

The 1790s

I. **George Washington** becomes the first President of the United States in 1789 after ratification of the Constitution... serves two terms

II. The Young Government

- A. **Judiciary Act** – 1789 – created Supreme Court, federal and district courts (later found unconstitutional)
- B. **Jay's Treaty**... brilliant but not well received at the time... settles some continued conflicts with Great Britain
- C. Alexander **Hamilton's Plan**, Secretary of Treasury under G.W. – with rationale that if gov't benefits wealthy, they'll invest in gov't...
 - a. **Assume all debt of states** – Virginia already paid off debt – get D.C.
 - b. **Debt good** – more people owed, more have stake in success of gov't
 - c. **Tariff taxes + duties on whiskey**
 - d. **National Bank** – Jefferson wanted states to control \$, Hamilton wins argument and ... **First National Bank** – 1791-1811 – Philadelphia (20 year charter)
- D. **Whiskey Rebellion** – proves executive tough – sent in thousands to put down rebellion
- E. **Eli Whitney invents Cotton Gin**... slavery on rise after decades of decline (1793)
- F. **Political parties** begin to form as G.W.'s cabinet disagrees about power of new government
- G. **Farewell Address**... G.W. sets many precedents and traditions...
- H. **John Adams elected President (Federalist Party)**... **Thomas Jefferson (Democratic-Republican) elected Vice President**
- I. **Alien and Sedition Acts** – Adams oversteps(?) power of president – punishes Democratic Republicans – Alien – 5-14 years, jail/Sedition – jail for libel
 - a. **Virginia/Kentucky Resolutions** – states can ignore bad laws – sets states/federal gov't conflict... written by Jefferson and Madison in reaction A&S

FIRST TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

Federalists

1. Favored strong central government.
2. "**Loose**" interpretation of the Constitution.
3. Encouragement of commerce and **manufacturing**.
4. Strongest in **Northeast**.
5. Favored close ties with **Britain**.
6. Emphasized **order** and stability.

Democratic-Republicans

1. Emphasized states' rights.
2. "**Strict**" interpretation of the Constitution.
3. Preference for **agriculture** and rural life.
4. Strength in **South and West**.
5. Foreign policy sympathized with **France**.
6. Stressed **civil liberties** and trust in the people

[In practice, these generalizations were often blurred and sometimes contradicted.]