the government and partly by private individuals. It would be a safe place for the federal government to keep its money. Moreover, it could help the government borrow money.

Hamilton and Jefferson disagreed on the question of whether Congress had the power to charter a national bank. Hamilton said that the Constitution (Article I, Section 8) gave Congress the power to pass any laws necessary to carry out its listed powers. He argued that Congress clearly had the power to tax and spend for the general welfare. A bank, he said, would help Congress carry out this power. Therefore, Hamilton declared, Congress did have the power to charter a bank.

Hamilton's argument is known as the loose interpretation (or broad interpretation) of the Constitution. The makers of the Constitution could not possibly write in all the details of government. Therefore, they included a clause permitting Congress to create whatever agencies were "necessary and proper" to carry out the functions of government. This clause made a loose interpretation of the Constitution possible.

Jefferson, on the other hand, believed the federal government could do only what the Constitution specifically gave it the power to do. In his opinion, the Constitution should be interpreted exactly as it was written, not loosely or broadly. Jef-



The newly chartered Bank of the United States set up its headquarters in Philadelphia.

erson's view is known as the **strict interpretation** (or narrow interpretation) of the Constitution. According to this interpretation, the government could not charter a bank because the Constitution did not give the legislative branch the specific power to do so.

Actually, Congress had already passed a bill chartering the first **Bank of the United States**. President Washington, however, had cautiously held off signing the bill into law. He wanted to hear his Cabinet's views on whether the Constitution gave Congress the power to establish a bank. After listening carefully, Washington decided to accept Hamilton's argu-

ments. He signed the bank bill in 1791. It provided a charter for the Bank of the United States. Under its charter, which would last 20 years, the headquarters of the bank would be in Philadelphia. It could, however, set up branches in other parts of the country.

#### CHECKUP

1. How did the tariff of 1789 raise money for the new government?
2. What was the purpose of the President's Cabinet?
3. How did the Judiciary Act of 1789 establish a federal court system?
4. Why was Hamilton's debt plan adopted?
5. Explain the difference between Hamilton's and Jefferson's interpretation of the Constitution concerning the Bank of the United States.

After pupils have read this lesson, have them copy each Vocabulary term on page 204, write its meaning, and use it in a sentence.

## The Rise of Political Parties

### VOCABULARY

political party	Whiskey Rebellion
Federalist party	nominate
Democratic-Republican party	caucus

A "fishing" trip In the summer of 1791, Thomas Jefferson and his friend James Madison took a trip through the northern states. The two men said they were going on a "fishing and botanizing" journey. But it was neither fish nor rare plants that sent them north. They were looking for northern leaders opposed to the policies of Alexander Hamilton.

Jefferson and Madison found what they were looking for in New York. There they talked with Aaron Burr, an opponent of Alexander Hamilton. They talked, too, with George Clinton, who had long been governor of New York. Out of these talks grew an organization called a **political party**.

**Political parties** A political party is an organization of people holding similar views on the policies a government should follow. The party members work to elect people of their choice to office and to shape government policies. The writers of the Constitution had not foreseen the development of political parties, and the Constitution makes no mention of them. Nevertheless, political parties have become important to all levels of government in the United States. Our first two political parties grew from the

### WHAT POLITICAL PARTIES DO

1. Political parties select candidates for office by means of caucuses or conventions.
2. By nominating candidates, political parties offer the voters a choice at elections.
3. Political parties draw up *platforms*, which are statements of the stand the party takes on important issues.
4. Political parties collect money to finance their candidates' campaigns.
5. Candidates and other party leaders provide information to voters through speeches, written statements, and advertisements.
6. When elected to office, political parties' candidates direct the activities of the government.
7. When out of office, political parties' leaders act as watchdogs, checking to see that the party in power conducts the activities of the government properly.
8. Political parties make it possible for voters to express their wishes in a peaceful manner.

opposing views of Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton. As you have read, the two men had different opinions on the Bank of the United States. In time they differed on other questions, too.

Both Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton had many followers. Those with views similar to Hamilton's joined in what became known as the Federalist party. The leaders of this party had helped to write the Constitution. They believed in a strong central government and had worked hard to get the Constitution ratified. For more than 10 years, they had held most of the important offices in the government.

Jefferson's supporters were pro-French, while Hamilton's followers were pro-British.

Those persons who had been against ratification of the Constitution were called Anti-Federalists. In the 1790s many of them became followers of Thomas Jefferson. At that time his party was known as the **Democratic-Republican party**. Later it would shorten its name to the Democratic party.

