



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **11th Grade** | Unit 3

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 1103

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National Expansion

Introduction

A strong spirit of nationalism swept through the United States following the War of 1812. The war itself gave rise to increased feelings of self-confidence and unity. The peace that followed enabled the nation to concentrate on its own affairs. The bitterness that had marked political disputes eased with the break-up of the **Federalist Party**. Meanwhile, the nation expanded westward, new states entered the union, and the economy prospered. The period of history from 1815 to the early 1820s has often been called “The Era of Good Feelings” because of its relative peace, unity, and optimism about the nation’s future.

In this unit we shall study the period immediately after the Constitutional Convention, the Revolution of 1800, the War of 1812, and, finally, the march of **democracy**.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC®. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. List specific precedents set by President Washington in the absence of specific instructions in the Constitution.
2. Identify the four major components of Hamilton’s plan to establish a sound financial program.
3. Compare the basic philosophies of Federalists and Democratic-Republicans.
4. Explain the factors leading to the rise of enduring political parties in the United States.
5. Discuss the source of the unexpected problems in the election of 1796 and the deadlocked election of 1800, indicating the outcome in each case and its implications.
6. Evaluate the extent of continuity and change in policies between the Democratic-Republican party that came to power in 1800 and the Federalist Party that preceded it.
7. Cite two examples of how President Jefferson lived up to his ideal of limited government to meet the needs of an agrarian society, and cite two instances in which he violated this idea.
8. Discuss the factors leading to the sale of the Louisiana Territory by France and its purchase by the United States.
9. Describe the impact of the Louisiana Purchase on American political and economic growth.
10. Discuss the War of 1812 and the political problems encountered by President Madison.
11. Describe the ways in which Chief Justice John Marshall’s rulings established precedents for national supremacy over states’ rights and defined the roles of the Court and Congress.
12. Explain the provisions of the Monroe Doctrine.
13. Identify the factors encouraging Western migration after 1820, and indicate the ways in which the rising importance of the West influenced the social, economic, and political trends of the rest of the country.
14. Discuss the role of slavery and economic depression in ending the “Era of Good Feelings” and precipitating a revival of sectional and political strife.
15. Cite factors that gave the common man new status during the Jacksonian era.

1. SHIP OF STATE

George Washington's **inauguration** was an occasion for nationwide rejoicing, but when the celebration had ended, the new nation had to face the serious business of building a government. Many details had to be added to the structure of the Constitution. The financial problems of the **republic** had to be dealt with, and the remaining differences of opinion about the function of government had to be reconciled.

Executive departments and a federal court system were created, and the jurisdiction of various courts was defined. The Bill of Rights, an especially important item for the **Antifederalists**, was passed by Congress and the states. These first ten amendments to the Constitution guaranteed certain individual liberties against the possible abuses of a powerful government.

The first secretary of the treasury, Alexander Hamilton, proposed a national bank and suggested that

the federal government assume the debts incurred by the states during the Revolution. James Madison and many others objected to this part of Hamilton's plan, but a compromise involving the location of the nation's capital helped to resolve the problem.

Foreign affairs were even more difficult to settle. Troubles in Europe threatened American **neutrality**, and Europeans began seizing American merchant vessels on the high seas. President John Adams managed to avoid war despite the XYZ Affair and many protests from indignant Americans. Adams's foreign policy, the unpopular taxes enacted during his administration, and the controversy over the Alien and Sedition Acts combined to hasten the downfall of the Federalist Party. The election of 1800 ended in a victory for the **Democratic-Republicans** with Thomas Jefferson, the new president, announcing that the government ought to be open to all people of honesty, intelligence, and education.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. List specific precedents set by President Washington in the absence of specific instructions in the Constitution.
2. Identify the four major components of Hamilton's plan to establish a sound financial program.
3. Compare the basic philosophies of Federalists and Democratic-Republicans.
4. Explain the factors leading to the rise of enduring political parties in the United States.
5. Discuss the source of the unexpected problems in the election of 1796 and the deadlocked election of 1800, indicating the outcome in each case and its implications.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

Antifederalist	A member of a party opposed to the Federalists.
cabinet	A group of advisors chosen by the head of a nation to help in government.
caucus	A meeting of members of a political party to make plans, choose candidates or decide how to vote.
democracy	A government run by the people who are under it. In a democracy, the people rule either directly through meetings that all may attend or indirectly through the election of representatives.
electors	Members of the electoral college.

