



Federalists and Anti-Federalists Debate

The proposed Constitution, and the change it wrought in the nature of the American Union, spawned one of the greatest political debates of all time. In addition to the state ratifying conventions, the debates also took the form of a public conversation, mostly through newspaper editorials, with Anti-federalists on one side objecting to the Constitution, and Federalists on the other supporting it. Writers from both sides tried to persuade the public that precious liberty and self-government, hard-earned during the Revolution, were at stake.

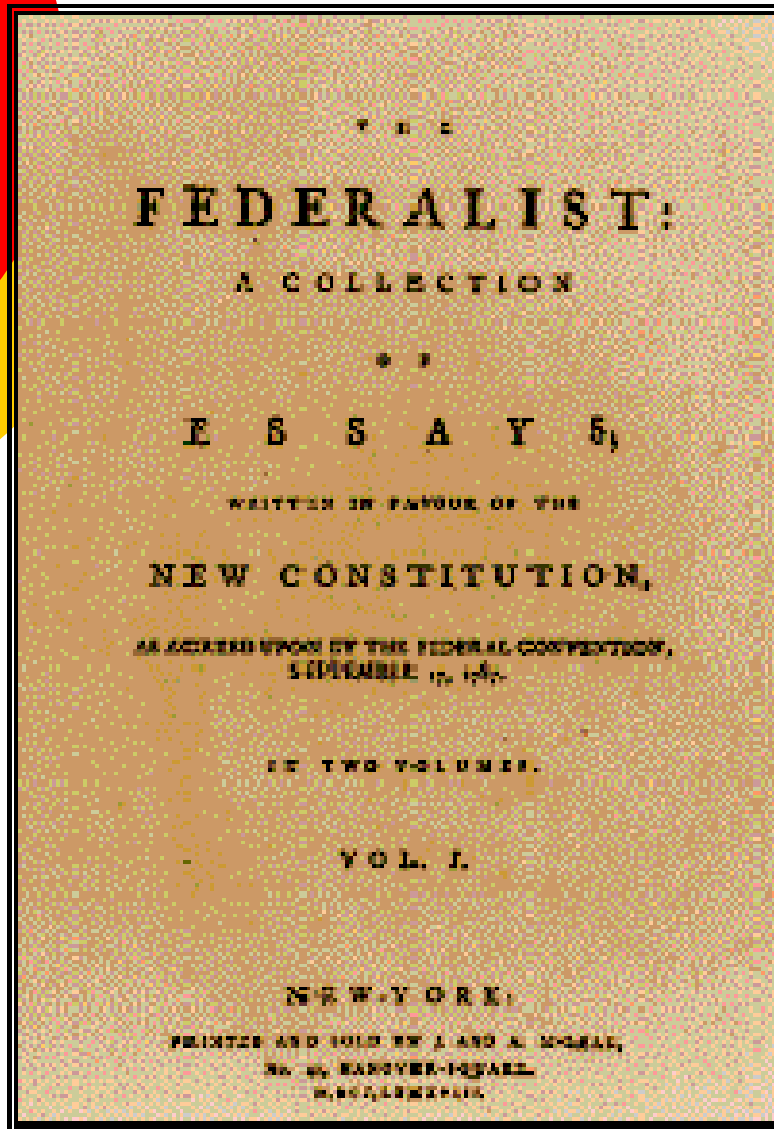
Can a republican government over an extended territory secure the rights of citizens or will it lead to the destruction of liberty and self-government?

Ratification

Special elections held in the various states for members of the ratifying conventions

Federalists v Anti-Federalists

Federalists: Argued in favor of the Constitution (John Jay, James Madison, and Uber-Federalist Alexander Hamilton)