**Washington's second term** In 1792 President Washington wanted to retire to Mount Vernon. However, the infant republic still needed his steadying hand. So he consented to accept a second 4-year term. Once more he was chosen President of the United States with the unanimous vote of the electors.

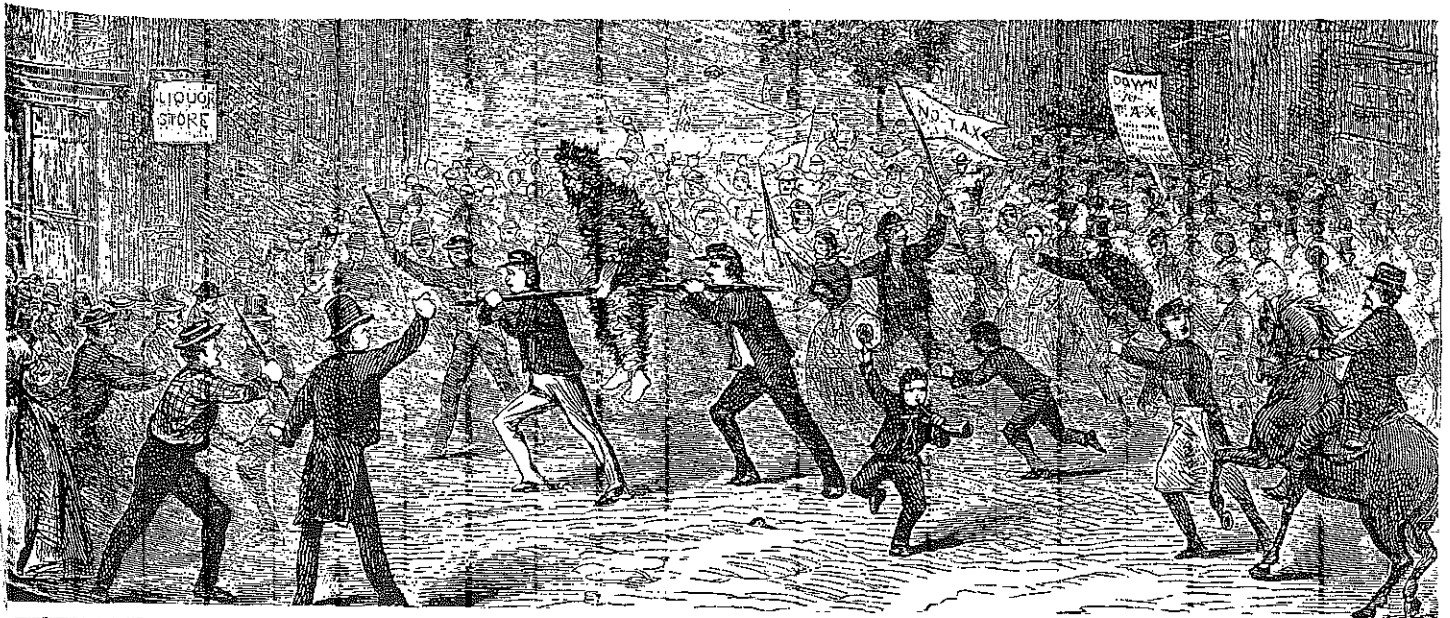
During Washington's second term a crisis arose. Hamilton had persuaded Congress to put a tax on whiskey. He said the government needed the money such a tax would provide. The whiskey tax angered western farmers. Since they had difficulty getting their grain to eastern markets, the farmers distilled some of their corn and rye into whiskey. Jugs, kegs, and barrels of whiskey could be more eas-

ily carried over bad roads than could wagonloads of bulky grain.

Many western farmers refused to pay the whiskey tax because they felt it was an unjust burden on them. When the federal government sent tax collectors, the angry farmers threatened them with violence. Washington was alarmed by this threat, and in 1794 he called the militia of three states into federal service. With Alexander Hamilton in command, 15,000 men marched into western Pennsylvania. This display of force brought about the collapse of the Whiskey Rebellion, the name given to the farmers' brief resistance to the federal government.

The Whiskey Rebellion had two results. First, it showed that the federal government could enforce the laws that Congress had passed. Second, it convinced many western farmers that violence was a very poor way of opposing Federalist policies. Joining Jefferson's Democratic-Republican party was a better way. Perhaps they could change the government's policies by voting the Federalists out of office.

