Parties Take Shape

Trace how disagreements became organized political rivalry.

SS24.US1.3a "Identify and explain factors leading to the development of political parties, including the conflicting views of Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, George Washington's Farewell Address, and the election of 1800."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline disagreements that pushed people toward rival parties, circle Washington's warning about parties, and number the election events in the order they happened.

From Cabinet Arguments to an Election

1 In the 1790s, arguments inside President George Washington's cabinet became a contest over the nation's future. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton wanted a strong national government that could manage debt and encourage trade and manufacturing. He proposed a national bank and argued that the Constitution allowed powers needed to carry out its listed duties. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson favored farming communities and more power for states. He argued that the Constitution did not give Congress permission to create a bank. Supporters organized around these competing plans. Hamilton's allies became known as Federalists, while Jefferson's allies became Democratic-Republicans.

2 The divisions grew beyond the cabinet. Federalists generally favored closer economic ties with Britain, a major trading partner. Democratic-Republicans often sympathized with France, whose revolution stirred debate in the United States. Newspapers carried fierce attacks, helping people choose sides and organize politically. In his 1796 Farewell Address, Washington warned that the "spirit of party" could stir anger and let leaders put party goals above the public good. His warning showed how visible party conflict had become, even though he hoped Americans would resist it. Political parties were not created by the address; the arguments it described were already shaping national politics.

3 The election of 1800 put these rival groups to a hard test. Federalist President John Adams faced Jefferson, the Democratic-Republican candidate. Jefferson and his running mate, Aaron Burr, received the same number of electoral votes under the rules then in use. The House of Representatives had to choose between them and selected Jefferson. Although the vote exposed flaws in the election system, Adams left office and Jefferson took power in 1801 without violence. This first peaceful transfer of national power between rival parties showed that organized opposition could compete for control of the government without breaking the republic.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Hamilton's and Jefferson's opposing views of the national bank help create political parties?

2. How did disagreements over Britain and France, along with newspapers, help party divisions grow?

3. What did Washington warn parties might cause, and what does his warning reveal about politics by 1796?

4. What did the election of 1800 reveal about both the risks and the possibilities of party competition?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence newspaper editorial dated 1801. Judge whether the election of 1800 proved Washington's warning right, wrong, or partly right, using one cabinet dispute and two election details as evidence.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.3a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline disagreements that pushed people toward rival parties, circle Washington's warning about parties, and number the election events in the order they happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Hamilton's and Jefferson's opposing views of the national bank help create political parties?	**Hamilton supported a bank and argued that the Constitution allowed it; Jefferson said Congress lacked permission to create one. Supporters organized around their opposing plans.**
2	How did disagreements over Britain and France, along with newspapers, help party divisions grow?	**Federalists favored closer economic ties with Britain, while Democratic-Republicans often sympathized with France. Newspaper attacks helped people choose sides and organize.**
3	What did Washington warn parties might cause, and what does his warning reveal about politics by 1796?	**He warned that party spirit could stir anger and put party goals above the public good. His warning shows that party conflict was already visible.**
4	What did the election of 1800 reveal about both the risks and the possibilities of party competition?	**Jefferson and Burr's tie exposed a flaw in the election rules, but Adams's peaceful transfer of power to Jefferson showed that rival parties could compete without violence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Washington's warning was partly right: party loyalty could raise tensions, but it need not destroy the republic. The fight over Hamilton's bank plan drew Americans into opposing political groups. Jefferson and Burr's electoral tie forced the House to decide the 1800 election, exposing a weakness in the voting rules. Yet Federalist Adams gave way to Democratic-Republican Jefferson peacefully, showing that rivals could follow the outcome.

Accept any judgment supported by an accurate cabinet dispute and two distinct election details. The Jefferson-Burr tie exposed a flaw in the election rules, not evidence of violence.