

Launching the New Ship of State

The Presidencies of George Washington and John Adams
(1790s)

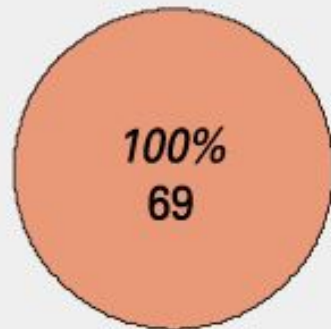
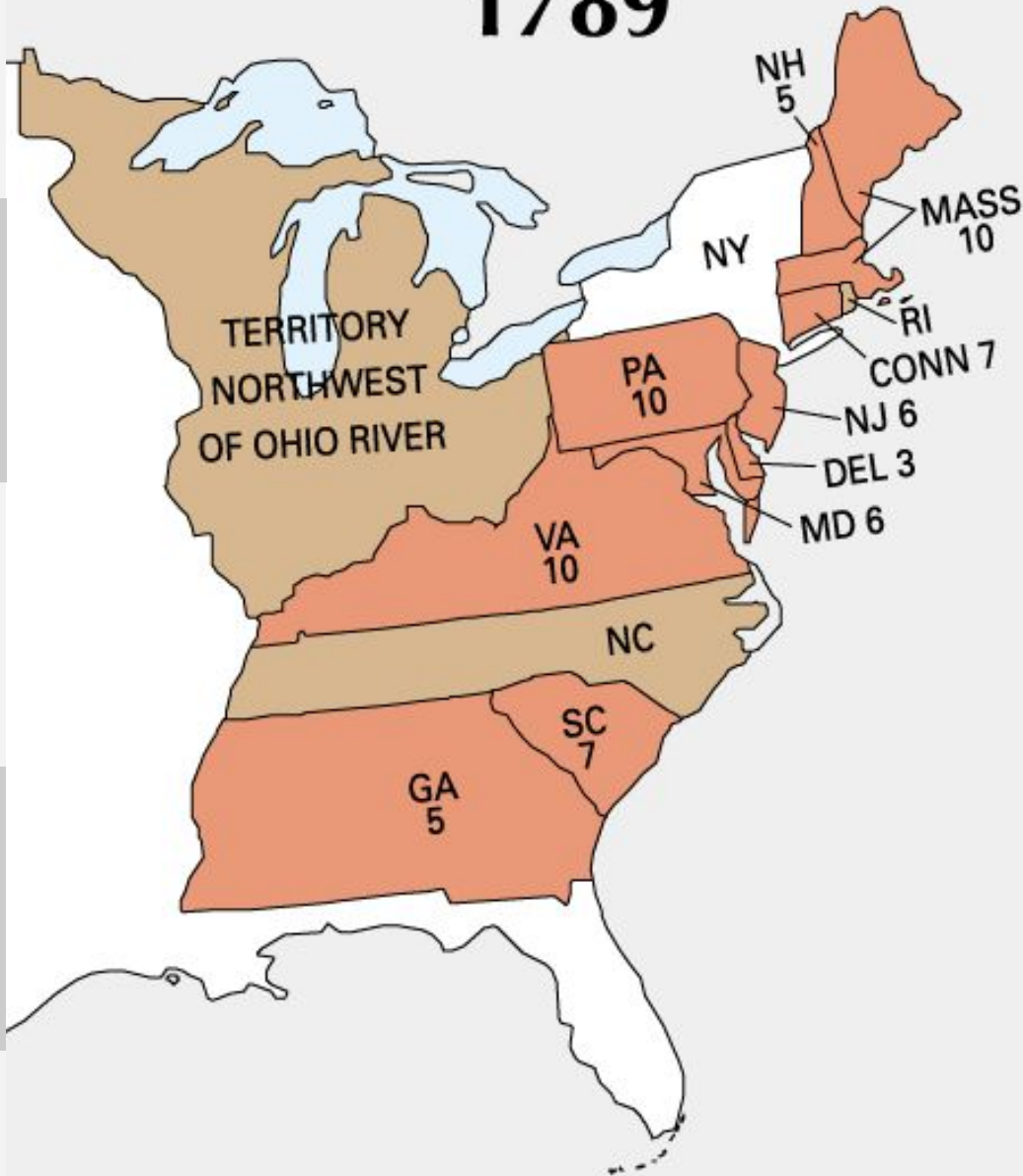
Georgia Standards

- **SSUSH6 Analyze the challenges faced by the first five presidents and how they responded.**
- a. Examine the presidency of Washington, including the precedents he set.
- b. Explain the presidency of John Adams including the Sedition Act and its influence on the election of 1800.

