

Federalists vs. Democratic-Republicans: America's First Two-Party System

Working with your partners, complete the chart using prior knowledge of events and issues in the 1790s.

Political Party	Federalists	Democratic-Republicans
Party Leaders	John Adams (Massachusetts) Alexander Hamilton (New York)	Thomas Jefferson (Virginia) James Madison (Virginia)
Major Sources/Regions of Support		
Views on the Constitution (including the powers of the national and state governments)		
Views on Popular Participation in Government		
Views on Economic Policy (including debt, taxation, and the central bank)		
Views on Foreign Policy (including the conflict between Britain and revolutionary France)		

Views on the Alien & Sedition Acts of 1798		
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Major Sources/Regions of Support	merchants, landowners Northern states (especially New England)	farmers, artisans, former Anti-Federalists New York and Southern states
Views on the Constitution (including the powers of the national and state governments)	Favored: ORDER *centralized government power – to protect the nation and the people's liberties *implied powers and strong government *loose interpretation of the Constitution	Favored: LIBERTY *states' rights – to guarantee individual liberties and prevent excessive exercise of governing authority *enumerated powers and limited government *strict interpretation of the Constitution
Views on Popular Participation in Government	*government should be led by elites who have both education and property *distrusted "mobocracy"	*government should be responsive to the people and favor a true "republican" form *favored a more democratic system
Views on Economic Policy (including debt, taxation, and the central bank)	Favored Hamilton's financial plan: *management of the national debt *tariffs and excise taxes to provide revenue *creation of the First Bank of the United States	Opposed Hamilton's financial plan: *feared giving the national government too much economic power and revenue *viewed as beneficial to Northern commercial interests, not Southern agrarian interests
Views on Foreign Policy (including the conflict between Britain and revolutionary France)	*Favored peace and a strong commercial relationship with Great Britain (Jay Treaty) *Distrusted the French government and the French Revolution	*Favored support for the French people and the revolutionary movement *Distrusted Britain and Federalist interests in carrying on a relationship with Britain

	*Favored official neutrality	*Viewed neutrality as “selling out” American ideals
<p align="center">Views on the Alien & Sedition Acts of 1798</p>	<p>*Supported the undeclared war against France in the wake of the XYZ Affair</p> <p>*Supported the acts as necessary for preserving national security in the face of a French threat</p>	<p>*Opposed the undeclared war against France</p> <p>*Suspected that the creation of a standing army and navy would be harmful to American liberty</p> <p>*Opposed the acts as an assault upon individual liberties and the Bill of Rights</p> <p>*Jefferson and Madison secretly drafted the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions in opposition</p>