

University of Virginia Center for Politics



## Comparing Jefferson and Hamilton: The Birth of American Political Parties

The official lesson plan of the 2011 YLI National Mock Election

**Purpose:** A presidential election between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton never happened. But what if it did? This lesson will instruct students on the birth of political parties by having them simulate an early political rally and determine whether or not they would vote for Thomas Jefferson or Alexander Hamilton in a fictional presidential election. Students will analyze Washington's Farewell Address and his advice regarding political parties. Students will discuss reasons why political parties formed and their role in current times. Use this lesson to prepare for the YLI 2011 Online Mock Presidential Election between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton.

### **Objectives:**

1. Students will analyze Washington's Farewell Address in order to identify the reasons why Washington was fearful of political parties.
2. Students will simulate an early political event in order to describe how early political parties were formed.
3. Students will create a flow chart in order to determine how the disagreements between Jefferson and Hamilton lead to the first American political parties.
4. Students will identify the roles of current political parties in order to determine whether political parties are beneficial or detrimental to our democracy.
5. Students will vote between October 24 and November 3 in the 2011 YLI National Mock featuring the presidential race that never happened: Jefferson vs. Hamilton.

### **Key Vocabulary**

*Federalists*

*Anti-Federalists*

*Factions*

*Democratic-Republicans*

*Political Party*

### **Materials:**

\* A power point presentation is associated with this lesson plan

1. Student Resource, *George Washington's Farewell Address*  
[http://tdistler.com/media/images/washington\\_fwa\\_01.jpg](http://tdistler.com/media/images/washington_fwa_01.jpg)
2. Simulation, *Which Political Party??*
3. Student Resource, *The Birth of Political Parties*
4. Student Resource, *Comparing the Candidates: Jefferson vs. Hamilton*
5. Student Resource, *Flowchart: The Birth of Political Parties*
6. Teacher transparency, *Fishing for Issues*

7. Student Resource, *The Roles of American Political Parties Today*
8. Assessment: *Political Parties: Good for Democracy?*

**Procedure:**

1. Warm Up- Ask students to create a word web using the term POLITICAL PARTY. They should brainstorm all terms related to political parties in the United States. Ask for volunteers to share their ideas on the board, overhead or on the computer. Come to a class consensus about what a political party is.
2. Distribute student resource, *Excerpt from George Washington's Farewell Address*. There is an original version and a bulleted version for your convenience. Ask the students to read the address and indentify the three points of advice that he gave the nation upon his retirement from public office.
  - a. Abolish Sectionalism
  - b. Do not create political parties
  - c. Avoid foreign entanglements
  - Ask students to hypothesize why we have political parties today if Washington warned against them?
3. To simulate the beginnings of political parties ask students if they like to attend parties. Ask them who they like to attend parties with? What do they talk about? Answers should focus on the fact that they like to attend parties with their friends- people they have things in common with, similar likes, similar geographical location, etc. This is how political parties started- people with similar likes who lived near each other often got together to discuss the new government. Using the simulation, *Which Political Party?* Have the students simulate the beginnings of political factions and justify the creation of their faction. To wrap up the activity discuss:
  - a. Who did you end up "partying" with? Why?
  - b. What values and or ideas do you share?
  - c. How did your group come to consensus on the issues discussed?
  - d. What are the advantages/disadvantages of working with your party?
  - e. How do you define political party?
4. Distribute the student resource, *Birth of Political Parties* and ask students to read and highlight the events that lead to the creation of the first two political parties. Then distribute, *Birth of Political Parties: Hamilton v. Jefferson*. Students should read through the activity, referring back to their simulation persona and determine which political party they would have been affiliated with. To reinforce these activities, distribute student resource, *Flowchart: The Birth of Political Parties* and have the students fill in the text boxes with information from the simulation and readings.
5. Ask students to refer back to the warm up and describe what they think of the political parties of today. Display the teacher transparency, *Fishing for Issues* and describe the questions included on the cartoon. To analyze the roles of political



- parties today distribute student resource, *The Roles of American Political Parties Today*. Ask students to create an icon or symbol for each role that will help them to remember why political parties are important.
6. To assess the learning objectives have students use the assessment, *Political Parties: Good for Democracy?* Students are asked to create a promotional product that demonstrates the roles of the political parties and whether or not they believe that the parties are beneficial to our democracy. The qualitative rubric on the assessment will help students to design and present their ideas.
  7. Have students vote in the YLI National Mock Election October 24 – November 3 featuring the presidential election that never happened: Jefferson vs. Hamilton. Log in at [www.youthleadership.net](http://www.youthleadership.net) and click on the Mock Election link to learn how to participate.

**Extension Activity:**

Contact your local party headquarters and ask if they will visit your classroom to discuss what they do in your community. Students could prepare questions in advance based on this lesson plan.

## Excerpt from George Washington's Farewell Address- Version A

<http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/documents/farewell/transcript.html>

United States 19th September 1796  
Friends, & Fellow--Citizens.

