

# Study Guide



## Chapter 8, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 267–272

### THE FIRST POLITICAL PARTIES

#### KEY TERMS

<b>partisan</b>	Favoring one side of an issue ( <i>page 268</i> )
<b>implied powers</b>	Powers that were not specifically mentioned in the Constitution ( <i>page 268</i> )
<b>caucus</b>	Meetings held by political parties to choose the party's candidates for office ( <i>page 269</i> )
<b>alien</b>	Immigrants living in a country who are not citizens ( <i>page 271</i> )
<b>sedition</b>	Activities aimed at weakening established government ( <i>page 271</i> )
<b>nullify</b>	To cancel ( <i>page 271</i> )
<b>states' rights</b>	A theory in the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions of 1788 and 1789, which said that a state could determine whether the federal government had gone beyond its constitutional powers ( <i>page 271</i> )

#### DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Do you favor the viewpoints of a certain political party? Which political party do you favor? What political party viewpoints on particular issues do you favor?

In the last section, you read about how the new government was trying to keep peace at home and avoid war abroad. This section focuses on how political parties got started and the positions they supported.

#### ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how different values led to the creation of the nation's first political parties.

Political Party	Viewpoints
Federalists	
Democratic-Republicans	

# Study Guide



## Chapter 8, Section 3 (continued)

### READ TO LEARN

- **Opposing Views** (pages 267–270)

Americans often had opposing views or opinions about different issues. People sided with leaders who supported their viewpoints. Most people supported one side of an issue, or were *partisan*. Political parties began to form by 1796. Many Americans, including George Washington, were not in favor of political parties. They believed that political parties would divide Americans rather than unite them. Two cabinet members, Hamilton and Jefferson, often supported different viewpoints on many issues. Washington, who warned others about the negative effects of political parties, usually shared Hamilton's viewpoints. Two political parties appeared by the mid-1790s. They had different beliefs about economic policy, foreign relations, the power of the federal government, and interpretations of the Constitution.

Federalists supported the ideas of Alexander Hamilton. They believed in a strong federal government, supported Britain over France, and supported shipping and banking interests. They agreed with Hamilton that the federal government had *implied powers*, powers that were not directly stated in the Constitution. Federalists believed that representatives or elected officials made decisions for the people. They did not want people to become involved in politics. They believed that only educated men who owned property should hold public office. Federalists were supported by much of the Northeast, including New England, and wealthy plantation owners in the South.

Democratic-Republicans, or Republicans, led by Thomas Jefferson, opposed Hamilton's ideas. They believed in limiting the power of the government, supported France over Britain, and opposed Hamilton's policies. They believed that the federal government had no power to take actions unless they were spelled out in the Constitution. They opposed a strong central government controlled by a wealthy few. They wanted ordinary people involved in the government. The Democratic-Republicans were supported by small farmers and urban workers of the Middle Atlantic states and the South. Both Hamilton and Jefferson resigned from their cabinet positions by 1793.

*Caucuses*, or meetings to choose each party's candidates, for the presidential election of 1796 were held. Vice President John Adams and Charles Pinckney were nominated by the Federalists for president and vice president. Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr were nominated by the Democratic-Republicans. Adams won the election with three more electoral votes than Jefferson. The United States had a Federalist president and a Democratic-Republican vice president. At the time, the Constitution gave the office of vice president to the person with the second-highest number of votes.

# Study Guide



## Chapter 8, Section 3 (continued)

1. Why were political parties formed in the United States?

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- **President John Adams** (pages 270–272)

When Adams became president, France was attacking American ships that were headed for Britain. France believed that the United States was trying to help Britain win the war. When Adams sent a group of people to France to discuss their concerns, the French foreign minister sent three agents instead of meeting with the Americans himself. The agents wanted the United States to loan money to France. Adams refused. Congress prepared for war by establishing a Navy Department, providing money to build warships, and building a larger army. George Washington came out of retirement and was appointed commanding general.

French and American naval forces fought with each other between 1798 and 1800. Americans took control of more than 90 armed French ships. While they fought an undeclared war on the seas, many Republicans who supported France in the past were voted out of office. Americans also wondered whether immigrants who were living in the country but were not citizens would support the United States if it declared war with France. Federalists in Congress passed the Alien and Sedition Acts in 1798 for security reasons. These acts included provisions for *sedition*, or activities that weaken the established government.

Virginia and Kentucky believed these acts violated the Constitution. Madison and Jefferson wrote two resolutions, known as the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, which claimed that the Alien and Sedition Acts violated the Constitution. The resolutions included their belief in *states' rights*, where a state could decide if the federal government was operating within its constitutional powers. They claimed that states had the right to cancel, or *nullify*, federal laws within their states.

Before the election of 1800, Federalists wanted President Adams to declare war with France to benefit them politically. Instead, Adams appointed a commission to find a peaceful solution for the difficulties with France. An agreement was reached with France in 1800, and the attacks on American ships stopped. Adams won peace with France, but lost the support of Hamilton and many Federalists. The division in the Federalist Party helped Jefferson in the election of 1800.

2. How did Madison and Jefferson respond to the Alien and Sedition Acts?

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