



Timeline of Events Related to the Development of the U.S. Party System

This timeline is based on the Basic Chronology section of the *Encyclopedia of American History*, 7th ed., by Jeffrey B. and Richard B. Morris (New York: Harper Collins, 1996). Unless otherwise specified, documents are from the EDSITEment resource **American Memory**.

Part I

1788: Constitution Ratified

Though “during the ratification struggle, the Federalists were functioning as a surprisingly well coordinated political group” (Kerber, Linda K. “The Federalist Party.” *History of U.S. Political Parties*. Ed. Arthur M/ Schlesinger. 4 vols. New York: Chelsea, 1973. p. 9) with publications, campaign-like meetings, behind the scene maneuvers, and a national scope, they were not yet a political party. Their goal was limited, and certainly not the political party that formed around Alexander Hamilton during Washington’s presidency. James Madison—who later helped Jefferson start the Democratic-Republican Party—worked closely with Hamilton, helping the Federalists promote the ratification of the Constitution. The Federalist Papers, authored by Hamilton, Madison, and John Jay, “stressed the inadequacy of the Confederation, the need for a strong government, and the conformity of the Constitution with the best principles of republican government” (Morris, Jeffrey B. and Morris, Richard B. *Encyclopedia of American History*, 7th ed. New York: Harper Collins, 1996. p.134).

- **Primary Document:** [Edward Rutledge in Defense of the Constitution](#) [[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(ed0045\)\):](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(ed0045)):)] (Scroll to or use Find to locate pp. 274-277), an example of Federalist arguments.
- **Secondary Account:** Ratifying the Constitution [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display.cfm?HHID=294] on Digital History, a link from the EDSITEment resource **History Matters**.

The Constitution encountered stiff opposition. The vote was 187 to 168 in Massachusetts, 57 to 47 in New Hampshire, 30 to 27 in New York, and 89 to 79 in Virginia. Two states, North Carolina and Rhode Island, refused to ratify the new plan of government.

Those who opposed the adoption of the Constitution were known as the Anti-Federalists. Many feared centralized power. Many doubted the ability of Americans to sustain a continental republic. Some Anti-Federalists were upset that the Constitution lacked a religious test for office holding. Others were concerned that the Constitution failed to guarantee a right to counsel and a right not to incriminate oneself in criminal trials, or to prohibit cruel and unusual punishments.

Several arguments were voiced repeatedly during the ratification debates:

- ❑ That the Convention had exceeded its authority in producing a new constitution;
- ❑ That the Constitution established the basis for a monarchical regime;

- That the Constitution lacked explicit protections for individual and states rights.
- **Primary Document:** [Massachusetts' Suggested Amendments to the Constitution](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/const/ratma.htm) [<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/const/ratma.htm>] on the EDSITement resource **The Avalon Project**. The suggested amendments are examples of Anti-Federalist arguments.

Part II

1789 April: Washington Becomes President

1789, July 14: Bastille Day, The French Revolution

At first, many Americans are sympathetic to the French Revolution, especially those who later aligned themselves with Jefferson and Madison.

- **Secondary Account:** [The Contests of European Nations](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/documents/documents_p2.cfm?doc=327) [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/documents/documents_p2.cfm?doc=327] on Digital History, a link from the EDSITement resource **History Matters**.

On July 14, 1789, 20,000 French men and women stormed the Bastille, a hated royal fortress, marking the beginning of the French Revolution. For three years, France experimented with a constitutional monarchy. But in 1792, Austria and Prussia invaded France and French revolutionaries responded by deposing King Louis XVI, placing him on trial, and executing him. A general war erupted in Europe pitting revolutionary France against a coalition of monarchies, led by Britain. With two brief interruptions, this war lasted 23 years.

Many Americans reacted enthusiastically to the overthrow of the king and the creation of a French republic. France appeared to have joined America in a historical struggle against royal absolutism and aristocratic privilege. More cautious gentlemen, however, expressed horror; they viewed the French Revolution as an assault against property and Christianity.

