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## The Birth of Parties

Political parties were in bad odor at the end of the eighteenth century. No provision for party government had been made in the Constitution, although parties or factions existed in all states as in all the colonies. Ought Jefferson to resign from the cabinet, leaving Hamilton in undisputed control? Was it proper for him openly to support opposition to a policy that Washington had accepted? the President, believing that every month and year the government endured was so much gain for stability, endeavored to keep the smouldering fire from bursting forth. Both were entreated to remain in office, and consented. But Jefferson, believing Hamilton's policy to be dangerous, used every means short of open opposition to check it; while Hamilton spared no effort to thwart Jefferson.

The first national parties developed out of contests in Congress over Hamilton's financial program. Hamilton's partisans became known as the 'Federalists.' (They should not be confused with the Federalists who had supported the Constitution in the ratification struggle; divisions over Hamilton's system, and for the next seven years Madison, not Jefferson, would lead the 'Republican' interest. Disagreement over the Hamiltonian program broke on sectional lines. On the proposal to establish the Bank, southern members of the House voted 19-6 against, northern members 33-1 for. In February 1791, Jefferson wrote: 'There is a vast mass of discontent gathered in the South, and how and when it will break God knows.' Yet if Madison and Jefferson hoped to build an effective executive opposition,



Issues between the Democrats and Republicans, above, were just as tense between the original political parties: **The Federalists and Republicans**

the needed the backing outside their section. A very important step toward forming an opposition party was and understanding between Virginia malcontents and those of New York.

That large state was still divided into two factions. Both were entreated to remain in office, and consented. But Jefferson, believing Hamilton's policy to be dangerous, used every means short of open opposition

## Summary

The solution to the problem of establishing a federal-court system was a compromise between the desire for broad access to federal justice and the desire on the part of citizens to maintain state traditions. Many citizens feared the extension of a federal-court system would do away with the unique procedures that had operated at the state level for decades. Many citizens therefore initially rallied against the development of the federal-court system within the states. Bearing in mind these fears and objections, Congress passed the Judiciary Act

of 1789, which both increased access to federal justice and assuaged fears that state traditions would be lost.

The demand for the Bill of Rights sprang from the fear, stoked by the Anti-Federalists, that a strong central government would neglect the rights of citizens in the pursuit of what officials thought to be the greater good. While the Anti-federalists had not been able to stop the creation of a strong national government, they hoped the Bill of Rights would serve to limit the powers of the government and protect individuals from despotism and

## Discussion Questions

1. “Americans were still professing their loyalty to George III and their desire for peaceful reconciliation as late as 1775. Had Britain accepted the Second Continental Congress’s Olive Branch Petition, the Revolutionary War could have been avoided.” Support or refute this claim using historical evidence.
2. Explain how three of the following altered Americans’ perceptions of Britain during the years 1763 to 1775. Which affected colonists the most and why? a) the French and Indian War b) virtual representation c) Samuel Adams d) the Declaratory Act e) the boycott of British goods f) Thomas Paine
3. Compare and contrast Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence with Thomas Paine’s pamphlet “Common Sense.” Which had the greater effect on revolutionary America? Use specific examples to support your argument.

## Online Resources



[www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/5123](http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/5123)



[www.senate.gov/pagelayout/history](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/history)

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