

Federalists v Republicans

The Federalist Party was America's first political party, formed chiefly by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton during his tenure in George Washington's cabinet. The Federalist Party believed in strong central Government, a national banking system and good relations and trade with England. The Federalist Party quickly gained strength throughout New England and in the urban areas of the middle states.

Those who opposed the Federalist Party would become known as Republicans or Jeffersonians. Led by Thomas Jefferson, Republicans favored an agricultural economic base rather than one based on banking and opposed the idea of strengthening ties with Great Britain. Republicans dominated the politics of the Southern states and much of America's farmlands.

The partisan politics that emerged in the 1790's threatened to tear the new country apart as Both Hamilton and Jefferson were key members of George Washington's cabinet. Washington tried unsuccessfully to mediate between the two, but was known to favor Hamilton's view on politics above anyone else. As a result, Jefferson would resign as Secretary of State in 1793, after he unsuccessfully introduced legislation in Congress that would have effectively dissolved Hamilton's position as Secretary of the Treasury. Republicans would win back the seat of power in 1801 with the election of Thomas Jefferson as President and the subsequent splitting of the Federalist Party. The Federalist Party would be virtually dissolved after expressing opposition to the War of 1812 and completely gone by 1825.

1. Which of the following was NOT supported by Federalists?

- A. America should have good relations with England
- B. American should have a strong central government
- C. America's economy should be based on agriculture
- D. American should have a national banking system

2. George Washington...

- A. was known to favor Hamilton's thoughts on politics.
- B. appointed Jefferson to Secretary of Treasury.
- C. appointed Hamilton to Secretary of State.
- D. usually agreed with Thomas Jefferson.

3. What was the effect of the election of Thomas Jefferson?

- A. The Republicans became weaker
- B. The Federalists split
- C. The War of 1812 started
- D. Jefferson resigned as Secretary of State

4. Which of the following is accurate?

- A. The Federalists were popular in the South and the Republicans were popular in New England and the urban areas
- B. The Federalists were dissolved when Thomas Jefferson was elected president
- C. Republicans were formed before the Federalists
- D. Republicans rejected strengthening ties with England

5. What does “mediate” mean in the sentence below?

Washington tried unsuccessfully to mediate between the two, but was known to favor Hamilton’s view on politics above anyone else.

- A. bridge differences
- B. choose
- C. disagree
- D. judge

6. “Opposition to the War of 1812” is the answer to which question?

- A. Why did the Federalist Party split?
- B. Why was Thomas Jefferson elected president?
- C. Why did Thomas Jefferson resign from Washington’s cabinet?
- D. What was the main reason the Federalists dissolved?

7. Why did Thomas Jefferson resign from Washington’s cabinet?

- A. Washington was not a Republican
- B. Washington seemed to favor the politics of Alexander Hamilton
- C. He felt Washington was a bad president
- D. Because the Federalist Party would split