1789: Executive Departments Established

Foreign Affairs (later Department of State) headed by Thomas Jefferson

War Department headed by Henry Knox

Treasury Department headed by Alexander Hamilton

Post Office Department with Postmaster Samuel Osgood

- **Secondary Account:** [Grolier's Biography of George Washington](http://gi.grolier.com/presidents/ea/bios/01pwash.html) [<http://gi.grolier.com/presidents/ea/bios/01pwash.html>], a link from the EDSITement resource **Internet Public Library**

In forming his cabinet Washington chose two liberals—Jefferson and Randolph—and two conservatives—Hamilton and Knox. The liberals looked to the South and West, the conservatives to the Northeast. On subjects in dispute, Washington could secure advice from each side and so make informed decisions.

1790-1792: Alexander Hamilton's Fiscal Program

The chief issue of Washington's first term was the fiscal program devised by Alexander Hamilton and submitted to the House of Representatives in a series of reports on national and state debt, an excise tax, and a national bank. Controversy over these proposals ultimately led to the party cleavage between Federalists and Republicans (Morris and Morris, p. 138).

1790, Jan. 14: Debt

- **Primary Document:** [Report on Public Credit](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llac&fileName=002/llac002.db&recNum=382) [<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llac&fileName=002/llac002.db&recNum=382>]
- **Secondary Account:** [Alexander Hamilton's Financial Program](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display.cfm?HHID=6) [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display.cfm?HHID=6] on Digital History, a link from the EDSITEMent resource **History Matters**.

As Treasury Secretary, Hamilton designed a financial system that made the United States the best credit risk in the western world. The paramount problem facing Hamilton was a huge national debt. He proposed that the government assume the entire debt of the federal government and the states. His plan was to retire the old depreciated obligations by borrowing new money at a lower interest rate.

States like Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Virginia, which had already paid off their debts, saw no reason why they should be taxed by the federal government to pay off the debts of other states like Massachusetts and South Carolina. Hamilton's critics claimed that his scheme because it would provide enormous profits to speculators who had bought bonds from Revolutionary War veterans for as little as 10 or 15 cents on the dollar.

For six months, a bitter debate raged in Congress, until James Madison and Thomas Jefferson engineered a compromise. In exchange for southern votes, Hamilton promised to support locating the national capital on the banks of the Potomac River, the border between two southern states, Virginia and Maryland.

(NOTE: Read the primary document [Thomas Jefferson to George Washington, May 23, 1792](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mtj:@field(DOCID+@lit(tj060237))) [[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mtj:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(tj060237\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mtj:@field(DOCID+@lit(tj060237)))], starting with the paragraph beginning "It has been urged then that a public debt," for Jefferson's point of view on the assumption of public debt expressed two years after Hamilton's Report on Public Credit.)

1791, Feb. 25: National Bank

From [Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History](http://www.gilderlehrman.org/) [<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/>], a link from the EDSITEMent resource **History Matters**:

...modeled after the Bank of England, to issue currency, collect taxes, hold government securities, regulate the nation's financial system, provide funds in the event of a national emergency, handle government debt payments to foreign and domestic creditors, and make loans to the government and private borrowers. This proposal, like the debt scheme, unleashed a storm of protest.

Critics charged that the bank threatened the nation's republican values by encouraging speculation and corruption. They also contended that the bank was unconstitutional, since the Constitution did not give Congress the power to create a bank. Other grounds for criticism were that the bank would subject America to foreign influences (because foreigners would have to purchase a high proportion of the bank's stock) and give a propertied elite disproportionate influence over the nation's fiscal policies (since private investors would control the bank's board of directors). Despite the bitter opposition of such figures as Jefferson and Madison, Congress succeeded in chartering a Bank of the United States.

- **Primary Document:** [Jefferson's Opinion on the Constitutionality of a National Bank](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/amerdoc/bank-tj.htm) (Feb. 15, 1791) [<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/amerdoc/bank-tj.htm>] on the EDSITEMent resource **The Avalon Project**. (Digitized image of the original is available on the website of the Library of Congress [<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/jefferson/images/vc129.jpg>].)

Jefferson's opinion maintaining the bill was unconstitutional advanced the doctrine commonly known as "strict constructionist."...The incorporation of a bank, he argued, was not among the powers specifically delegated to Congress (Morris and Morris, P. 139).