The period for a new election of a Citizen, to Administer the Executive government of the United States, being not far distant, and the time actually arrived, when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person, who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those, out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you, at the sametime, to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken, without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation, which binds a dutiful Citizen to his country--and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my Situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness; but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, & continuance hitherto in, the Office to which your Suffrages have twice called me, have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped, that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives, which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement, from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last Election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed & critical posture of our Affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice, that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty, or propriety; & am persuaded whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country, you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions, with which, I first undertook the arduous trust, were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say, that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the Organization and Administration of the government, the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious, in the outset, of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself; and every day the encreasing weight of years admonishes me more and more, that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services, they were

temporary, I have the consolation to believe, that while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment, which is intended to terminate the career of my public life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country, for the many honors it has conferred upon me; still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me; and for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment, by services faithful & persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise, and as an instructive example in our annals, that, under circumstances in which the Passions agitated in every direction were liable to mislead, amidst appearances sometimes dubious, vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging, in situations in which not unfrequently want of Success has countenanced the spirit of criticism, the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts, and a guarantee of the plans by which they were effected. Profoundly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me to my grave, as a strong incitement to unceasing vows that Heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence--that your Union & brotherly affection may be perpetual--that the free constitution, which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained--that its Administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and Virtue--that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these States, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete, by so careful a preservation and so prudent a use of this blessing as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the Japplause, the affection--and adoption of every nation which is yet a stranger to it.

Here, perhaps, I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger, natural to that solicitude, urge me on an occasion like the present, to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments; which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all important to the permanency of your felicity as a People. These will be offered to you with the more freedom as you can only see in them the disinterested warnings of a parting friend, who can possibly have no personal motive to bias his counsel. Nor can I forget, as an encouragement to it, your indulgent reception of my sentiments on a former and not dissimilar occasion.

Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the Attachment.

The Unity of Government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main Pillar in the Edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home; your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very Liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee, that from different causes & from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal & external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly & insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment, that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective & individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial,

habitual & immoveable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the Palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned, and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any

portion of our Country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

For this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. Citizens by birth or choice, of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of American, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations.

With slight shades of difference, you have the same Religion, Manners, Habits & political Principles. You have in a common cause fought & triumphed together--The independence & liberty you possess are the work of joint councils, and joint efforts--of common dangers, sufferings and successes.

But these considerations, however powerfully they address themselves to your sensibility are greatly outweighed by those which apply more immediately to your Interest. Here every portion of our country finds the most commanding motives for carefully guarding & preserving the Union of the whole.

The *North*, in an unrestrained intercourse with the *South*, protected by the equal Laws of a common government, finds in the productions of the latter, great additional resources of Maritime & commercial enterprise and--precious materials of manufacturing industry. The *South* in the same Intercourse, benefitting by the Agency of the *North*, sees its agriculture grow & its commerce expand. Turning partly into its own channels the seamen of the North, it finds its particular navigation invigorated; and while it contributes, in different ways, to nourish & increase the general mass of the National navigation, it looks forward to the protection of a Maritime strength, to which itself is unequally adapted. The *East*, in a like intercourse with the *West*, already finds, and in the progressive improvement of interior communications, by land & water, will more & more find a valuable vent for the commodities which it brings from abroad, or manufactures at home. The *West* derives from the *East* supplies requisite to its growth & comfort--and what is perhaps of still greater consequence, it must of necessity owe the Secure enjoyment of indispensable *outlets* for its own productions to the weight, influence, and the future maritime strength of the Atlantic side of the Union, directed by an indissoluble community of Interest as *one Nation*. Any other tenure by which the *West* can hold this essential advantage, whether derived from its own separate strength, or from an apostate & unnatural connection with any foreign Power, must be intrinsically precarious.

While then every part of our country thus feels an immediate & particular Interest in Union, all the parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means & efforts greater strength, greater resource, proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their Peace by foreign Nations; and, what is of inestimable value! they must

derive from Union an exemption from those broils and Wars between themselves, which so frequently afflict neighbouring countries, not tied together by the same government; which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments & intrigues would stimulate & embitter. Hence likewise they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown Military establishments, which under any form of Government are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to Republican

Liberty: In this sense it is, that your union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.

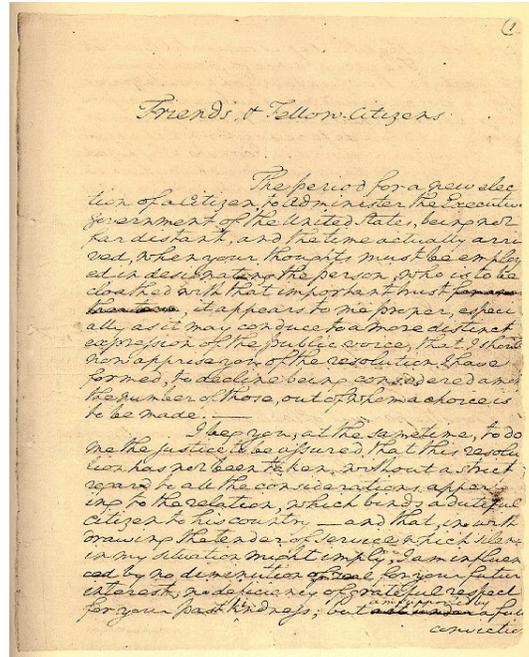
These considerations speak a persuasive language to every reflecting & virtuous mind, and exhibit the continuance of the Union as a primary object of Patriotic desire. Is there a doubt, whether a common government can embrace so large a sphere? Let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal. We are authorized to hope that a proper organization of the whole, with the auxiliary agency of governments for the respective Subdivisions, will afford a happy issue to the experiment. 'Tis well worth a fair and full experiment.