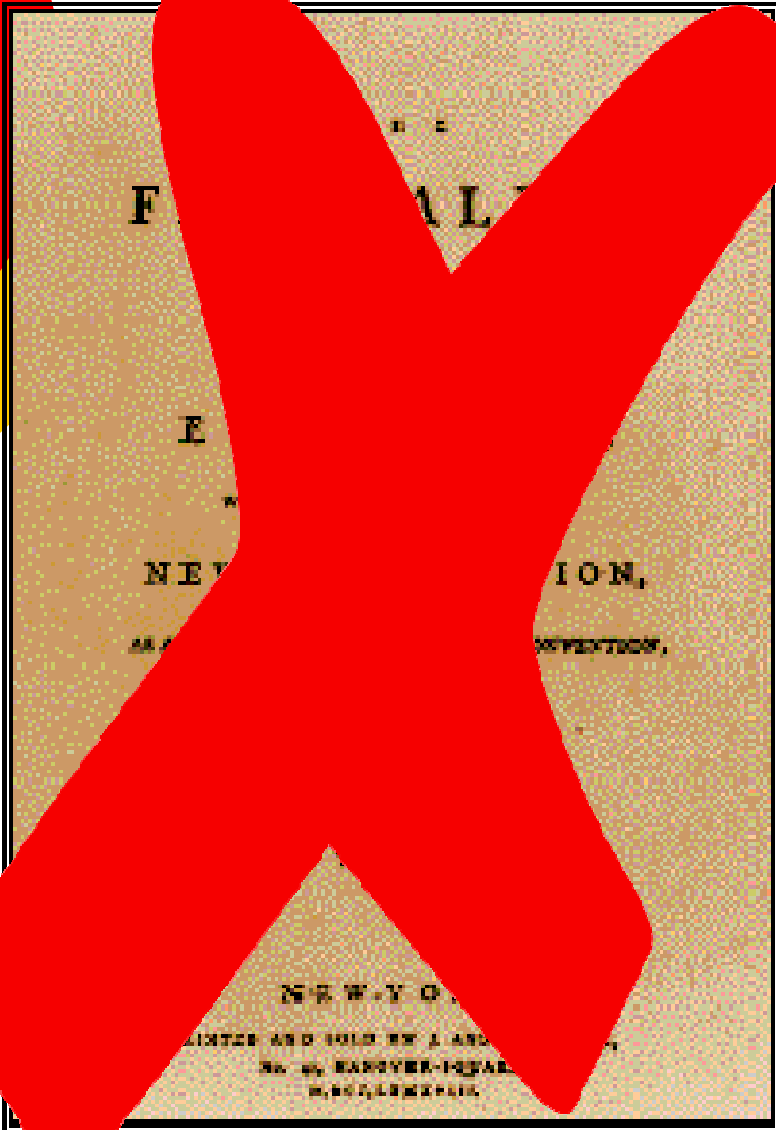
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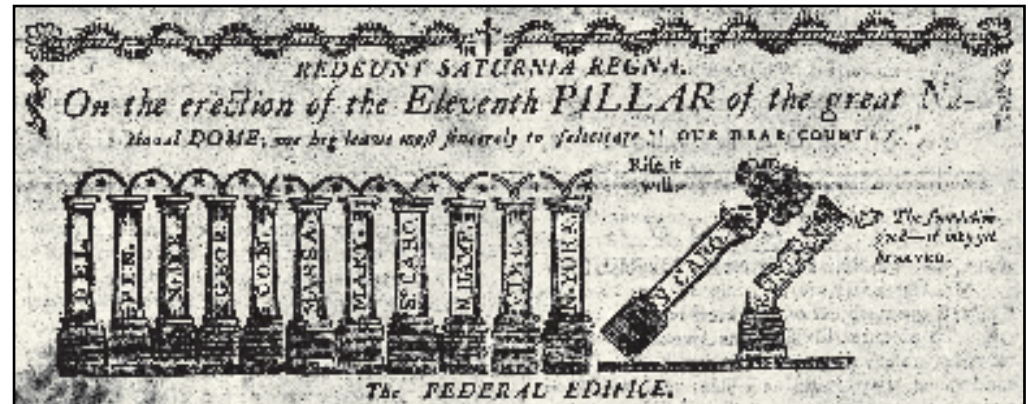
Anti-Federalists: Wanted a bill of rights attached to Constitution (Patrick Henry, Sam Adams, Richard Henry Lee)