- **Primary Document:** [Hamilton's argument for The Constitutionality of a National Bank](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(fr003283))) (Feb. 23, 1791) [[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(fr003283\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(fr003283)))]

Hamilton's opinion elaborated the doctrine of "implied powers" (the so-called "loose constructionist" view of the Constitution). He contended that the proposed bank was related to congressional power to collect taxes and regulate trade: a delegated power implied the employment of such means as were proper for its execution (Morris and Morris, P. 139).

1791 March: Congress Passes Excise Tax on Whiskey, an Important Part of Hamilton's Financial Plan

1791, Dec. 5: Report on Manufactures

Primary Document Excerpts and Annotation: [Hamilton: Report on Manufactures](http://www.gilderlehrman.org/collection/document.php?id=326) (Dec. 5, 1791) [<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/collection/document.php?id=326>] on Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, a link from the EDSITEMent resource **History Matters**

The final plank in Hamilton's economic program was a proposal to aid the nation's infant industries. Through high tariffs designed to protect American industry from foreign competition, government bounties and subsidies, and internal improvements and transportation, Hamilton hoped to break Britain's manufacturing hold on America. ...Although Jefferson and his followers successfully painted Hamilton as an elitist defender of a deferential social order and an admirer of monarchical Britain, in fact Hamilton offered a remarkably modern economic vision based on investment, industry,

and expanded commerce. Most strikingly, it was an economic vision with no place for slavery. Before the 1790s, the American economy, North and South, was tied to a trans-Atlantic system of slavery. A member of New York's first anti-slavery society, Hamilton wanted to reorient the American economy away from slavery and trade with the slave colonies of the Caribbean.

The most eloquent opposition to Hamilton's proposals came from Thomas Jefferson, who believed that the growth of manufacturing threatened the values of an agrarian way of life. Hamilton's vision of America's future directly challenged Jefferson's ideal of a nation of farmers communing with nature and maintaining personal freedom by virtue of landownership. Like slaves, Jefferson feared, factory workers would be manipulated by their masters, who would make it impossible for them to think and act as independent citizens.

Part III

1792: Jefferson-Hamilton Feud

- **Secondary Account:** The [Birth of Political Parties](#) [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/documents/documents_p2.cfm?doc=416] on Digital History, a link from the EDSITEMent resource **History Matters**

Despite a belief that parties were evil and that they posed a threat to republican government, leaders in Washington's first administration created the first modern political parties. Divisions first emerged in 1791 over Hamilton's proposals to fund the federal and state debts, to establish a national bank, and to provide government assistance to manufacturing.

On the grounds that Hamilton's fiscal plans threatened his vision of the Republic, James Madison organized congressional opposition and retained the poet Philip Freneau to edit a newspaper, the National Gazette, to warn the populace about Hamilton's designs. Madison and his ally Thomas Jefferson saw in Hamilton's program an effort to establish the kind of patronage society that existed in Britain, with a huge public debt, a standing army, high taxes, and government-subsidized monopolies.

Hamilton responded in kind. He secured John Fenno to publish the Gazette of the United States, claiming that his opponents wanted to return the national government to its weak condition under the Articles of Confederation. By 1794, his faction had evolved into the Federalist Party, the first national political party in history capable of nominating candidates, coordinating votes in Congress, staging public meetings, organizing petition campaigns, and disseminating propaganda.

- **Primary Documents**
 - [President Washington to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson](#), Aug. 23, 1792 [[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(gw320114\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw320114)))] (Read from "How unfortunate" to "producing unhappy consequences at home and abroad.")

- ❑ [President Washington to Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton](#), Aug. 26, 1792 [[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(gw320115\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw320115)))] (Read from “Differences in political opinion” to “I hope will go well.”)
- ❑ [Thomas Jefferson To George Washington](#), Sept. 9, 1792 [<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/P/tj3/writings/brf/jefl100.htm>] on From Revolution to Reconstruction, a link from the EDSITEMent resource **American Studies at the University of Virginia**. (Read from “I now take liberty” to “present business of the department.”)

1792, Sept. 21: French Republic Proclaimed

American sympathy toward France begins to weaken. Even Jefferson, who was very sympathetic to the revolutionary cause in France “deplored the excesses of violence that took place” (from [Thomas Jefferson on the French Revolution](#) [<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/592/>]), though he also said, “The liberty of the whole earth was depending on the issue of the contest, and was ever such a prize won with so little innocent blood?”