With such powerful and obvious motives to Union, affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will always be reason, to distrust the patriotism of those, who in any quarter may endeavor to weaken its bands.

In contemplating the causes wch may disturb our Union, it occurs as matter of serious concern, that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by *Geographical* discriminations--*Northern* and *Southern*--*Atlantic* and *Western*; whence designing men may endeavour to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views.

One of the expedients of Party to acquire influence, within particular districts, is to misrepresent the opinions & aims of other Districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies & heart burnings which spring from these misrepresentations. They tend to render Alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal Affection. The Inhabitants of our Western country have lately had a useful lesson on this head. They have Seen, in the Negociation by the Executive, and in the unanimous ratification by the Senate, of the Treaty with Spain, and in the universal satisfaction at that event, throughout the United States, a decisive proof how unfounded were the suspicions propagated among them of a policy in the General Government and in the Atlantic States unfriendly to their Interests in regard to the Mississippi. They have been witnesses to the formation of two Treaties, that with G: Britain and that with Spain, which secure to them every thing they could desire, in respect to our Foreign relations, towards confirming their prosperity. Will it not be their wisdom to rely for the preservation of these advantages on the Union by wch they were procured? Will they not henceforth be deaf to those Advisers, if such there are, who would sever them from their Brethren and connect them with Aliens? (to be continued.)

## Highlights of George Washington's Farewell Address: Version B



[tdistler.com/media/images/washington\\_fwa\\_01.jpg](https://tdistler.com/media/images/washington_fwa_01.jpg)

Washington's Farewell Address was the message to the American people published by outgoing President George Washington on September 17, 1796. Washington wrote it during the height of a divisive Presidential campaign. In it he outlined three principles that he believed the new nation should follow in public affairs. First, sectional antagonisms should be put to rest. Second, "the baneful effects of the spirit of party" should be muted because they threatened liberty by subordinating people to demagogic leaders and hampering the ability of the President to promote the national interest. Third, U.S. diplomacy should "steer clear of permanent alliances" and "trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies."

1. Sectionalism should be abolished. North and South should think of themselves as American not as members of a particular region.
2. Political parties are to be avoided because they hamper the President's ability to promote national interest over interest of the party.
3. Avoid foreign entanglements- stay out of Europe's business.

## Which Political Party??

Directions:

1. Distribute a role to each student using the Personalities worksheets.
2. Instruct each student to assume the role of the person described on the worksheet.
3. Ask each student to imagine that they are going to a party. As a class, brainstorm what makes a good party. Answers might include:
  - a. People your own age
  - b. Who live near you
  - c. Who have similar values/upbringing
  - d. Who have similar interests
  - e. Music/dancing
4. Tell the students that they are going to have five minutes to circulate through the room and find friends that they would invite to a party. They should be looking for individuals who have similar ideas, values and will likely enjoy speaking with them. At the end of five minutes, they should be sitting with their party.
5. After the students have found their “party” they should discuss issues of relevance to people living at the time of the ratification of the Constitution:
  - a. The power of the federal government
  - b. The need for a Bill of Rights
  - c. The power of the states
  - d. Slavery
  - e. Representation in the Congress
  - f. Taxation

Using chart paper students should come to consensus about the issues listed above. They should debate and come up with one position, or platform, that their party strongly supports.

6. Now the parties should consolidate into two groups-based on their platforms. Students should look for similarities between members in the new parties in terms of geographical location, occupation, etc.
7. Wrap up the simulation by asking students to describe what happened. Small groups of like-minded citizens got together socially and discussed relevant issues. Those parties had specific ideas about the new government. The small parties then grouped together into larger political parties that had consensus about key governmental issues. Ask them to define the term, “political party” based on this exercise.