The background features a series of vertical bars in blue and light green, arranged in a repeating pattern. The bars are of varying heights and are set against a white background.

**Now let's put the
new Constitution
into action!**

1789*



ELECTORAL VOTE
TOTAL VOTING: 69
NOT VOTING: 12

 Territories

Washington 

1792*



ELECTORAL VOTES
TOTAL VOTING: 132
NOT VOTING: 3

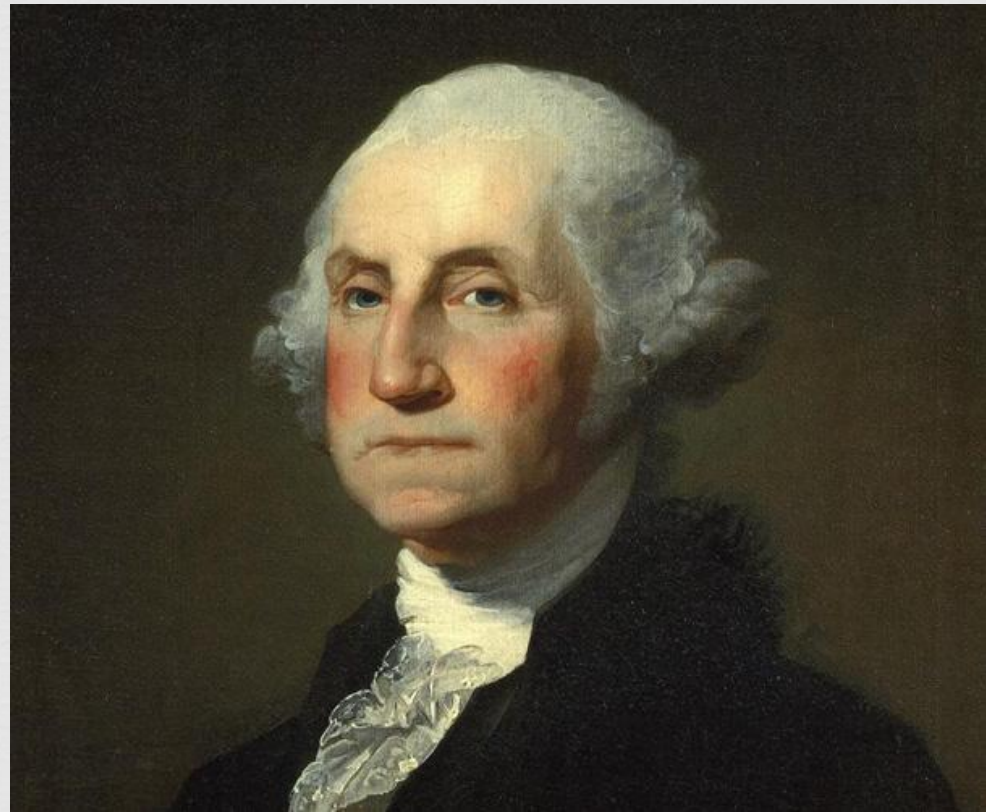
 Territories

Washington 

Washington as President



- George Washington unanimously elected President by the Electoral College in 1789 and 1792.
- Set many precedents that future Presidents would follow.
- Created the Presidential cabinet, a group of advisors:
 - Thomas Jefferson served as Secretary of State
 - Alexander Hamilton served as Secretary of the Treasury.
- Washington also favored non-intervention in Europe and avoided siding with France against Great Britain in their continued fighting.



The Whiskey Rebellion



- In order to pay back Revolutionary War debt, Washington passed a series of taxes.
- One tax in particular hit farmers in Western Pennsylvania hard.
- These farmers used excess crop to produce whiskey which they also used as currency.
- To protest the new taxes, the farmers led a revolt against tax collectors in the area.



Washington Responds



- In order to crush the revolting farmers in Western Pennsylvania, Washington orders in the federal troops.
- They quickly force the farmers to disband.
- Washington's quick, firm handling of the Whiskey Rebellion proved that this new Constitution could in fact work.