- **Primary Document with Brief Introduction:** [Thomas Jefferson on the French Revolution](#), Jan. 3, 1793 [<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/592/>], available via a link from the EDSITEMent resource **History Matters**. (Begin with “In the struggle” and end with “staff of their hope.”)

1793, Feb. 1: France Declares War on Great Britain, Spain, and Holland

- **Secondary Account:** [Grolier’s Biography of George Washington](#) [<http://gi.grolier.com/presidents/ea/bios/01pwash.html>], a link from the EDSITEMent resource **Internet Public Library**

The foreign policy of Washington took shape under the pressure of a war between Britain and revolutionary France. At the war’s inception Washington had to decide whether two treaties of the French-American alliance of 1778 were still in force. Hamilton held that they were not, because they had been made with the now-defunct government of Louis XVI. Washington, however, accepted Jefferson’s opinion that they were still valid because they had been made by an enduring nation—a principle that has since prevailed in American diplomacy.

1793, April 22: Washington Issues Proclamation of Neutrality

- **Primary Document:** [The Proclamation of Neutrality 1793](#) [<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/neutra93.htm>] on the EDSITEMent resource **The Avalon Project**
- **Secondary Account:** [Years of Crisis](#) [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display.cfm?HHID=8] on Digital History, a link from the EDSITEMent resource **History Matters**.

In 1793 and 1794 a series of crises threatened to destroy the new national government: France tried to entangle America in its war with England; Armed rebellion erupted in western Pennsylvania; Indians in Ohio threatened American expansion; and War with Britain appeared imminent...

1793, August 1-2: Citizen Genet Affair

- **Secondary Account and Links to Digitized Original:** [Journal of the Proceedings of the President](#), August 1-2, 1793 [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwlet8.html>]

The entries for August 1 and 2, 1793, revolve around one of the earliest foreign policy crises of the new government. President Washington wanted French Minister Edmond Genet sent home, because of Genet's continued violations of United States laws and regulations in his efforts to recruit men, ships, and supplies for France's war against Great Britain. Washington's cabinet, like the nation, was divided between supporters of France and Great Britain. The issue was a key factor in the rivalry of Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. As a result of the cabinet meetings of August 1 and 2, even Jefferson had to support a request to the French government for the recall of Genet.

1793: Differences of Opinion About France and Great Britain

Differences of opinion over France and Great Britain make "party lines more definite" (Morris, p. 142).

- [Alexander Hamilton on the French Revolution](#), 1794 [<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/593/>], available via a link from the EDSITEMent resource **History Matters**. (Begin with "It is not among" and end with "causes that have served to mislead the public judgment" or read the complete document.)

1793, December 31: Jefferson Resigns from the Cabinet

According to Chapter 25 of [The Life of Thomas Jefferson](#) [<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/jefferson/biog/lj26.htm>], an 1834 biography by B. L. Rayner on the Thomas Jefferson Digital Archive, a link from the EDSITEMent resource **The American President**:

On the last day of December 1, 1793, Mr. Jefferson resigned the office of Secretary of State and retired from political life. This was not a sudden resolution on his part, nor unexpected to his country. The political disagreement between himself and the Secretary of the Treasury, added to his general disinclination to holding office, was the cause of his retirement. This disagreement, originating in a fundamental difference of opinion and aggravated by subsequent collisions in the cabinet, was reflected back upon the people and aggravated in turn the agitations and animosities between the republicans and federalists, of which they were respectively the leaders.

1794, Nov. 19: Jay's Treaty Signed

- **Primary Document:** [The Jay Treaty of 1794](#) [<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/diplomacy/britian/jaymenu.htm>] on the EDSITEMent resource **The Avalon Project**
- **Secondary Account:** [John Jay's Treaty](#) [<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/nr/14318.htm>] on Foreign Relations of the United States (U.S. Department of State), a link from the EDSITEMent resource **Internet Public Library**

The only concessions Jay obtained were a surrender of the northwestern posts—already agreed to in 1783—and a commercial treaty with Great Britain that granted

the United States “most favored nation” status, but seriously restricted U.S. commercial access to the British West Indies. All other outstanding issues—the Canadian-Maine boundary, compensation for pre-revolutionary debts, and British seizures of American ships—were to be resolved by arbitration. Jay even conceded that the British could seize U.S. goods bound for France if they paid for them and could confiscate without payment French goods on American ships. The treaty was immensely unpopular...