Personalities

<p><b>Spencer Snodgrass</b></p> <p>A third-generation financier from Boston. He works entirely in investing private fortunes.</p>	<p><b>Charles Gilbert</b></p> <p>The owner and proprietor of a general store. During the war many customers did not pay on their accounts and thus Gilbert incurred debt. To settle the debt he had to sell his Confederation securities for a low price.</p>	<p><b>Roger Wilson</b></p> <p>The owner of a gentleman's wig store. In debt following the war he has had to sell his Confederation securities for very little to a speculator.</p>	<p><b>Captain Matthew Kern</b></p> <p>A medical doctor from New York state who returned to his local practice following the revolutionary war.</p>
<p><b>Isaac Word</b></p> <p>Building a homestead in Tennessee where he hopes to raise horses.</p>	<p><b>Samuel Sadler</b></p> <p>A prominent lawyer from Richmond, Virginia. Helped to organize the repayment of Virginia's portion of the war debt.</p>	<p><b>Jeffrey Hewitt</b></p> <p>A prosperous banker living and working in Boston. Needs credit to be able to conduct business with European banks.</p>	<p><b>Russell Payne</b></p> <p>A farmer in western Pennsylvania whose farm has been repeatedly looted in the Northwest Indian War.</p>
<p><b>Ethan Allard</b></p> <p>Owns and operates a flourishing furniture store in New York that specializes in the latest European styles.</p>	<p><b>Joseph Carpenter</b></p> <p>Building a farm-based homestead in Ohio for his family. They hope to raise corn and wheat.</p>	<p><b>George Blackstone</b></p> <p>A small farmer creating a homestead in Kentucky.</p>	<p><b>William Bailey</b></p> <p>Farmer from western Pennsylvania who distills his excess grain into Whiskey.</p>
<p><b>William Turner</b></p> <p>Owner of a small farm in Western Virginia. He has a small orchard and self-sustaining gardens.</p>	<p><b>Nathaniel Phillips</b></p> <p>A wealthy leather merchant from New York City.</p>	<p><b>Frank McGinnis</b></p> <p>Owns a successful textiles store in Philadelphia that specializes in producing cheap clothing for slave labor and farming.</p>	<p><b>Adam Young</b></p> <p>Owns a well-established Indian corn and sugar cane plantation in Louisiana.</p>

Personalities

<p><b>Thomas Jonathon Taylor</b></p> <p>A Charlottesville, Virginia attorney. Well known for his advocacy of state sovereignty.</p>	<p><b>Daniel Lewis-Knight</b></p> <p>A well-known Charleston lawyer who represents many plantation owners throughout the low country.</p>	<p><b>Daniel Powers</b></p> <p>A grocer in a small rural town. He owes a large debt that was incurred during the war. He has sold his Confederation securities for a loss to a speculator.</p>	<p><b>James Hatfield</b></p> <p>A tailor in a small town who is in debt to his creditors. In an attempt to repay the debt, he has had to sell his Confederation securities for very little to a speculator.</p>
<p><b>Sergeant John Hugh</b></p> <p>A revolutionary war veteran from Baltimore, Maryland. Works in international trade, including dealing in slaves.</p>	<p><b>Private Thomas Dixon</b></p> <p>Prior to the revolutionary war, Dixon had been using his printing business to spread the ideals of the revolution and the Sons of Liberty. He has returned to his printing business in Rhode Island.</p>	<p><b>Christopher Perkins</b></p> <p>Grows corn on his farm in western New York. Operates a small whiskey distillery to supplement his income.</p>	<p><b>Horace James</b></p> <p>A prominent Atlanta lawyer who handles the legal proceedings for the largest cotton plantations in the South.</p>
<p><b>Benjamin McVety</b></p> <p>Owns a plantation in Chester, NC consisting of several acres of vineyards and orchards.</p>	<p><b>Caleb Fuller</b></p> <p>Owns a thriving plantation in Georgetown, SC. Fuller inherited the farm from his father.</p>	<p><b>Robert Shaw</b></p> <p>Owns a tobacco plantation in Virginia. Due to his success and his family's legacy, Shaw was recently able to expand into growing cotton.</p>	<p><b>Ensign Jacob Edwards</b></p> <p>A revolutionary war veteran living in Connecticut. Earns a living conducting trade. Retains the spirit of the revolution.</p>
<p><b>Michael Hall</b></p> <p>Owns a well-established and prosperous jewelry store in Boston.</p>	<p><b>David Jones</b></p> <p>An Episcopalian banker from Philadelphia. His investment business concentrates on securing loans for manufacturing and commerce.</p>	<p><b>James Bartlett</b></p> <p>A wealthy banker from Philadelphia. Makes investments on small businesses.</p>	<p><b>Luther Wyatt</b></p> <p>A second-generation banker in New York City. His bank needs the support of the government in order to secure loans from Europe.</p>

Adapted from, “*The Evolution of American Party Democracy.*” Pp.417-422

O’Conner, Karen & Sabato, Larry J. *American Government: Continuity and Change.* New York: Pearson, Longman. 2006.

### The Birth of Political Parties

It is one of the great ironies of the early republic that George Washington’s public farewell, which warned the nation against parties, marked the effective end of the brief era of partyless politics in the United States. Washington’s unifying influence ebbed as he stepped off the national stage and his successor, John Adams, occupied a much less exalted position. Adams was allied with Alexander Hamilton. To win the presidency in 1796 Adams narrowly defeated Thomas Jefferson, Hamilton’s former rival in Washington’s cabinet. Before ratification of the Constitution, Hamilton and Jefferson had been leaders of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists respectively. Over the course of Adams’ single term, two competing congressional party groupings or caucuses gradually organized around these clashing men and their principles: Hamilton’s Federalists supported a strong, central government; the Democratic-Republicans of Thomas Jefferson and his ally James Madison inherited the mantle of the Anti-Federalists and preferred a federal system in which the states were relatively more powerful.

