

Questions Days 68-79

How did Hamilton interpret the Constitution? What did he and the Federalists believe?

Hamilton used a loose interpretation of the Constitution, believing that what the Constitution did not specifically forbid, it allowed. He also believed that a strong central government was critical to encourage commerce and industry and to prevent chaos within America's borders. This perspective shaped his fiscal plan. Those who agreed with Hamilton became known as the Federalists. (3 points)

How did Jeffersonian interpret the Constitution? What did he and the Democratic Republicans believe? Jefferson felt that the states should hold greater authority than the federal government, since the states were closer to the people and were less likely to abuse their authority.

Furthermore, his strict interpretation of the Constitution—believing that what was not specifically written was forbidden—led him to believe that Hamilton's proposal of a national bank exceeded federal authority. Those who agreed with Jefferson became known as the Democratic Republicans. (3 points)

What was the Whiskey Rebellion? The Whiskey Rebellion had its beginning when Congress passed Hamilton's excise tax, part of which taxed Whisky. People in the backcountry did not consider whisky a luxury. It was a trade necessity and form of currency. It was easier to transport a gallon of whisky than the amount of grain needed to produce that whisky. Whisky producers felt that their business was threatened by this tax and they protested. At first the protests were peaceful but they become more violent as time passed. Revenue collectors were tarred and feathered. An army of 13,000 troops were sent to put down the uprising, but the troops were surprised to find that reports of the rebellion had been exaggerated and the protesters were overwhelmed and dispersed. The public were divided in their perception of the Whiskey Rebellion and this strengthened the two emerging parties. The Federalists supported Hamilton's financial plan and Washington's handling of the rebellion. The Democratic-Republicans argued that the government had used excessive and unnecessary force. (You'll notice as you study history that money is behind a lot of rebellion, or maybe it's the power that comes with money that people are after.) (Write as a paragraph. 5 points)

What was the impetus in seeking to negotiate Jay's Treaty? What terms did it establish? What did it fail to establish? The British had seized ships in the West Indies and captured many American sailors, even after Washington's Proclamation of Neutrality. Washington sent Chief Justice John Jay to negotiate a treaty with Britain to maintain trade relations and avoid war. Jay's Treaty gave the British 18 months to withdraw from the western forts, although they were given the right to continue fur trade with the Indians. The treaty also called for America to repay debts incurred to England during the Revolutionary War. It did not deal with the impressments of American sailors or British interference with American Trade. (3 points)

What was Pinckney's Treaty or Treaty of San Lorenzo? Pinckney's Treaty was a treaty with Spain that allowed Americans access to the Mississippi River and to trade in New Orleans. (2 points)

What is some of the warning/advice George Washington gives in his farewell address?

Washington, in his farewell address, passes on stern warnings as well as advice. He warns about factions (political divisions) and encourages unity, the importance of morality and religion as indispensable supports, and he warns against excessive debt. He encourages the nation to pay its debts and not pass it on the next generation. He warns against becoming entangled in permanent alliances with other countries. A brief summary important points from the address are given here. (Write as a paragraph. 5 points)

<http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/milestones/farewell/>

What were some of the key beliefs of Jefferson and Hamilton (and thus of the first two political parties)?

Hamilton favored a strong central government, a national bank and loose interpretation of the Constitution. He favored being ruled by an educated elite and feared mob rule and violence if the federal government did not have enough power to restrain the common man. (2 points)

Jefferson favored states rights and rights of the common man, was against a national bank and a strict interpretation of the Constitution. Jefferson feared a strong federal government that had too much power would trample the rights of the people. (2 points)

Explain the XYZ Affair Relations with France were strained after the Americans signed Jay's Treaty. The French began to plunder American ships. President Adams sent three commissioners to negotiate with France. They experienced a hostile environment in France and the foreign minister would not meet with them. They were forced to communicate through three French agents. These agents insisted that the Americans pay a bribe before negotiations could begin. The Americans refused and returned home. In their report to Congress the commissioners called the French agents X, Y and Z. (Write as a paragraph. 5 points)

What was the Quasi-French War? After the XYZ affair, many in American were ready for a war with France. President Adams refused to do so. He did however build up American armed forces, create a Naval Department, stop all commercial trade with France and renounce the alliance of 1778. The Quasi-French War continued until an agreement was reached in 1800. (2 points)

What were the Alien and Sedition Acts? The Alien and Sedition Acts were four laws that on the surface, promoted American safety but actually were designed to quiet their Democratic-Republican counterparts. The Naturalization Act lengthened from five to fourteen years the residency requirement for citizenship. Many of these immigrants favored the Democratic-Republican Party and this would delay their voting privileges. The Alien Enemies Act allowed the president to expel aliens in wartime. The Alien Act authorized the president to deport or imprison all aliens whom he considered dangerous to the safety of the United States. Although the law was never enforced, many immigrants feared the subjective power the president wielded and fled the country. Sedition Act prohibited antigovernment activity. It was illegal to publish or even speak any false, scandalous, and malicious criticism of government officials. This law directly targeted Democratic-Republican newspapers. To avoid having the Sedition Act used

against them, Federalists inserted into the law an expiration date of 1801 in case they lost the next election. (Write as a paragraph. 5 points)

What was The 12th Amendment? The twelfth amendment changed the process for selecting the president and vice president. Never again would political rivals be placed in the executive office together. (2 points)

What were the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions? The Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions were drafted by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison to challenge the legality of the Alien and Seditions Acts and as the Congress had a majority of federalist they choose to take it to the States of Virginia and Kentucky. After they were passed in Virginia and Kentucky they hoped the other states would pass similar resolutions and erode the power of the federalist. This did not happen. (2 points)

What was significant about the election of 1800? The election of 1800 was the first election to feature two national political parties. The Feudalist who endured the wrath of many Americans who saw them as power hungry and anti- liberty. Some Southern states threatened to secede from the union if the Federalist remained in power. The Election was a tie between the two Democratic Republican Candidates and the House of Representatives choose between the two. Thomas Jefferson was chosen. (2 points)