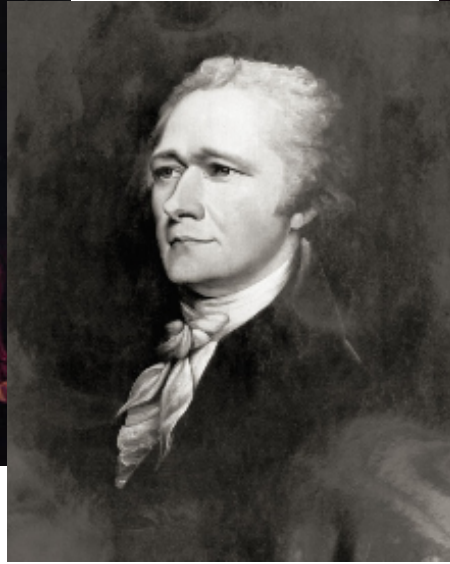


Ratification

By 1788, nine states had ratified the Constitution, and Congress adopted it.

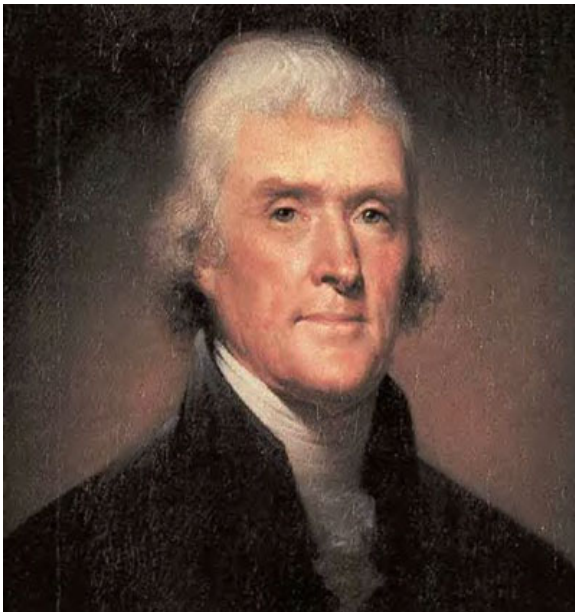
The four remaining states (VA, NY, NC, and RI) narrowly agreed, and in 1790, all 13 States were united under the Constitution.





Building a New Nation

1789-1800



Bill of Rights

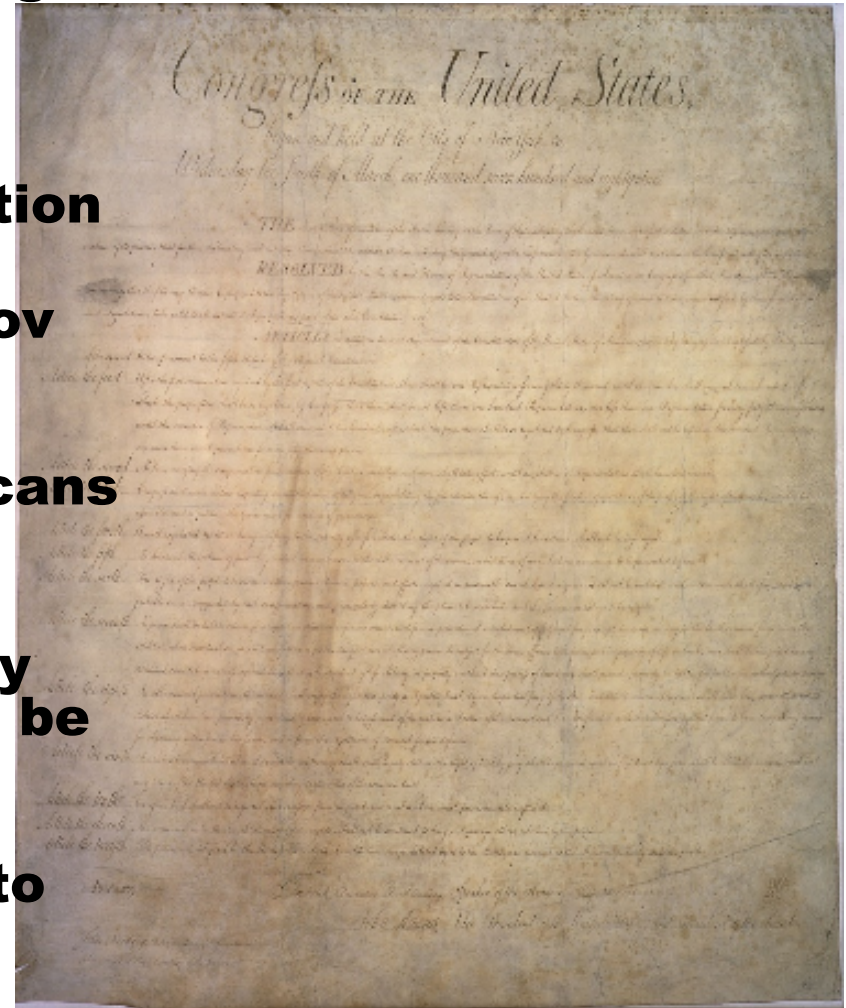
Anti-Federalist argued Bill of Rights necessary to assure individual rights