Jefferson actually preferred the simpler name “Republicans,” a very different group from today’s party of the same name, but Hamilton insisted on calling them “Democratic-Republicans” to link them to the radical democrats of the French Revolution.

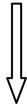
In the presidential election of 1800, the Republicans prevailed with their nominee, Jefferson, who became the first U.S. president elected as the nominee of a political party. Jefferson was deeply committed to the ideas of his party, but not nearly as devoted to the idea of a party system. He regarded his party as a temporary measure necessary to defeat Adams and Hamilton. Neither Jefferson’s party nor Hamilton’s enjoyed widespread loyalty among the citizenry akin to that of today’s Democrats and Republicans. Although southerners were overwhelmingly partial to the Democratic-Republicans and New Englanders to the Federalists, no broad-based party organizations existed on either side to mobilize popular support.

After the spirited confrontations of the republic’s early years, political parties faded in importance for a quarter of a century. The Federalists ceased nominating presidential candidates by 1816, having failed to elect one of their own since Adam’s victory in 1796, and by 1820 the party had dissolved. James Monroe’s presidency from 1817-1825 produced the so-called Era of Good Feelings, when party politics was nearly suspended at the national level. Every during Monroe’s tenure, party organizations were continued to develop at the state level. With the expansion of the voter roles due to changes in voting eligibility political parties continued to increase in popularity and in power. No longer the concern of society’s upper crust, the election of the president became a matter for all qualified voters to decide.



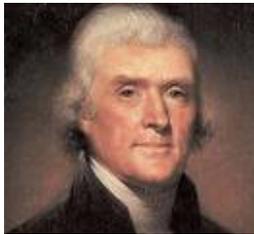
**Alexander Hamilton**

- Favored a strong, central government
- Favored an economy based on commerce and manufacturing
- From New England
- Wanted the Federal government to have broad powers
- Loose interpretation of the Constitution
- Federal government supreme over the states
- Wanted to create a National Bank
- All states had to pay for the revolutionary war debt



FEDERALIST

FEDERALIST PARTY



**Thomas Jefferson**

- Favored strong state governments
- Favored an economy based on farming and agriculture
- From Virginia (the South)
- Wanted limited powers for the Federal Government
- Strict interpretation of the Constitution
- Supporter of the Bill of Rights
- Against the creation of a National Bank
- States who had repaid war debt should not have to contribute
- Supported the ideas of the French Revolution

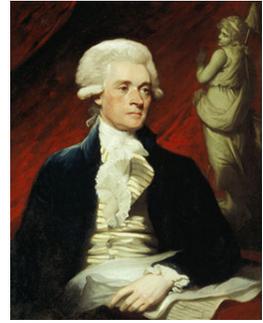


ANTI-FEDERALISTS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICANS

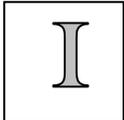


Comparing the Candidates:  
 Hamilton vs. Jefferson



**For each issue, circle the letter of the statement that is closest to your own opinion.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interpretation of the Constitution</b></p>	<p>I favor a strict interpretation of the Constitution. The federal government should be strictly limited in what actions it can take. If the federal government is not specifically authorized to take an action- it should be prohibited.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p>	<p>Constitutions should consist only of general provisions; the reason is that they must necessarily be permanent, and that they cannot calculate for the possible change of things.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>B</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The American Economy</b></p>	<p>The American economy should rest on the diligence of the farmer. The farmer represents all noble republican ideals. I distrust cities and bankers and put my faith in the yeoman farmer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C</b></p>	<p>In order for our nation to be strong we must be diversified, giant, manufacturing, urban based, and to be what we might call 'booming'.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>D</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The central government</b></p>	<p>I am particularly opposed to that from N. Jersey, being fully convinced, that no amendment of the confederation, leaving the States in possession of their sovereignty could possibly answer the purpose. The States have constantly shown a disposition rather to regain the powers delegated by them than to part with more, or to give effect to what they had parted with. The ambition of their demagogues is known to hate the control of the Genl. Government</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>E</b></p>	<p>I equate federalism with Royalism. I support the states' rights theory which asserts that the federal government has no right to exercise powers not specifically granted by the states. To this affect I anonymously authored the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>F</b></p>

<p><b>War debt</b></p>	<p>The states should pay the war debt to the government independently. States like Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Virginia, which have already paid off their debts, see no reason why they should be taxed by the federal government to pay off the debts of other states like Massachusetts and South Carolina.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>A national debt, if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing. “The public necessities must be satisfied; this can only be done by contributions of the whole society.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p><b>French Revolution</b></p>	<p>I supported the moderate phase of the Revolution, which I understood to be about U.S.–style liberty, but detested the attacks on security and property that took place during the Terror. In particular, I distrust the popular masses.</p> <p>If there be anything solid in virtue—the time must come when it will have been a disgrace to have advocated the Revolution of France in its late stages</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>I maintain my support for the French Revolution, even during its most violent and bloody stages. My experiences with the American Revolution and with authoring the Declaration of Independence allows me insight to the meaning of our modern democracy, especially as I have watched the events leading to the French Revolution unfold. My eyewitness account of the French Revolution gives me a clearer and deeper understanding of what the American Revolution means to the American people. I am a stout supporter of “liberty and justice for all” and advocate dispelling those who think otherwise.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>