1794 July: The Whiskey Rebellion

- **Secondary Account:** [Washington and the Whiskey Rebellion](#) [http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?ID=311] on **EDSITEment**

Following unsuccessful petitions against the excise tax, an armed group in western Pennsylvania attacks a federal marshal when he attempts to serve papers on those who have not registered their stills as required by law. Two days later, insurgents burn the home of the local tax collector. As the uprising spreads, government agents and local citizens sympathetic to the government become the target of violence and harassment.

...The excise tax had been a Federalist measure... designed to help pay the costs of Hamilton’s financial policies, and its opponents included those who were organizing what would soon become the Democratic-Republican Party under Jefferson. Antagonism between these groups deepened over Washington’s handling of the Whiskey Rebellion: “An insurrection was announced and proclaimed and armed against, but could never be found,” Jefferson said of it, whereas Hamilton argued that suppressing the rebellion “will do us a great deal of good and add to the solidity of everything in this country.”

1795: Washington’s Cabinet Reorganized

The cabinet as reorganized by Washington included only Federalists. After Adams took office as president, he retained Washington’s cabinet (Morris and Morris, p. 144).

1796, Sept. 17: Washington’s Farewell Address

- **Primary Document:** [Washington’s Farewell Address](#) [<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/washing.htm>] on the **EDSITEment** resource **The Avalon Project**

The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible.

... the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

- **Secondary Account:** [Washington’s Farewell Address](#) [<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/nr/14319.htm>] on Foreign Relations of the United States

Frustrated by French meddling in U.S. politics, Washington warned the nation to avoid permanent alliances with foreign nations and to rely instead on temporary alliances for emergencies. Washington's efforts to protect the fragile young republic by steering a neutral course between England and France during the French Revolutionary Wars was made extremely difficult by the intense rhetoric flowing from the pro-English Federalists, led by Alexander Hamilton, and the pro-French, personified by Thomas Jefferson.

Part IV

1796: December Presidential Election

1797 April: John Adams Becomes President

- **Secondary Account:** [The Presidency of John Adams](#) [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display.cfm?HHID=10] on Digital History, a link from the EDSITEment resource **History Matters** (Start with “During Adams’ presidency...”)

During Adams’ presidency, the United States faced its most serious international crisis yet: an undeclared naval war with France. In the Jay Treaty, France perceived an American tilt toward Britain, especially in a provision permitting the British to seize French goods from American ships in exchange for financial compensation. France retaliated by capturing hundreds of vessels flying the United States flag.

...The Federalist-controlled Congress prepared for war by authorizing a 20,000-man army and calling George Washington out of retirement as commander in chief. During the winter of 1798, an undeclared naval war took place between France and the United States.

1798: Democratic-Republican Societies Emerge

- **Primary Documents and Secondary Account:** [Annotations and excerpts in the article Washington on the Democratic-Republican Societies \(1798\)](#) [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/documents/documents_p2.cfm?doc=341] on Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, a link from the EDSITEment resource **History Matters**

The letter contains one of Washington’s most outspoken statements of distrust of the Democratic-Republican Societies, which had arisen in support of the French Revolution and which the former President had already blamed for inciting the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794.

1798: Alien and Sedition Acts

- **Primary Document:** [Alien and Sedition Acts](#) [<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/statutes/sedact.htm>] on the EDSITEment resource **The Avalon Project**

- **Secondary Account:** [Chart: Alien and Sedition Acts, 1798](#)
[<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/us9.cfm>] on Digital History, a link from the EDSITEMent resource **History Matters**
- **Secondary Account:** [The Presidency of John Adams](#)
[http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display.cfm?HHID=10] on Digital History, a link from the EDSITEMent resource **History Matters**

These laws:

- ❑ lengthened the period necessary before immigrants could become citizens from 5 to 14 years;
- ❑ gave the president the power to imprison or deport any foreigner believed to be dangerous to the United States; and
- ❑ made it a crime to attack the government with “false, scandalous, or malicious” statements or writings.

These acts contributed to Thomas Jefferson’s election as president in 1800 and gave the Federalist party a reputation for political repression. Federalist prosecutors used the Sedition Act to convict ten editors and printers.