Arguments for:

- **Americans fought in Revolution to escape tyranny**
- **Americans feared Central gov would encourage tyrannical oppression**
- **Bill of Rights protect Americans from tyranny**

Arguments Against:

- **Since Congress is elected by people, they did not need to be protected from themselves**
- **It was better to assume all rights were protected than to limit them in a list**



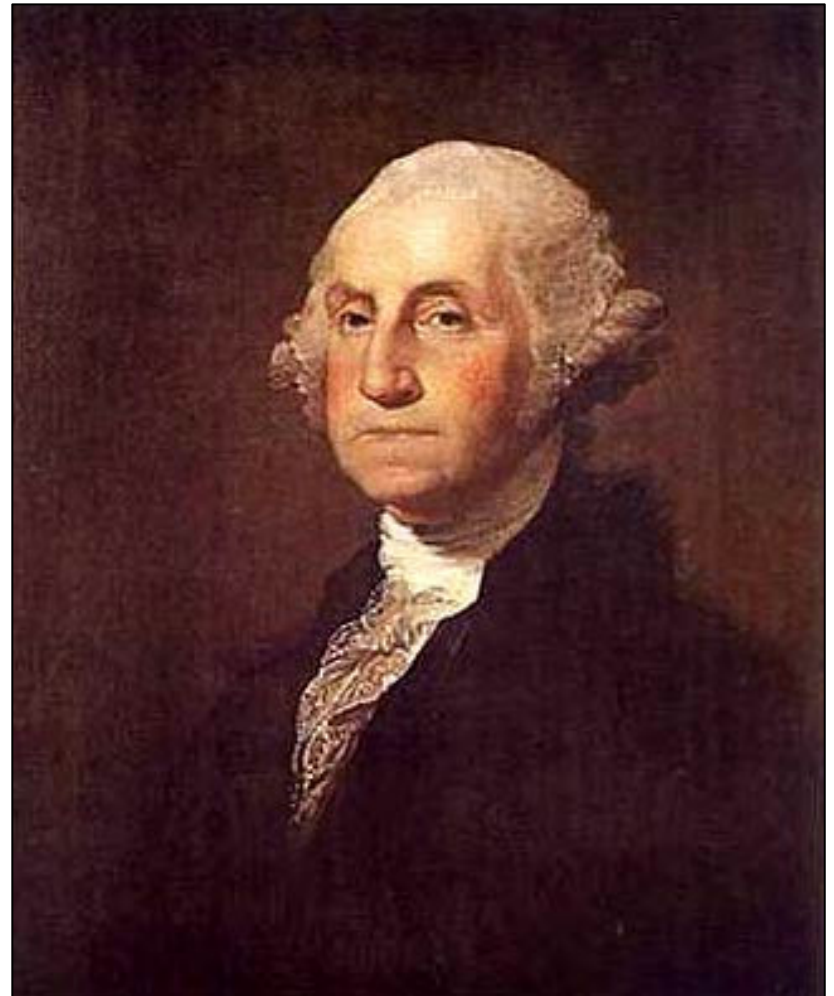
Washington's Presidency

Members of Congress elected in 1788- began service in 1789 (New York City)

Washington took oath of office on April 30, 1789

After April 30th the principals set forth in the Constitution would be put into practice