A NEW WHISKEY REBELLION

Because this is no time for weak Tea.



The Formation of Political Parties

- 2004 Electoral Map: Kerry(blue) v. Bush (red)
- How has the two party system divided our country?

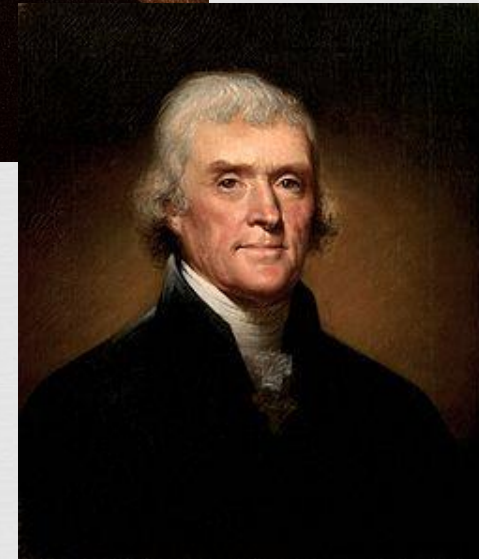
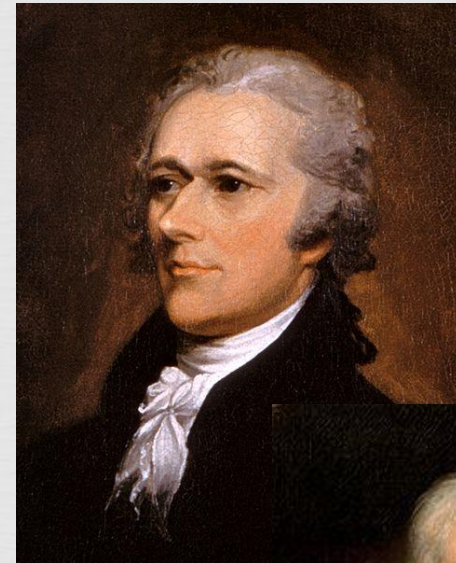
Washington Warns of Political Parties

"It serves to distract the Public Councils, and enfeeble the Public Administration....agitates the Community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one....against another....it opens the door to foreign influence and corruption...thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another."

Formation of Political Parties



- Political parties had their origin in the difference of opinion between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton.
- Both men felt differently about how the new nation should be run and operated.
- Hamilton's group (the Federalists) wanted to further expand the power of the government and create a national bank.
- Jefferson's group (the Democratic-Republicans) believed the federal government should limit itself to powers delegated in the Constitution.



Differences Between Parties



Federalists

- Wealthy
- Urban
- Loose interpretation of the Constitution
- Federal rights
- Business
- England supporters

Democratic-Republicans

- Poor
- Rural
- Strict interpretation of the Constitution
- States rights
- Agriculture
- French supporters