Republicans accused the Federalists of violating fundamental liberties. The state legislatures of Kentucky and Virginia adopted resolutions written by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison denouncing the Alien and Sedition Acts as an infringement on freedom of expression. The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions advanced the idea that the states had a right to declare federal laws null and void, and helped to establish the theory of states’ rights.

Undeclared Naval War (Quasi War) with France

- **Documents:** [The Quasi War with France; 1791-1800](#)
[<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/quasi.htm>] on the EDSITEMent resource **The Avalon Project**

Part V

1800: December Presidential Election

- **Secondary Account:** [Thomas Jefferson: Campaigns and Elections](#)
[<http://www.americanpresident.org/history/thomasjefferson/biography/CampaignElections.common.shtml>] on the EDSITEMent resource **The American President**

Given the intense rivalry and conflict involved, it is not surprising that the 1800 election reached a level of personal animosity seldom equaled in American politics. The Federalists attacked the fifty-seven-year-old Jefferson as a godless Jacobin who would unleash the forces of bloody terror upon the land. With Jefferson as President, so warned one newspaper, “Murder, robbery, rape, adultery, and incest will be openly taught and practiced, the air will be rent with the cries of the distressed, the soil will be soaked with blood, and the nation black with crimes.” Others attacked Jefferson’s deist beliefs as the views of an infidel who “writes aghast the truths of God’s words; who makes not even a

profession of Christianity; who is without Sabbaths; without the sanctuary, and without so much as a decent external respect for the faith and worship of Christians.”

The luckless Adams was ridiculed from two directions: by the Hamiltonians within his own party and by the Jeffersonian-Republicans from the outside. For example, a private letter in which Hamilton depicted Adams as having “great and intrinsic defects in his character” was obtained by Aaron Burr and leaked to the national press. It fueled the Republican attack on Adams as a hypocritical fool and tyrant. His opponents also spread the story that Adams had planned to create an American dynasty by the marriage of one of his sons to a daughter of King George III. According to this unsubstantiated story, only the intervention of George Washington, dressed in his Revolutionary military uniform, and the threat by Washington to use his sword against his former vice president had stopped Adams’s scheme.

1801: Thomas Jefferson Becomes President

- **Secondary Account:** [Thomas Jefferson: Campaigns and Elections](http://www.americanpresident.org/history/thomasjefferson/biography/CampaignElections.common.shtml) [<http://www.americanpresident.org/history/thomasjefferson/biography/CampaignElections.common.shtml>] on the EDSITEment resource **The American President**

When the electoral votes came in, Jefferson and Burr had won 73 votes each. Adams and his running mate, Charles C. Pinckney, the brother of Thomas Pinckney who ran in 1796, won 65 and 64 votes respectively.

With no clear majority, the vote was thrown into the Federalist-controlled U.S. Congress. After much intrigue and arguing, and thirty-five ballots, Alexander Hamilton, who despised Burr as an unprincipled scoundrel, convinced a few Federalists who had supported Burr in the balloting to turn in blank ballots rather than vote for either Republican candidate.

1801, Nov. 16: Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin’s Tax Plan

- **Primary Document:** [Gallatin to Jefferson](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mtj:@field(DOCID+@lit(tj090161))) [[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mtj:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(tj090161\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mtj:@field(DOCID+@lit(tj090161)))]

...if this Administration shall not reduce taxes, they never will be permanently reduced. To strike at the root of the evil and avert the danger of increasing taxes, encroaching government, temptations to offensive wars, &c., nothing can be more effectual than a repeal of *all* internal taxes, but let them all go, and not one remain on which sister taxes may be hereafter engrafted. I agree most fully with you that pretended tax-preparations, treasury-preparations, and army-preparations against contingent wars tend only to encourage wars. If the United States shall unavoidably be drawn into a war, the people will submit to any necessary tax, and the system of internal taxation which, *then*, shall be thought best adapted to the then situation of the country may be created, instead of engrafted on the old or present plan; if there shall be no real necessity for them, their abolition by this Administration will most powerfully deter any other from reviving them. A repeal now will attach as much unpopularity to them as the late direct tax has done to that mode of taxation. On those grounds, can I ask what, in your opinion, is the minimum of necessary naval and foreign intercourse expenses...?