<p><b>National Bank</b></p>	<p>I am strongly opposed to the creation of a national bank. If the American people ever allow the banks to control the issuance of their currency, first by inflation and then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around them will deprive the people of all property until their children will wake up homeless.... The issuing power of money should be taken from the banks and restored to Congress and the people to whom it belongs. I sincerely believe the banking institutions (having the issuing power of money) are more dangerous to liberty than standing armies. My zeal against these institutions was so warm and open at the establishment of the Bank of the United States (Hamilton's foreign system), that I was derided as a maniac by the tribe of bank mongers who were seeking to filch from the public</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>I believe in the need for banks to provide credit and stimulate the economy. "And why cannot we have an American bank? I propose a Bank of the United States with a \$10 million capital and the ability to issue paper money. It will be based in Philadelphia and chartered for 20 years. The federal government will have a minority stake in the Bank, but its board of directors will be private individuals, thus ensuring a mix of public oversight and private enterprise. The Bank will be able to lend the government money and safely hold its deposits, give Americans a uniform currency, and promote business and industry by extending credit. It will help place the United States on an equal financial footing with the nations of Europe.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p><b>The Bill of Rights</b></p>	<p>I go further, and affirm that bills of rights, in the sense and in the extent in which they are contended for, are not only unnecessary in the proposed constitution, but would even be dangerous. They would contain various exceptions to powers which are not granted; and on this very account, would afford a colorable pretext to claim more than were granted. For why declare that things shall not be done which there is no power to do? Why for instance, should it be said, that the liberty of the press shall not be restrained, when no power is given by which restrictions may be imposed? I will not contend that such a provision would confer a regulating power; but it is evident that it would furnish, to men disposed to usurp, a plausible pretense for claiming that power</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>"A bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular; and what no just government should refuse, or rest on inferences."</p> <p>"It astonishes me to find... [that so many] of our countrymen... should be contented to live under a system which leaves to their governors the power of taking from them the trial by jury in civil cases, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of commerce, the <i>habeas corpus</i> laws, and of yoking them with a standing army. This is a degeneracy in the principles of liberty... which I [would not have expected for at least] four centuries."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>

**Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?**

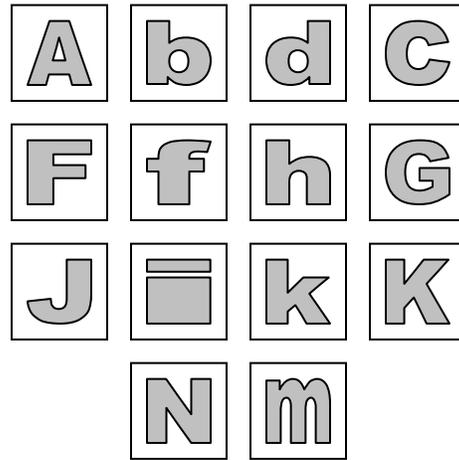
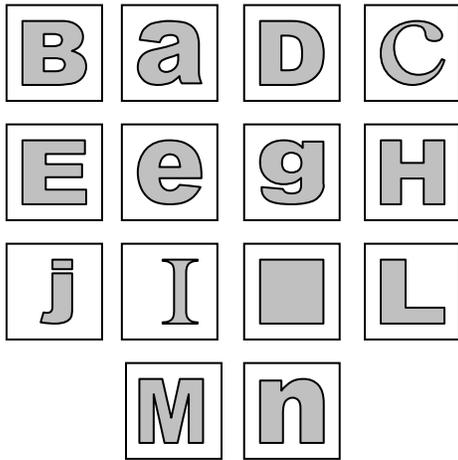
	Agree	Disagree
A Bill of Rights is not necessary in the Constitution.	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>
Merchants are essential to the American economy.	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>
“There are some things which the General [Federal] Government has clearly a right to do—there are others which it has clearly no right to meddle with, and there is a good deal of middle ground, about which honest and well-disposed men may differ.”	<b>e</b>	<b>f</b>
The public necessities must be satisfied; this can only be done by contributions of the whole society.	<b>g</b>	<b>h</b>
A wise and frugal government, which shall leave men free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned - this is the sum of good government.	<b>i</b>	<b>j</b>
Commerce with all nations, alliance with none, should be our motto.	<b>k</b>	<b>l</b>
Merchants have no country. The mere spot they Stand on does not constitute so strong an attachment, as that from which they draw their gains.	<b>m</b>	<b>n</b>

### Instructions

- Match your corresponding choices from the above survey with the boxes below.
- Add up the number of responses that correspond with your candidate's views.
- To find your location on the HAMILTON/JEFFERSON spectrum, subtract your "Total HAMILTON" score from your "Total JEFFERSON" score. This will help you select the candidate that will best represent your concerns.