*Angry farmers carry on a rail a whiskey-tax collector they have tarred and feathered.*





**GEORGE WASHINGTON**  
*1st President*  
1789-1797

**Born:** 1732, Westmoreland County, Virginia. **Educa-**  
**tion:** Private tutors and relatives. **Training:** Sur-  
veyor, militia officer, plantation owner. **To presidency**  
**from:** Virginia. **Position when elected:** Plantation  
owner. **Political party:** Belonged to no party. **Mar-**  
**ried:** Martha Dandridge Custis. **Children:** None,  
though his wife had two children by a former marriage.  
**Died:** 1799, from a cold and sore throat that doctors of the  
time could not cope with. **Other facts:** Tall, broad-  
shouldered, and muscular. Large land holdings made him  
one of the richest persons of his time. Yet he was so short  
of cash that he had to borrow money to travel to his in-  
auguration. **During his presidency:** Saw the first suc-  
cessful balloon flight in America in Philadelphia in 1793.

**The election of 1796** No doubt George Washington could have been elected to a third term as President. However, he believed two terms were enough. He also believed that political parties would weaken the national government. In a farewell message to the country, Washington warned against the harmful effects of the "spirit of party." His advice came too late. Political parties were already in existence.

As the end of Washington's second term neared, the two political parties openly chose, or nominated, candidates for election to the presidency. Federalist leaders wanted to nominate Alexander Hamilton, but they feared he had too many enemies to be elected. Instead they chose John Adams of Massachusetts as the Federalist presidential candidate. For Vice-President they nominated Thomas Pinckney of South Carolina, the youngest son of Eliza Lucas Pinckney, whom you read about on pages 108-109.

Democratic-Republican leaders held a meeting to choose candidates for their party. Such a meeting of party leaders is called a caucus. From 1796 to 1832, par-

ties used this method to choose those who ran for office. In 1796 the Democratic-Republican caucus named Thomas Jefferson as the party's presidential candidate. For Vice-President, they chose Aaron Burr of New York.

The election showed the growing power of the Democratic-Republican party. Although John Adams won the presidency, he received only three more electoral votes than Thomas Jefferson. The Constitution at that time stated that the person with the second highest number of electoral votes would be Vice-President. Therefore, Jefferson became Vice-President even though he and John Adams were members of different political parties.

#### CHECKUP

1. What were the first two political parties in the United States?
2. What were the main differences between these two parties?
3. What are the main functions of political parties in the United States?
4. How did the presidential election of 1796 show the growing strength of the Democratic-Republican party?



## Treaties and Troubles

### VOCABULARY

proclamation of  
neutrality  
impress

Jay's Treaty  
Pinckney's  
Treaty  
XYZ affair

**The last Federalist President** John Adams was one of the giants of the American Revolution. His writings had put forth many of the arguments in favor of revolution. Adams had helped draft the Declaration of Independence, had signed it, and had helped persuade the Second Continental Congress to approve it. He had served as his country's diplomatic representative abroad. He had been Vice-President during Washington's two terms as President. Very few Americans in 1796 had as much experience in politics and government as John Adams.

Nevertheless, John Adams won only a narrow victory over Thomas Jefferson. This was one reason why he did not have greater success as President. Another reason was his stubborn personality. John Adams refused to change his ways to make himself popular. Even though Federalists were in control of the Senate and the House of Representatives, President Adams had trouble with Congress.

President Adams's main troubles, however, were in dealing with other countries. In 1789, the year that George Washington was inaugurated for his first term, a revolution broke out in France. John Marshall, who later became Chief Justice of the United States, wrote in 1789, "In no part of the globe was this revolution hailed with more joy than in America."

At first, most Americans looked on the French Revolution with favor. But as time passed, the French Revolution took a violent turn, with much bloodshed. Events in France as well as in other countries became matters of great concern in the United States. The way the Federalists dealt with these problems turned out to be unpopular. The foreign relations of the United States during the years that the Federalists were in power helped make John Adams the last Federalist President.

**The old treaty with France** You have learned that the United States and France signed a treaty of alliance in 1778. This was at a time when the United States was struggling for independence. France helped mightily in that struggle. In fact, without France's aid, the United States might not have been victorious in its War for Independence.

Fifteen years later, war broke out again between France and Great Britain. Because of the treaty of alliance, some Democratic-Republicans thought the United States should join France in this war against Great Britain. But Federalists argued that the treaty was no longer in force. They said that the revolution in France had changed the government that had signed the treaty. In addition, the Federalists feared the democratic spirit of the French Revolution.

