

# Establishment of American Politics: Federalist or Republican?

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Readings: Review Guide 183-188 and 194-197

## The Washington Presidency

- George Washington was unanimously elected as the first president
- Created a cabinet as "advisors" for the president, including **Alexander Hamilton** and **Thomas Jefferson**
- Federalist vs Democratic-Republican
  - Leaders of the federalists: Hamilton, Washington, John Adams
  - Leader of the Democratic-Republicans: Jefferson, James Madison
  - Government Power: Federalists urged for a strong central government, while Democratic-Republicans wanted stronger state governments out of fear that the government would slip back into monarchy
  - Constitution: Federalists - loose constitution; Dem-Reps - strict constitution
  - Foreign Affairs: Federalists - closer to Britain; Dem-Reps - closer to France
  - Economy: Federalists - based on commerce; Dem-Reps - based on agriculture
- National Bank
  - Federalists believed that it was necessary, while Dem-Reps merely believed that it was desirable

- Washington approved Hamilton's proposal of a **national bank**
- Handled the **national debt** by collecting taxes from each state and paying the taxes together
  - Northeast States (New England) liked it since they had a lot of debts
  - Some of the other states felt unfair
- Also stirred controversy such as the **Whiskey Rebellion**
- Foreign Affairs
  - Foreign Affairs were not optimistic during the Washington's presidency
  - Conflict between Britain and France sucked in US as well
    - French Revolution
      - Neutrality Proclamation: stated US's intention to stay neutral between Britain and France's conflict
  - Jay's Treaty
    - Low point of Washington's presidency
    - Aimed to discuss Britain's evacuation from the Northwest & violation of free trade
    - Criticized for making too many concessions towards Britain

## Adam's Presidency

- John Adams was elected as Washington's successor
- **Alien and Sedition Acts**
  - Low point of Adam's presidency

- Allowed the government to forcibly expel foreigners and to jail newspaper editor for "scandalous and malicious writing".
- Purely political, aimed at destroying immigrant's support for Democratic-Republicans
- Virginia and Kentucky Resolution
  - States had the right to judge the constitutionality of federal laws
  - Declared the Alien and Sedition Acts null

## Jefferson's Presidency

- Transition from Federalist to Democratic-Republicans
  - **Midnight Appointment** by Adams: filling as many government positions with federalists as he could
  - Jefferson refused to accept the Midnight Appointment
- *Marbury v. Madison*
  - Established Judicial Review
  - Marbury was appointed as a judge during the Midnight Appointment, which Secretary of State James Madison refused to accpet
  - Marbury then sued Madison
  - John Marshall, the Chief Justice, "sacrificed" Marbury to gain the right of Judicial Review of the supreme court
- Louisiana Purchase
  - Feared that France would be a pain in the ass when Spain gave New Orleans to the French
  - Negotiated a deal with France to buy Louisiana for 15 million dollars

- Hamilton was killed in a duel with the vice president Aaron Burr ????????????????
- Britain vs France
  - America got dragged into their conflicts again
  - Eventually led to the War of 1812
  - *Embargo Act of 1807*
    - Served as a "boycott" to Britain and France
    - Stopped all import and export
    - Britain and France didn't give a fuck
  - *Non Intercourse Act*
    - Similar to the Embargo Act
    - Opened trade except for Britain and France
    - They still didn't give a fuck