System of checks and balances between Legislative, Executive and Judicial began in earnest





Organizing Federal Government

Washington organized new offices of Executive branch

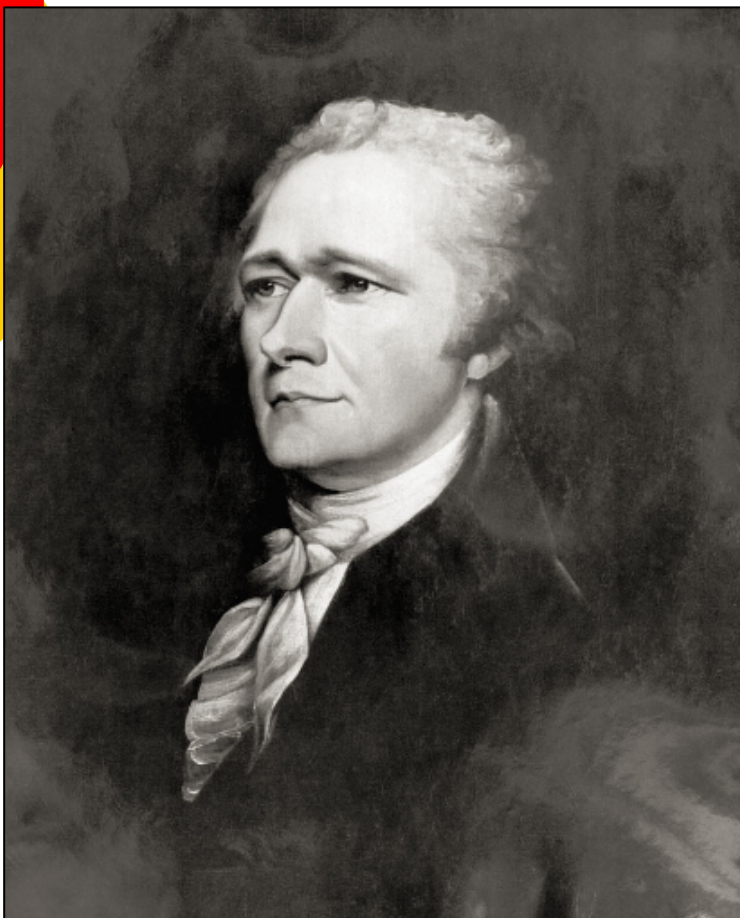
- **Constitution specifically authorizes President to appoint chiefs of dept. if appointees are confirmed by Senate**
- **Thomas Jefferson: Secretary of State**
- **Alexander Hamilton: Secretary of Treasury**
- **Henry Knox: Secretary of War**
- **Edmond Randolph: Attorney General**

President met w/ Cabinet to seek advise on policy issues- this set precedent for future Presidents

Federal Court System

- **Only court mentioned in Constitution was Supreme Court**
- **Congressional Law: Judiciary Act (1789): Established one Supreme Court and 5 Justices**
- **Provided a system w/ 13 district courts and three circuit court of appeals**

Hamilton's Financial Plan



Congress had financial problems under A of C

Hamilton's plan was to put U.S. on sound economic footing:

- 1. pay off Federal debt- Federal gov would assume state debts**
- 2. protect U.S. industries- collect adequate taxes & impose high tariffs on imported goods**
- 3. create national bank for depositing gov funds & print currency**

****Support for Hamilton Plan came mostly from Northern merchants; they'd gain from high tariffs on imported goods & stabilized currency****



Hamilton Plan Modified

Anti-Federalist opposed plan

- **Feared states would lose power & influence**
- **Argued that plan only benefited rich; hurt small farmers**

Three modifications made to Plan:

- **Debt:**
 - **Federal gov would pay off national debt & assume state debts**
 - **Hamilton agreed to establish nation's capital in the South (future D.C.)**
- **Tariffs & Excise Taxes:**
 - **Congress set tariffs on imported goods (lower than Hamilton wanted)**
 - **Hamilton persuaded Congress to pass excise tax (tax on goods considered socially unacceptable) on Whiskey**
- **National Bank:**
 - **Jefferson argued Constitution did not give gov power to create Bank**
 - **Hamilton argued in that the 'elastic clause' in the Constitution allowed gov to do what was necessary for national prosperity**
 - **National Bank was put into law as Washington agreed w/ Hamilton's rationale for a National Bank**