electoral college	The group of people chosen by the voters to elect a president and vice president of the United States.
excise tax	A tax on the manufacture, sale, or use of certain articles.
Federalist	A member or supporter of the Federalist Party in the United States.
Federalist Party	A political party in the United States that favored the adoption of the Constitution and, later, the establishment of a strong central government; it existed from about 1791 to about 1816.
impress	To force men to serve in the armed forces.
inauguration	The act or ceremony of installing a president into office.
neutrality	The attitude or policy of a nation that does not take part directly or indirectly in a war between other nations.
republic	A nation or state in which the citizens elect representatives to manage the government, which is usually headed by a president rather than a monarch.
Democratic-Republicans	Formed in 1792, favored a weak federal government and farmers.
ratify	To confirm, approve.
tariff	A list of duties or taxes that a government charges on imports or exports.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Although the **Federalists** had managed the first national election with considerable success, organizing the federal government presented new problems. The new administration also recognized the need to overcome any remaining fears of, and opposition to, a strong central government; and at the same time it had to win the respect of foreign nations.

The Constitution had gone into effect in 1789 when eleven states had **ratified** it. Within the next two years, North Carolina and Rhode Island had joined the Union. These thirteen states formed a country of roughly four million people. The Congress of the Confederation had asked the state to hold elections for presidential **electors**, representatives, and senators. The **electoral college** met in February, 1789. Each elector cast two votes. The man receiving the largest number of votes was to become president, with the second choice becoming vice president. However, the results would not be known until the new Congress convened. Congress was scheduled to meet in March of 1789, but its members were so slow in assembling that the legislative body did not have a quorum until April.

First President. George Washington was elected president by unanimous vote and John Adams was elected vice president. However, Washington did not arrive in New York until late April. On April 30, 1789, he took the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall. The waiting crowds cheered. Washington then stepped back inside to read his inaugural address.

The new president assumed his responsibilities with reluctance. He wrote: "My movement to the chair of government will be accompanied by feelings not unlike those of a culprit who is going to the place of his execution; so unwilling am I, in the evening of a life nearly consumed in public cares, to quit a peaceful abode for an ocean of difficulties."

The nation's strongest guarantee of success was its new president. Washington always considered carefully before making a decision, and once he had made a decision nothing could turn him from the course he thought right and proper. He knew that his actions would be a model for his successors, so he took great care from the beginning in establishing the government.

The Constitution made no mention of a presidential **cabinet**, but Washington established the custom of using the heads of various departments which

Congress and the president established as his personal advisers. The departments that Washington established included the Department of Foreign Affairs (later renamed the Department of State), the Department of the Treasury, and the Department of War. A fourth executive position was established for the attorney general, who had the responsibility of handling the legal business of the government.

Thomas Jefferson was chosen as secretary of state because of his diplomatic experience abroad. Alexander Hamilton, a New York lawyer and a strong supporter of the Constitution, was made secretary of the treasury. Henry Knox, an army officer, became the secretary of war. The position of attorney general went to Edmund Randolph, who had helped to secure the ratification of the Constitution in Virginia.

Supreme Court. The Judiciary Act of 1789 provided for a Supreme Court made up of a Chief Justice and five associate justices. This act helped to strengthen the central government by permitting the Supreme Court to review state laws and state court decisions that involved the Constitution, treaties, and federal laws.



| George Washington

Bill of Rights. In 1789 Congress adopted the first ten amendments to the Constitution. These ten amendments are called the Bill of Rights because they guarantee the individual rights of American citizens. The primary author of these amendments was James Madison of Virginia. By the end of 1791 the amendments had been ratified by the states. Prompt action in adding the Bill of Rights to the Constitution did much to allay the fears of the Antifederalists. Taken together, the ten amendments are a statement of the American belief that the power of the government must be limited and its actions must be just. The Bill of Rights completed the American Revolution and ended the contest over the Constitution.

By September 1789, the legislators were ready to go home. However, one big problem still remained. The government was deeply in debt from the war and in need of new funding as well. Congress turned this problem over to Alexander Hamilton and asked him to prepare a report for Congress when it would reconvene in January of 1790.

Hamilton's financial program. Hamilton knew that the government could not run without money. He believed that credit was a matter of commitment that money lent would be repaid. To establish the credit of the government so that it could borrow money in the future, the treasury would have to pay its bad debts. The first part of Hamilton's program involved the payment of these debts. He proposed to issue government bonds bearing an interest of six percent and to offer them in exchange for the paper money and other debt certificates issued by the Continental Congress. In addition, he proposed that the federal government assume the debts incurred by the states in fighting the war. The Revolution was a common cause, Hamilton said; fairness required that the cost be borne by all.

