Name	Date	Period
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6-4 - John Adam's Presidency- Pages 212-215

Essential Question: In what ways did the development of political parties in the United States contribute to differing ideas about the role of the federal government?

Main Idea 1:

The rise of political parties created competition in the election of 1796.



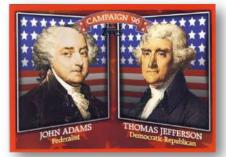
Political parties began to form in the 1790s.

Alexander Hamilton helped found the Federalist Party, which supported a strong federal government and sought to limit state government power.



The presidential election of 1796 differed from prior American elections because there were multiple candidates.

Thomas Jefferson and James Madison founded the Democratic-Republican Party, which wanted to limit the power of the federal government.



The Federalist John Adams defeated the Democratic-Republican candidate, Thomas Jefferson, in the election of 1796.



Adams became president, and Jefferson, the presidential candidate who came in second, became vice

President John Adams

- He had the hard task of following George Washington as president.
- Adams was a leading patriot during the Revolutionary War and was later a foreign diplomat.
- He lacked Washington's dignity but was respected for his hard work, honesty, and intelligence.

Main Idea 2:

The XYZ affair caused problems for President John Adams.

- An early goal of Adams was to improve relations with
- U.S. diplomats were sent to France.
- The French foreign minister, Talleyrand, would not meet



Three French agents secretly demanded a bribe before they would discuss a treaty with the Americans.

The so-called XYZ Affair outraged Americans and led to a call for war with France. They would pay "millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute."

Preparing for War and Peace

Preparations for War

- Adams asked Congress to expand the navy to more than 30 ships.
- He also asked Congress to approve a peacetime army.



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• However, Adams did not want war with France.

Peace Efforts

- Federalists were stunned by Adams's decision not to go to war.
- American and French ships began fighting in the Caribbean.
- The United States and France eventually signed a treaty.

Main Idea 3:

Controversy broke out over the Alien and Sedition Acts.

Alien and Sedition Acts

- The Federalists believed that Democratic-Republican criticism of Federalist policies was disloyal and feared that aliens living in the United States would sympathize with the French during a war.
- As a result, a Federalist-controlled Congress passed four laws, known collectively as the Alien and Sedition Acts.
- While the United States engaged in naval hostilities with Revolutionary France, known as the Quasi-War, Alexander Hamilton and congressional Federalists took advantage of the public's wartime fears and drafted and passed the Alien and Sedition Acts, without first consulting President John Adams.
- The Sedition Act forbade anyone from publishing or voicing criticism of federal government. Supported by the Federalists as a way to protect the country from Republican critics.
- Jefferson and Madison viewed the acts as a misuse of government power.
- Republicans' main criticism of the Alien and Sedition Acts was that they gave too much power to the national government and interfered with state government.
- Writing in June 1798 in the *Gazette of the United States*, Alexander Hamilton called the Jeffersonians "more Frenchmen than Americans" and claimed that they were prepared "to immolate (destroy) the independence and welfare of their country at the shrine of France."

Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions



Jefferson and Madison wrote resolutions passed by Kentucky and the Virginia legislatures. The documents argued that the Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional.

• They supported the idea that states could challenge the federal government.