#### Total Hamilton

#### Total Jefferson

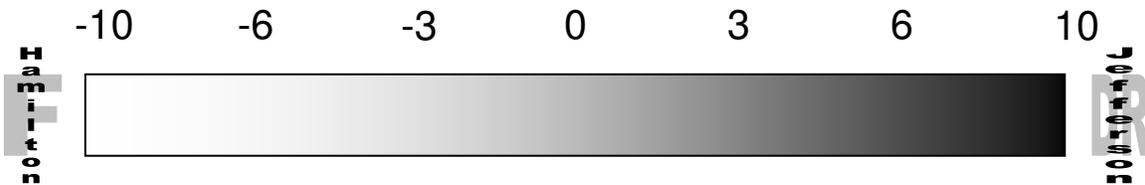


Hamilton Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Jefferson Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**You are a member of the  
FEDERALIST party.**

**You are a member of the  
DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICAN  
party.**



### Flowchart: Birth of Political Parties



George Washington appointed two rivals- Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson to his cabinet.



Bio:

Bio:

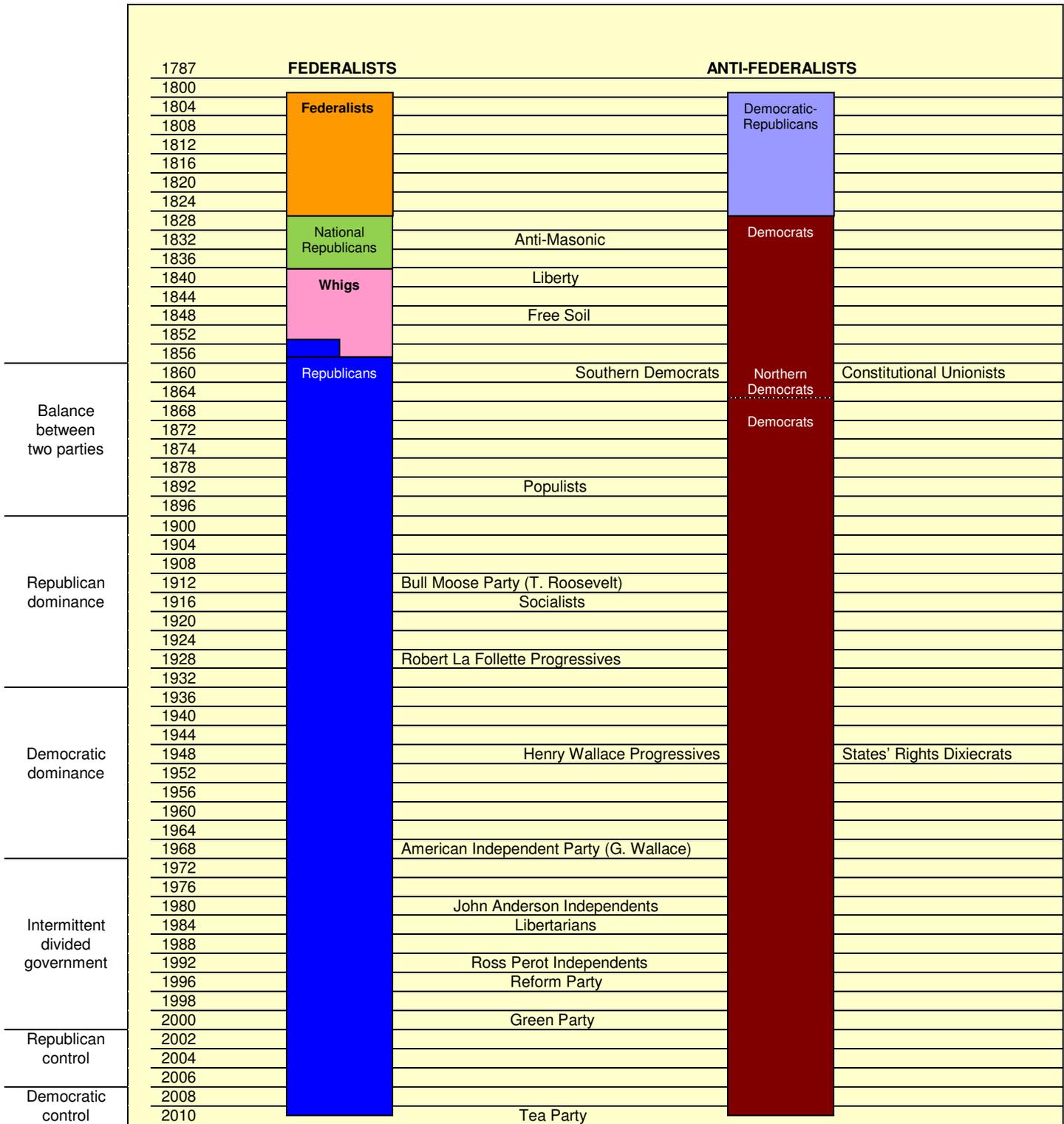


The two men had different backgrounds and different ideas about how the new nation should be governed. Their arguments included:

Followers of Alexander Hamilton formed a political party, they were called...