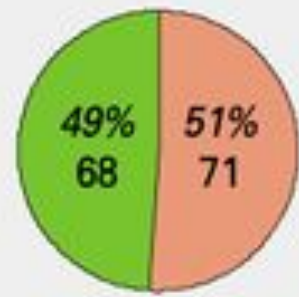
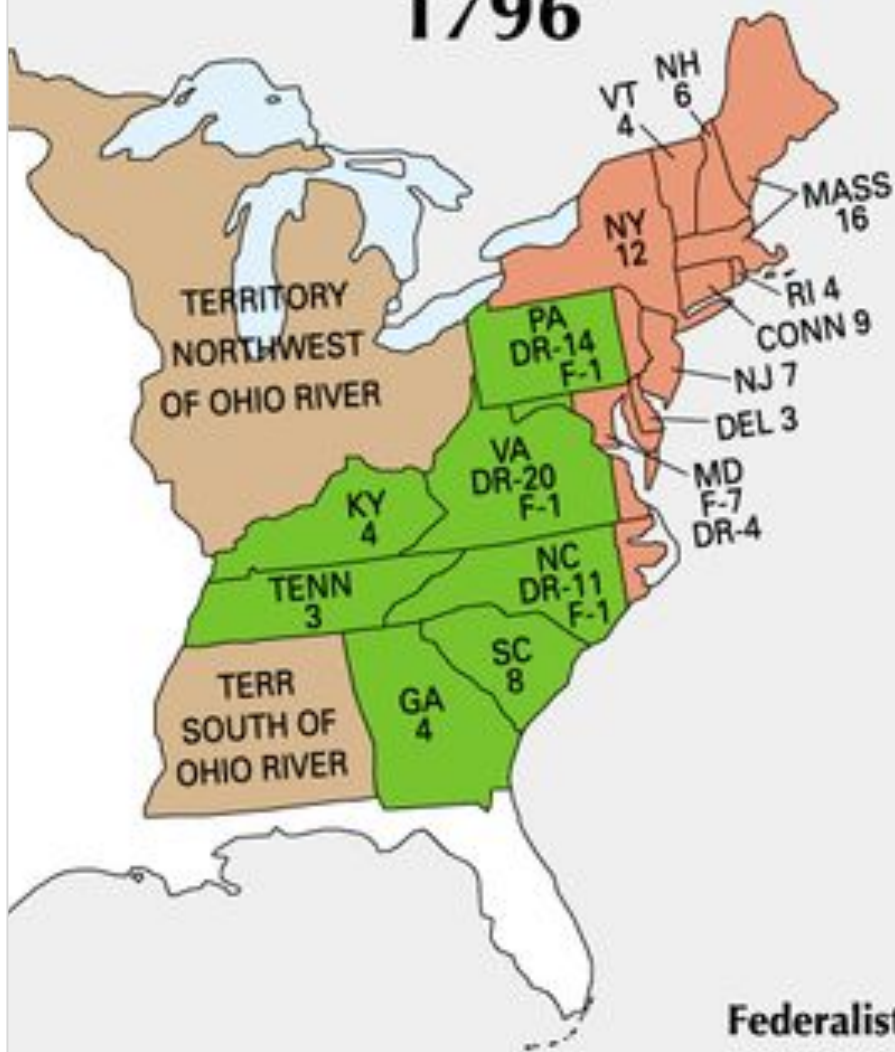


Washington Steps Down

- After his 2nd term, Washington announced that he would not seek another four years as President.
- Seen as one of the most important **precedents** set.
- When the announcement was made Jefferson and Hamilton's respective parties began fighting to replace him.
- In Washington's "Farewell Address" he warned the infant nation about the danger of political parties.





1796*



**ELECTORAL VOTE
TOTAL: 139**

 Territories

Federalist (J. Adams) 
Democratic-Republican (Jefferson) 

The Presidency of John Adams



- 2nd President of the US.
- Impressive Political career- supported Patriots, served in **Continental Congress**, on the **Committee of Five** & helped negotiate **Treaty of Paris 1783**.
- Defeated Jefferson in 1796 election, causing Jefferson to serve as VP.
- Federalist- wanted a more powerful central government.
- Hamilton could not run for President as the Federalist Party nominee; he was not born in the United States.
- His administration was plagued by the continuing conflict between England and France. (**XYZ Affair & Quasi-War**).



Adams Continues Non-Intervention Policy

- Adams found himself at odds with the French in a series of slights (insults) aimed at the United States.
- These insults led many Federalists to call for a formal declaration of war on France.
- Adams refused to follow his party's wishes choosing a path of non-intervention.
- His refusal to engage in open conflict with the French is seen as one of the most important political decisions of the early nation.



Alien and Sedition Acts

- Early political fighting between the D-R's and the Federalists led to the enactment of the Alien and Sedition Acts in the late 1790s.
- These laws were passed by a Federalist–controlled Congress in an attempt to limit political support for Thomas Jefferson and his party.
- Alien Act: increased citizenship requirements and simplified the deportation process to prevent Jefferson from receiving support from immigrants.
- Sedition Act: An attempt to limit freedom of speech by punishing or imprisoning anyone who spoke out against Federalist policies or President Adams himself.



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Origin of States' Rights Ideology



- Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions: political statements drafted in 1798 and 1799 respectively.
- The state legislatures of KY and VA claimed that the federal Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional.
- The resolutions argued that states had the right to declare unconstitutional any federal act that was not specifically authorized in the Constitution.
- This refusal to follow federal laws is seen to be the beginning of “states’ rights ideology” that will play a large role in the forthcoming Civil War.