President Washington knew the United States was too weak to get involved in another war so soon after its War for Independence. Therefore, he issued a proclamation of neutrality. This meant the United States would take no part in the war between France and Great Britain.

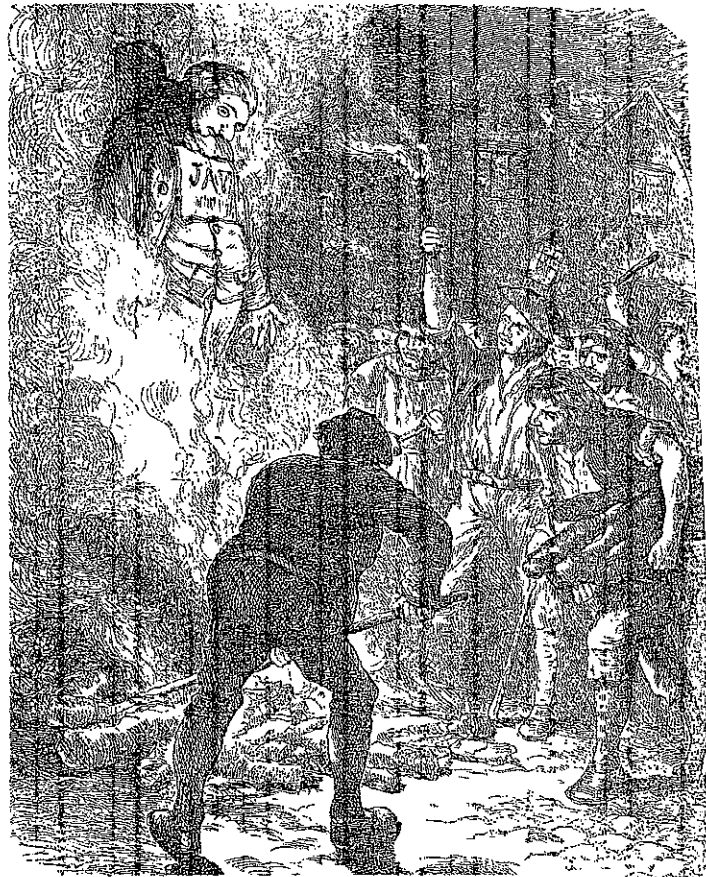
It also made plain that the treaty of alliance between France and the United States was no longer in effect.

**Jay's Treaty** Though President Washington declared American neutrality, the French-British conflict still caused trouble for the United States. British war vessels seized or sank American merchant ships suspected of trading with France. The British **impressed** American sailors—that is, they took sailors off American ships and forced them to serve on British ships.

Moreover, as late as the 1790s, the British still held western forts and trading posts on American soil. In 1794 Washington sent John Jay of New York to Great Britain to try to arrange solutions to these problems. Jay had earlier been made the first Chief Justice of the United States. However, he had regarded this as an unimportant office and had resigned.

Jay succeeded in coming to an agreement with the British. In what became known as Jay's Treaty, Great Britain agreed to move out of the forts and trading posts on America's western lands. However, Jay was not able to solve all the problems that had caused trouble between the United States and Great Britain. There was nothing in Jay's Treaty about Great Britain's interference with American shipping. And the trade terms that were agreed on seemed to favor Great Britain.

The Democratic-Republicans and even some Federalists were unhappy with Jay's Treaty. President Washington was not pleased with it either. Still, he thought it might keep the United States out of war. So he presented it to the Senate for ap-



*John Jay's treaty with Britain was so unpopular that he was burned in effigy by demonstrators.*

proval, as the Constitution required. Ratification in the Senate turned into a fight between the two political parties. Finally, in 1794 the Senate ratified Jay's Treaty and President Washington signed it. Nevertheless, the split between Democratic-Republicans and Federalists had widened.

**Pinckney's Treaty** The year after Jay's Treaty, Thomas Pinckney, also a Federalist, was sent to Spain to try to work out problems between Spain and the United States. France had turned over its holdings west of the Mississippi River to Spain 12 years before the American Revolution. As long as the colonists were confined to the region east of the Appalachians, it made little difference who laid

claim to the wilderness region beyond the Mississippi. But as Americans moved into the lands beyond the mountains after the Revolution, trouble developed between the settlers of the region and the Spanish officials.