Followers of Thomas Jefferson and the Anti-Federalists formed a political party called the...

## American Party History at a Glance



O'Connor, K & Sabato, L. *American Government: Continuity and Change*. New York: Pearson-Longman, 2006. p. 420. (extension to 2010 by YLI)

## Fishing for Issues



[www.learnnc.org/lp/multimedia/9686](http://www.learnnc.org/lp/multimedia/9686)  
National Archives and Records Administration

Clifford K. Berryman, 1919

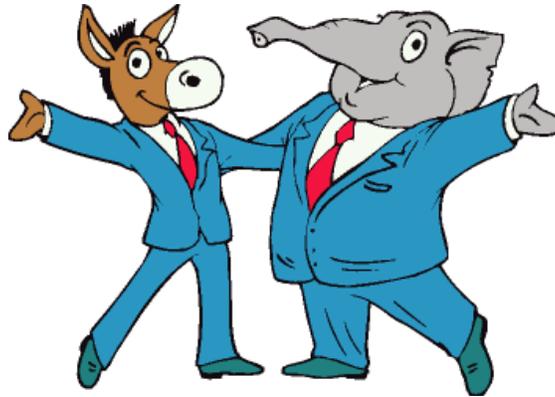
When this cartoon was published the 1920 Presidential election was nearly a year and a half away. There were no clear front-runners and both major parties were in need of a campaign platform that would lead their party to victory. The cartoon captures the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey seated on the same log fishing on different sides of the “campaign issues pool.”

What images or symbols do you recognize?

What is the artist trying to say about political parties?

Based on this cartoon, what is the role of the political party?

## The Roles of American Political Parties Today



Political parties are less popular today than in previous times but still serve as important change agents in our political system. The parties provide vital services to society and it is difficult to envision political life without them.

1. **Mobilizing Support and Gathering Power-** Party affiliation is enormously helpful to elected leaders. Parties aid office holders by giving them room to develop their policies and mobilizing support for them. They also gather support for tight votes and for general political and legislative matters.
2. **A Force for Stability and Moderation-** Because of a party's unyielding, practical desire to win elections, it in a sense acts to moderate public opinion. The party tames its own extreme elements by pulling them toward an ideological center in order to attract a majority of votes on Election Day.
3. **Unity, Linkage and Accountability-** Parties make governance more efficient by linking all the institutions of power to one another. The partisan affiliations of the leaders of each branch constitute a common basis for cooperation, as the president and his fellow party members in Congress usually demonstrate daily.
4. **Electioneering-** First the parties funnel eager, interested individuals into politics and government. Thousands of candidates are recruited each year by the two parties, as are many of the candidates' staff members. Elections can have meaning in a democracy only if they are competitive, and in the U.S. they probably would not be competitive without the parties.
5. **Party as a Voting and Issue Cue-** A voter's party affiliation acts as an invaluable filter for information, a perceptual screen that affects how he or she digests political news. Parties try to cultivate a popular image and inform the public about issues through advertising and voter contact. Party affiliation provides a useful cue for voters,

particularly for the least informed and least interested, who can use the party as a shortcut or substitute for interpreting issues and events they might not fully understand.

6. **Policy Formation and Promotion-** The national party platform is the most visible instrument that parties use to formulate, convey and promote public policy. Every four years, each party writes for the presidential nominating conventions a lengthy platform explaining its positions on key issues. Platforms have considerable impact. About two-thirds of the promises in the victorious party's presidential platform have been completely or mostly implemented. The party platform is also very influential on the new president's legislative program and on the president's State of the Union Address.

### The Role of Third Parties:



**Third Partyism**, or the rise of alternative minor parties based on a single cause neglected by the major parties, has had an important impact on American politics, even if its existence has been sporadic and intermittent. Third parties find their roots in sectionalism, in economic protest, in specific issues such as the Green Party's support of the environment, in ideology and in appealing, charismatic personalities. Many minor parties have drawn strength from a combination of these sources. Third parties tend to do best when trust in the two major parties plagues the electorate. In order to win elections, the major parties tend to absorb the minor parties and add their issues to the party platform. In this way, third parties do influence policy making and thus are important to a thriving democracy.

Adapted from:

O'Connor, K & Sabato, L. *American Government: Continuity and Change*. New York: Pearson & Longman, 2006. Pp. 427-450.

### Political Parties: Good for Democracy?

Task: Create a promotion campaign that will inform the public about the history of political parties, the roles that they play in American democracy and expresses your ideas as to whether or not political parties are beneficial to our democracy.

You need to include the following in your promotional campaign. A slogan and logo that expresses your belief that political parties are either beneficial or detrimental to American democracy. Then you need to create a list of talking points that briefly inform the public about the history, roles and characteristics of American political parties. You should refer to the materials from this lesson in your campaign.

Criteria	Points Possible	Peer Review	Evaluation
Slogan: Communicates the advantages/ disadvantages of the party system			
Talking Points: Elaborates on the history, roles and usefulness of the American party system			
Logo: symbolizes the roles of the political parties in modern American democracy			

Teacher Comments: