

CHAPTER 2 Section 4 (pages 78–83)

Launching the New Nation

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you learned how the new Constitution was created.

In this section, you will see how the new government acted.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on the leaders, beliefs and goals, and actions of the nation’s first political parties.

	FEDERALISTS	ANTIFEDERALISTS
Leaders	<i>Hamilton</i>	
Beliefs/Goals	<i>strong central government</i>	
Actions		

TERMS AND NAMES

Judiciary Act of 1789 Law that set up the national court system

cabinet Chief advisors of the president

Alexander Hamilton An early Federalist leader

Democratic-Republican Party led by Jefferson

two-party system Political system where two political parties compete for power

protective tariff Tax on imported goods to protect domestic business

John Jay Negotiated treaty with Britain over territory

XYZ Affair American anger over bribes demanded by French diplomats

Alien and Sedition Acts Laws that made it harder to become a citizen and created harsh punishments for people who criticize the government

nullification State effort to cancel a federal law

Washington Heads the New Government (pages 78–80)

Why did Hamilton and Jefferson disagree?

George Washington was the first president of the United States. He and Congress set up the new government. The **Judiciary Act of 1789** set up a national court system.

Congress also set up three executive departments. The leaders Washington named to head these departments made up the first **cabinet**, or chief advisors of the president.

Secretary of the Treasury **Alexander Hamilton** wanted a strong central government. Secretary

of State Thomas Jefferson wanted a weak central government.

Hamilton wanted to create a *national bank*. Jefferson opposed this. He and James Madison argued against Hamilton. Finally, they agreed to Hamilton’s national bank. In exchange, the new capital of the nation was built in the South, in Washington, D.C.

1. What were the different views of government held by Hamilton and Jefferson?

The First Political Parties (pages 80–81)

What is a political party?

The differences between Hamilton and Jefferson led to the nation's first political parties. Federalists agreed with Hamilton. **Democratic-Republicans** agreed with Jefferson that state governments should be stronger.

The two groups developed into *political parties*. They were the basis for the **two-party system**, in which two political parties compete for power.

Congress passed two important taxes. One was a **protective tariff**. It placed a tax on goods imported from Europe. But Hamilton wanted more tax money. He pushed through a tax on whiskey. Whiskey was made by small farmers on the frontier. They were so angry about the tax that they attacked the tax collectors.

Hamilton wanted to show that the federal government could enforce the law on the frontier. The Whiskey Rebellion was put down by federal troops.

2. Who led the first political parties?

Foreign Affairs Trouble the Nation; Native Americans Resist White Settlers (pages 81–82)

What were America's earliest foreign policy problems?

In 1789 the French overthrew their monarchy. Then the French went to war against Britain. The United States had a *treaty* with France. Democratic-Republicans wanted to honor the treaty and support France. Federalists wanted to back the British. Washington decided on neutrality—to support neither side.

In 1795 Spain and the United States signed the Pinckney Treaty. Spain gave up claims to land east of the Mississippi. This treaty also paved the way for the westward expansion of the United States.

Settlers streamed into the Northwest Territory. This angered the Native Americans there. They continued to claim their tribal lands. Native Americans formed a confederacy that won some

battles against American troops. In 1794 federal troops defeated the confederacy.

At the same time, **John Jay** negotiated a treaty with Britain. The British agreed to give up their forts in the Northwest Territory. Still, the British continued to bother American ships in the Caribbean.

3. How did the United States handle problems with France and Spain?

Adams Provokes Criticism

(pages 82–83)

Was John Adams a good president?

President Washington retired. Federalist John Adams was elected president. Thomas Jefferson, a Democratic-Republican, became vice-president.

France began to interfere with American shipping. Adams sent representatives to France. Three French officials demanded *bribes* from the Americans. This was called the **XYZ Affair**. Some Americans felt insulted and wanted war against France. But Adams settled the matter through *diplomacy*.

Adams thought the Democratic-Republicans and immigrants who supported them were dangerous. The Federalists supported the **Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798**. These acts made it harder to become an American citizen and created harsh punishment for people who criticized the government.

Democratic-Republicans opposed these laws. Kentucky and Virginia claimed that states could cancel laws that they thought were unconstitutional. This is called **nullification**.

4. How did Adams handle the fear of foreign influence at home?

Chapter 2: Revolution and the Early Republic (pages 46–85)

Section 4: Launching the New Nation (pages 78–83)

1. Hamilton wanted a strong central government. Jefferson wanted a weak central government.
2. Hamilton was the leader of the Federalists. Jefferson was the leader of the Democratic-Republicans.
3. Washington decided that the United States would remain neutral in the war between France and Britain. The United States also agreed to the Pinckney Treaty with Spain.
4. Adams supported the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 to try to reduce foreign influence.