A major issue was the use of the Mississippi River as a water highway. Spain did not want the river opened to free navigation. It saw such an act as a threat to its landholdings in the heart of North America. To western farmers, however, use of the Mississippi was essential to getting their crops to market. The crops could be sent down the river on flatboats. Near the mouth of the river they could then be transferred to oceangoing vessels for shipment to ports on the Atlantic coast or in Europe.

Pinckney had more success than John Jay. The treaty he negotiated with Spain was widely popular. In Pinckney's Treaty, Spain granted Americans the right to travel on the Mississippi River. Even more important, the treaty allowed Americans to ship goods through the port of New Orleans, at the mouth of the Mississippi. For many a western farmer, the right to use the port was the difference between failure and success.

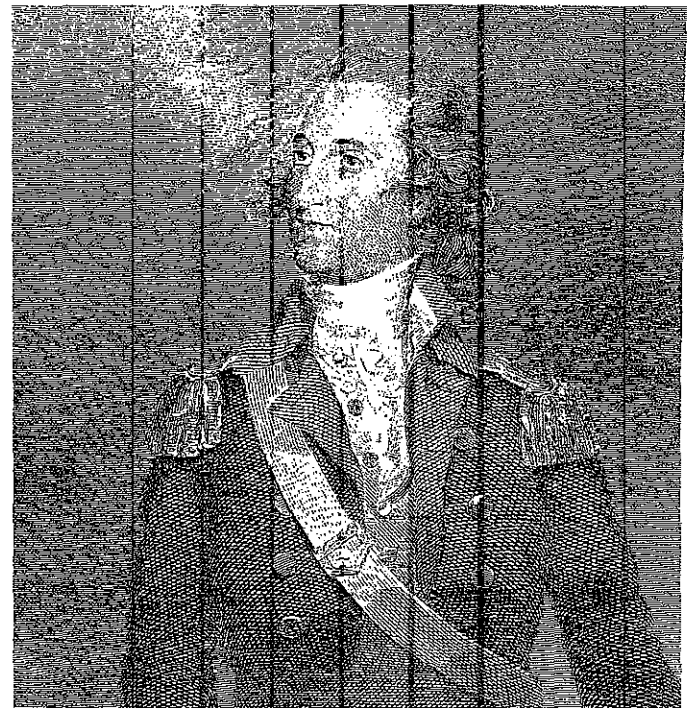
In addition, Pinckney's Treaty cleared up the disputed boundary between American and Spanish territory in the southeastern United States. Spain and the United States agreed to accept the 31st parallel as the northern boundary of Spanish Florida. Thomas Pinckney won such popularity through this treaty that Federalist leaders nominated him as their party's candidate for Vice-President of the United States in 1796.

Thomas Pinckney was the son of Eliza Lucas Pinckney, the woman who introduced the cultivation of indigo in America.

**Trouble with France** Washington's proclamation of neutrality angered French leaders. They had expected the United States to aid them in their war against Great Britain because of the old treaty of alliance. In fact, the French ambassador had made plans to have French armed ships use American harbors.

America's relations with France reached their lowest point during John Adams's term as President. French officials insulted the American ambassador. They even threatened him with arrest unless he left France. Some Federalists thought Adams should ask Congress to declare war on France because of these insults. Adams refused to do that. Instead, he sent three special ambassadors to France with instructions to try for a peaceful solution to the difficulties.

*The success of Thomas Pinckney of South Carolina in negotiating a treaty with Spain won him much praise.*



**The XYZ affair** When the three American ambassadors got to Paris, three French officials met them. The French officials suggested that the Americans pay them a bribe before negotiations could begin. The Americans refused and sent a report to President Adams about what had happened. Adams then reported the whole affair to Congress.

In his report to Congress, President Adams refused to name the French officials who had asked for the bribe. He identified them as X, Y, and Z. For this reason, the negotiations with France became known as the XYZ affair. When news of it reached the American public, demands for a declaration of war against France increased.

**Adams stands firm** President Adams continued to withstand pressure to declare war. Still, he realized his duty to protect the United States against a possible invasion by French forces. He called George Washington out of retirement to take command of an army of volunteers. Alexander Hamilton was named second-in-command.

Congress established a Department of the Navy headed by Benjamin Stoddert of Maryland. Stoddert served with great ability as America's first secretary of the navy. He established several navy yards in which American warships were built. Some French and American naval vessels actually fought battles between 1798 and 1800, though there was no declaration of war.