The states that had already paid their debts objected on the grounds that they would, in essence, be paying their debts twice. Hamilton's proposals were not as simple as they seemed. The paper money and other certificates issued by the states during the Revolution had become practically worthless. Much of the money had fallen into the hands of a few speculators who had purchased it from the original holders for a fraction of the face value. To redeem it dollar for dollar meant a terrible burden for the government and an enormous windfall for the speculators.

Madison opposed Hamilton's plan, objecting to the windfall as being undeserved and expensive to the

taxpayers. He also disliked the federal assumption of state debts. Madison received enough support in Congress to force Hamilton to compromise. In exchange for congressional approval to assume state debts, he agreed for the national capital to be moved to Philadelphia for ten years while a permanent capitol was being built on the banks of the Potomac River in Virginia. Hamilton got his financial system and the Virginians won the national capital.

The second part of Hamilton's program involved operating expenses for the government. He felt that as many expenses of the government as possible should be paid out of income taxes. His recommendation of various **excise taxes** (including a tax on the domestic manufacture of distilled liquor) as a means of supplementing the revenues obtained from the **tariff** were, for the most part, enacted by Congress. Hamilton accompanied troops into the field in 1794 to enforce the whiskey excise tax when the Whiskey Rebellion developed in western Pennsylvania.

The third part of Hamilton's program was a Bank of the United States. A national system of banking was the most important aspect of Hamilton's design. The system would be made up of a large central bank with branches in major cities. The bank would be chartered by Congress and would serve as an agent to the Treasury, holding funds on deposit and lending money to the government when necessary. The bank would have the power to issue money of its own—a sound, uniform currency backed by the bank's own reserves of gold and government bonds. The bank would help the government with the national debt. The new six percent bonds would hold their value because they could be exchanged for bank notes. Speculators, the main holders of government paper, would become the major stockholders in the bank through buying the shares with government bonds. The result would be a three-cornered pyramid: bank, government, and speculators. Out of this alliance would come firm government credit, a national currency, and political stability. In some respects, political stability was the most important.

Thomas Jefferson was one of many prominent men who opposed the bank because the power to make one was not mentioned in the Constitution. When the bill for the bank reached President Washington, he ask Jefferson and Hamilton to write papers on whether or not the bank was constitutional. After Washington studied the two papers, he decided that the idea of a national bank was sound, and

he accepted Hamilton's viewpoint that the president had the implied power from the Constitution to charter such an institution. In February 1791, Washington signed the controversial bank bill into law. The furor over the national bank had sharpened the differences between those who wanted to strengthen the central government and those who wanted to limit it; between those who favored the economic interests of merchants and manufacturers and those who sided with the planters and farmers;

and between those who agreed with Hamilton and those who agreed with Madison and Jefferson.

The fourth part of Hamilton's financial program dealt with metal currency. Since colonial days, America had suffered a shortage of coins. Much confusion had resulted from the use of a variety of foreign coins. On Hamilton's recommendation, Congress passed the Mint Act of 1792, which provided for the minting of gold, silver, and copper coins based on the decimal system.

Match these items.

- 1.1 _____ democracy
 1.2 _____ cabinet
 1.3 _____ inauguration
 1.4 _____ neutrality
 1.5 _____ ratify
 1.6 _____ tariff

- a. the act or ceremony of installing a president into office
 b. the attitude or policy of a nation that does not take part directly or indirectly
 c. to confirm, approve
 d. a government run by the people who are under it
 e. a group of advisors chosen by the head of a nation to help in government
 f. a list of duties or taxes that a government charges on imports or exports

Match the following.

- 1.7 _____ Antifederalist
 1.8 _____ Federalist Party
 1.9 _____ electoral college
 1.10 _____ excise tax
 1.11 _____ Democratic-Republicans
 1.12 _____ Federalist
 1.13 _____ republic
 1.14 _____ electors

- a. the group of people chosen by the voters to elect a president and vice president
 b. a tax on the manufacture, sale, or use of certain articles
 c. a member of a party opposed to the Federalists
 d. a member or supporter of the Federalist Party in the United States
 e. members of the electoral college
 f. a nation or state in which the citizens elect representatives
 g. a political party in the United States that favored the adoption of the Constitution
 h. party that wanted a weak federal government



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