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Foreign Affairs

French Revolution

- **French Revolution became the killing fields- both Moderates and Liberals were murdered**
- **U.S.-France alliance from Revolutionary War was w/ French monarchy, not Republic**
- **Jefferson supporters argued an Alliance w/ France critical to U.S. interests & security**



Proclamation of Neutrality (1793)

- **President Washington did not believe America was strong enough to engage in European war**
- **Washington issued “Neutrality” in the British-French war (1793)**
- **Jefferson frustrated and resigned in disagreement**



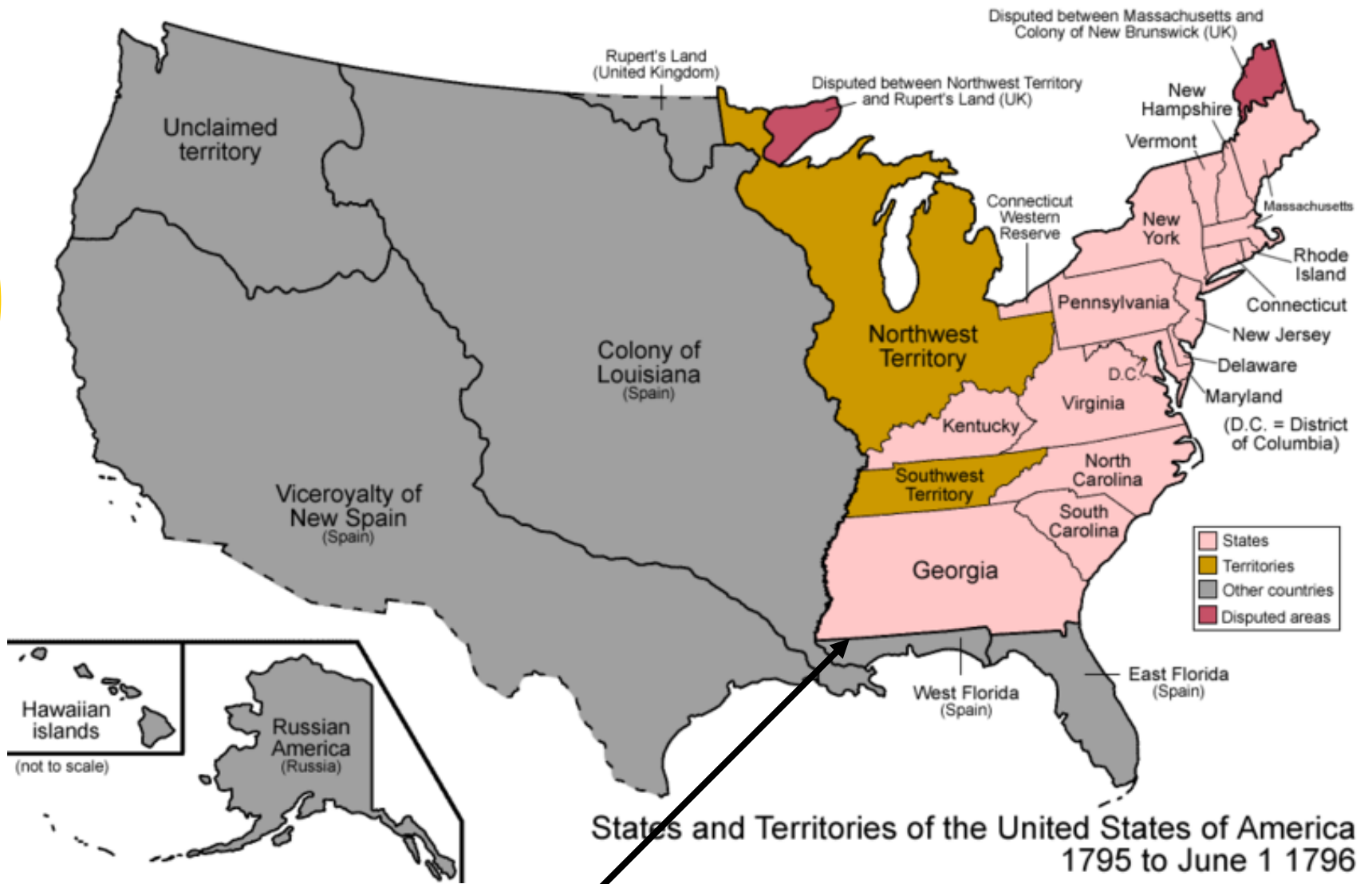
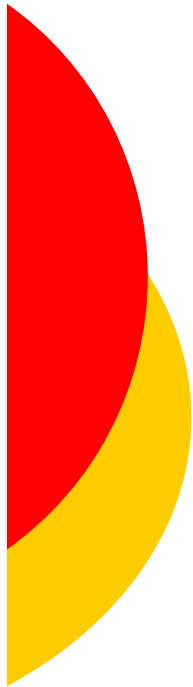
Foreign Policy