During these years, President Adams stood firm. His patience was rewarded in 1800 when Napoleon Bonaparte came to

power in France. Napoleon was willing to end the undeclared naval warfare. New American diplomatic representatives sent to France were treated with courtesy.

In 1800 France and the United States cancelled the troublesome treaty of alliance of 1778. To take its place, the two countries signed a trade treaty. By showing firmness and patience, John Adams had kept the United States out of war with France. Later, John Adams spoke of this as the greatest achievement of his term as President. However, some Federalist leaders never forgave him for his refusal to go to war with France.

#### CHECKUP

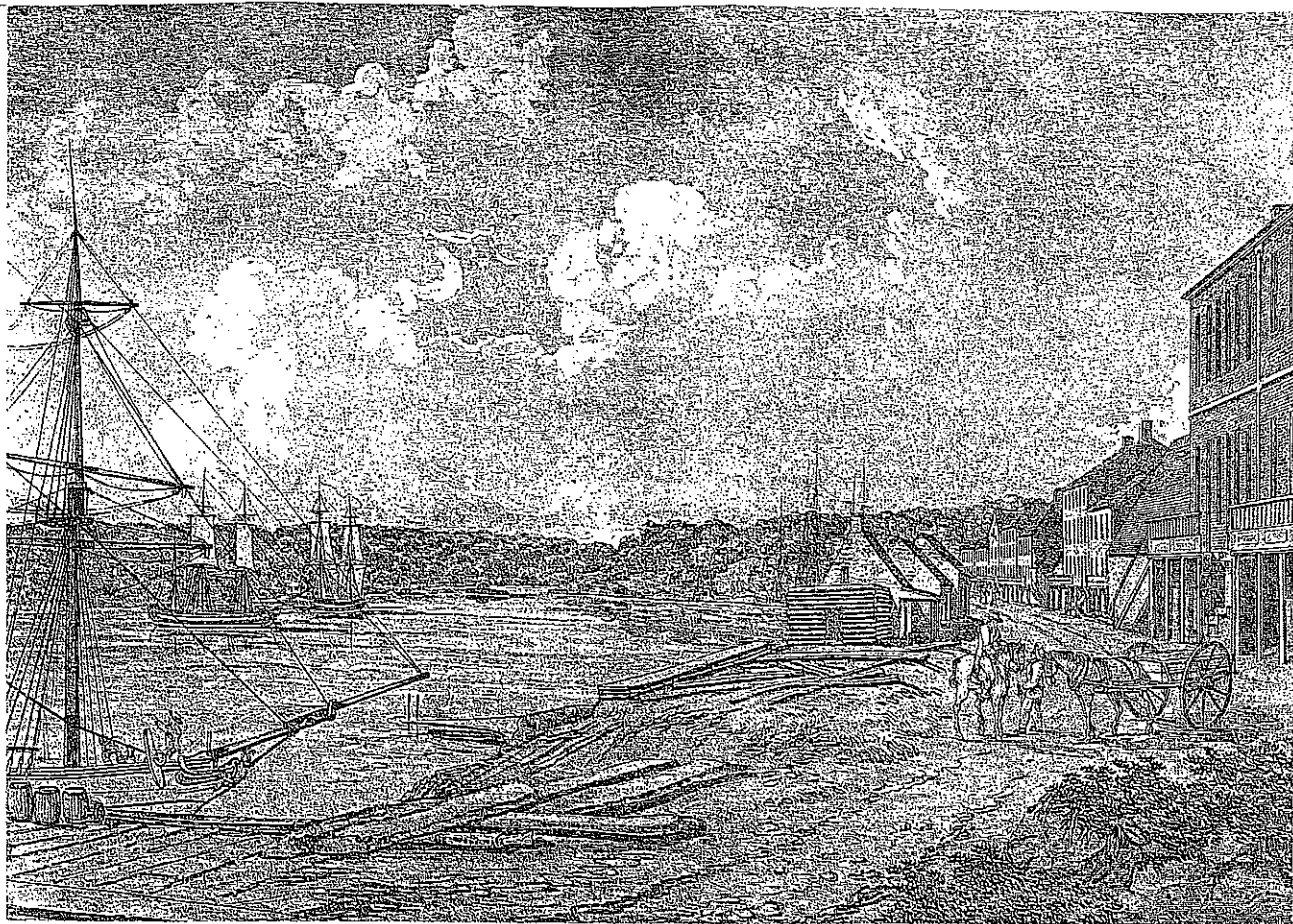
1. Why did President Washington issue a proclamation of neutrality?
2. What did Pinckney's Treaty and Jay's Treaty provide? Why was Pinckney's Treaty more popular with Americans than Jay's Treaty?
3. What kinds of troubles disturbed relations between the United States and France in the 1790s?
4. How were peaceful solutions to these troubles worked out?

### *The Federalist Record*

#### VOCABULARY

White House	census
mint	Alien and Sedition Acts
patent	

**The President's house** Abigail Adams was getting ready to move during the late winter of 1801. She and her husband, John Adams, had lived in the President's house only a few months. It was the first public building in Washington,



*At the time that the Adams family moved to Washington, the capital was a little river port. Final selection of the site on the Potomac River was made by George Washington.*

the new capital city. The cornerstone for the President's house was laid on October 13, 1792, by George Washington. President and Mrs. Adams moved in 8 years later. More than 20 years would pass before the President's house would be called the **White House**.

Some people complained about the size and the cost—\$400,000—of the President's house. Abigail Adams had other complaints. "We had no fence, yard, or other conveniences," she wrote. The house stood on the edge of a swamp. It lacked bathrooms. Water had to be carried by hand from a distance of five city blocks. Several of the rooms were unfinished. Mrs. Adams dried clothes in one of the largest unfinished rooms.

Abigail Adams may have been happy to leave the President's house. It is doubtful that her husband was. John Adams thought he had done well in his 4 years as President. Nevertheless, the electors in 1800 preferred Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, the candidates of the Democratic-Republican party for President and Vice-President. A new party with new policies was about to take over the federal government.

Perhaps the Federalists deserved better treatment from the voters. Their party had done a great deal for the infant United States. Their leaders had filled in the framework provided by the Constitution. Much of what they did for the first time has lasted to the present day.

The new national capital was built on an area of land between Maryland and Virginia.

**Coins and inventions** For 16 years following the Declaration of Independence, people in the United States used British and other foreign coins. It was the Federalists who first set up a system of American coins in 1792. Philadelphia was chosen as the home for the government's first **mint**, or place where coins are made. Some of the first United States coins were made from silverware given by George Washington.

The Federalists also started the issuing of patents to inventors. A patent is a document that gives an inventor the sole right to his or her invention for a certain number of years. No one else can make, use, or sell the invention without the inventor's permission. The first patent issued by the new patent office went to Samuel Hopkins. In 1790 Mr. Hopkins perfected a process for using potash in the manufacture of soap. Since 1790 about 4.5 million patents have been issued through the office the Federalists established.

**Federalist achievements** In spite of criticisms, Presidents Washington and Adams had kept the country out of war. Moreover, they had arranged treaties that solved problems existing between the United States and foreign countries. At the same time, Alexander Hamilton's financial policies had worked wonders for the credit of the United States government. During the 1790s, the government was able to borrow money from foreign countries at favorable rates of interest.

At home, the country had achieved a decent prosperity. In 1790 the government undertook the first census, or count of people, in the United States. Between

After pupils have read the section "The Alien and Sedition Acts," ask: Which amendment was said to be violated by the Sedition Act?

the first census and the second census in 1800, the United States had increased its population by 35 percent. Foreign trade had tripled during the same 10-year period. With this kind of record during the first 12 years under the Constitution, why were the Federalists turned out of office? Why was Thomas Jefferson moving to the President's house in 1801?

One answer to these questions lay with the public image of the Federalist party. Somewhat unfairly it had the reputation of being a party for the wealthy. There were wealthy people in the Federalist party, but there were also many common people. At the same time, many of the rich favored the Democratic-Republicans, the party of Thomas Jefferson, who was himself a large landowner in Virginia.

**The Alien and Sedition Acts** No political party can remain in power for 12 years without losing some backing. The unpopular treaty that John Jay worked out with Great Britain created opposition to the Federalists. So did their whiskey tax, and the way the government crushed the Whiskey Rebellion. By 1798 the Federalist leaders knew their power was slipping. Some of them were willing to chance a war with France if, by doing so, they could retain their control over the federal government. When it became clear that Adams wanted peace, not war, desperate Federalists pushed the Alien and Sedition Acts through Congress.

The Federalist leaders thought these acts would weaken the Democratic-Republican party. Three of the acts applied to aliens, that is, people not yet citizens of the country in which they live.

**THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE 1790s**

	<i>Federalist</i>	<i>Democratic-Republican</i>
<i>Political and governmental beliefs</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The "best people" should control the government.</li> <li>2. Strong national government</li> <li>3. Favored loose interpretation of the Constitution</li> <li>4. Restrictions on free speech and press</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The average citizen is capable of choosing representatives to govern.</li> <li>2. Limited national government, to preserve states' rights</li> <li>3. Favored strict interpretation of the Constitution</li> <li>4. Relatively free speech and press</li> </ol>
<i>Economic beliefs</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Favored active government aid to business, finance, and commerce</li> <li>2. Favored United States Bank to insure stable finances</li> <li>3. Whisky tax necessary to finance governmental expenditures</li> <li>4. Tariff necessary to insure revenue and protect industry</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No special favors for business; farming preferred</li> <li>2. Against Bank; thought it united national government and wealthy people against the poor</li> <li>3. Rigid economy in government, to reduce taxes</li> <li>4. No higher tariff than necessary to secure adequate revenue</li> </ol>
<i>Foreign affairs</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Favored Great Britain because of commercial ties and because of fear of the French Revolution</li> <li>2. Favored Jay's Treaty</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sympathized with goals of French Revolution</li> <li>2. Opposed Jay's Treaty</li> </ol>
<i>Sources of strength</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strong in New England and sea-coast areas</li> <li>2. Very well organized</li> <li>3. Supported by manufacturers, bankers, and merchants</li> <li>4. Brilliant leadership under Alexander Hamilton</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strong in South, Southwest, and frontier areas</li> <li>2. Grew better organized as average citizen became aware of issues of government</li> <li>3. Supported by small farmers, tradesmen, and mechanics</li> <li>4. Brilliant leadership under Thomas Jefferson</li> </ol>

One of these three acts increased the waiting period before aliens could become citizens of the United States. Aliens now had to wait 14 years instead of 5 years before becoming naturalized citizens with the right to vote. Most naturalized citizens had been voting for Jefferson's party. This law, the Federalists thought, would slow the growth of the Democratic-

Republican party and assure continued Federalist control of the government.

Naturalized citizens thought the Federalists were questioning their loyalty by passing the Alien Acts. Therefore, they supported the Democratic-Republican party more strongly than ever. Thus these acts did not have the effect that the Federalists had hoped.



JOHN ADAMS  
2nd President  
1797 - 1801

**Born:** 1735 (Bramtree (now Quincy), Massachusetts)  
**Education:** Harvard College    **Training:** Lawyer  
**To presidency from:** Massachusetts    **Position when elected:** Vice President    **Political party:** Federalist  
**Married:** Abigail Smith    **Children:** Three sons, two daughters. A son, John Quincy Adams, served as President, 1825-1829.    **Died:** July 4, 1826, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which John Adams had signed. His age was 90 years, 8 months—the longest life span of any President.    **Other facts:** A short, stout man with a ruddy complexion. Never popular but highly respected.    **During his presidency:** The religious fervor known as the Great Revival swept over Kentucky and Tennessee. Thousands listened to preachers.

The Sedition Act was meant to silence criticism of Federalist officials. It called for the arrest and trial of anyone who spoke or published anything “false, scandalous, and malicious” about Congress or the President. Soon, 25 persons were arrested and tried for violations of the Sedition Act. All were either editors or publishers of papers opposing the Federalists. Ten were convicted, fined, and given prison sentences.

Thomas Jefferson and other Democratic-Republican leaders were quick to protest the Sedition Act. They pointed out that it clearly violated the First Amendment, which guaranteed freedom of speech and freedom of the press. After Jefferson became President, he pardoned the men convicted under the Sedition Act, and Congress returned their fines.

**The election of 1800** The Federalists again nominated John Adams. However, many members of his own party refused to support him. The Democratic-Republicans once more nominated Thomas Jefferson. This time Jefferson won 73 elec-

toral votes to 65 for Adams. The Democratic-Republican party also gained control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The election of 1800 was a bloodless revolution but a revolution all the same. Jefferson and his party had attracted enough popular support to take control of the government. Moreover, the Federalists had accepted their defeat and had peacefully given up their control. Federalists continued to be elected to state offices, particularly in New England. But never again would a Federalist be chosen to live in the President's house. Never again would the Federalists have a majority in either the Senate or the House of Representatives.

#### CHECKUP

1. What were the contributions of the Federalist party during the 12 years it controlled the federal government?
2. What were the Alien and Sedition Acts?
3. How did the Alien and Sedition Acts contribute to the defeat of the Federalists in 1800?
4. Why might the election of 1800 be called a peaceful revolution?