Jay Treaty (1794)

- **Jay sent to Britain- talk them out of their practice of seizing and searching U.S. ships**
- **Jay's negotiations netted:**
 - **Brits agreed to evacuate post in western frontier**
 - **Treaty did not mention seizure of ships**
 - **Washington's policy of neutrality maintained**
 - **Treaty angered the supporters of France**

Pinckney Treaty (1795)

- **Spain feared U.S. was drawing closer to Britain (Jay's Treaty)**
- **Spain wanted to open up their territory to U.S. use**
- **Pinckney (Minister to Spain) negotiated treaty:**
 - **New Orleans would open to U.S. trade**
 - **Right of Deposit**
 - **Spain accepted U.S. claim that Florida's northern boundary = the 31st parallel**



31st Parallel

Domestic Concerns

White settlers continued to move west across the Alleghenies (into Ohio)

British supplied natives w/ arms

Gen. Wayne led troops into territory (1794) -defeated Shawnee, Ottawa, Chippewa & others at *Battle of Fallen Timbers*

Natives agreed to the Treaty of Greenville

- Surrendered all claims to the Ohio Territory



Domestic Concerns

Whiskey Rebellion (1794)

- **Group of Penn. Farmers refused to pay excise tax on whiskey**
- **Farmers defended their “liberties” and attacked tax collectors**
- **Washington Federalized 15,000 militia under command of Hamilton**
- **Show of force enough for Rebellion to cease**
- **Supporters called this the decisive action gov needed (think to the problems of Shay’s Rebellion)**
- **Critics condemned it as unwarranted use of force against common people**

Political Parties



Constitution does not mention political parties

After Shays' Rebellion it was believed parties would be unnecessary

Federalist and anti-Federalist debates in 1788 dispelled that myth

- **Two-party system would emerge from these debates**
- **Hamilton and his supporters: Federalists**
- **Jefferson and his supporters: Democratic-Republicans**



Federalist and Democratic-Republican Parties

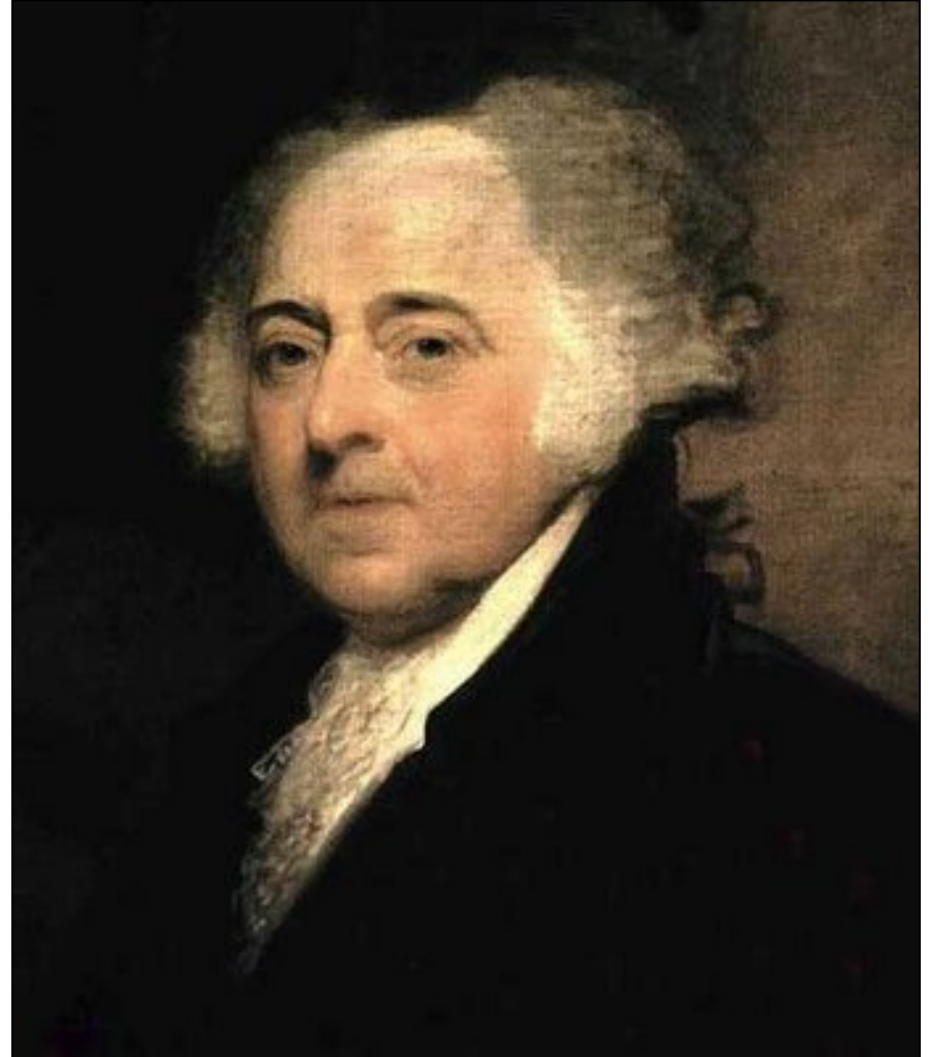
	Federalists	Democratic-Republicans
Leaders	John Adams/Hamilton	Madison/Jefferson
View of Constitution	Loose interpretation; strong central gov	Strict interpretation; weak central gov
Foreign Policy	Pro-British	Pro-French
Military Policy	Large peacetime army and navy	Small peacetime army and navy
Domestic Policy	Aid business; National Bank; tariffs	Favor agriculture; No National Bank; Opposed tariffs
Chief Supporters	Northern businessmen; large landowners	Skilled workers; small farmers; plantation owners

John Adams' Presidency

**Adams was Federalist
choice for President;
Jefferson was Dem-
Republican choice**

**Adams won by three
electoral votes**

Jefferson was VP





XYZ Affair

U.S. merchant ships were being seized by French warships

A delegation sent to Paris to see a resolution to the claims

French gov purposefully kept delegates waiting

- **This incited Federalist frustrations w/ France**
- **French Ministers known as X, Y and Z requested bribes as a basis for entering into negotiations**
- **The XYZ affair infuriated right-wing of the Federalist Party (Hamilton) - they clamored for war w/ France**
- **President Adams, resisted the temptation**



Alien & Sedition Acts

Federalists persisted in their rhetoric against the French Republic

Federalist had majority in House and Senate

Three new laws adopted by Federalist Congress:

- 1. Naturalization Act: increased number of years for immigrants to qualify for U.S. citizenship (5 to 14)**
- 2. Alien Acts: authorized the President to deport/detain any aliens deemed dangerous in time of war**
- 3. Sedition Acts: illegal for newspaper editors to criticize either the president or Congress**



Kentucky & Virginia Resolutions

**Republicans argued the
A & S Acts violated the
Constitution**

**No Judicial Review (as
of 1799)**

**Republican leaders
denounced the Acts and
sought to nullify A & S
Acts w/in state gov**

**KY Legislature adopted
resolution written by
Jefferson**

**VA adopted resolution
written by Madison**

Resolutions declared:

- **States entered into
compact w/ Federal
gov**
- **States could nullify
federal law if Federal
gov broke the compact**