

Intro to Political Parties

Current Events

- <http://vimeo.com/17426143>

What are political parties...

- What are the major political parties today?
- Why are Political parties important?
- How did the first Political Parties emerge?
- The first political parties:
 - Federalists
 - Democratic-Republicans

Emergence of Political Parties

- Attacks on President Washington by Thomas Jefferson supporters.
- Hamilton and Jefferson disagreed on many issues
 - Economic Policy
 - Foreign Relations
 - Power of the federal government
 - Interpreting the Constitution

Good or Bad?

- In the late 1700s, many Americans believed the emergence of political parties would be a bad thing; and even potentially dangerous.
- Even George Washington opposed the creation of Political Parties. Why?

Washington's position

- Writes his concerns in a Farwell Address as he leaves the Presidency:
 - Fears a threat to Unity
 - Believes Political parties will lead to revenge seeking behavior against political opponents.
 - Make us vulnerable to foreign nations influence on national affairs.
 - Weaken National Security



Federalists vs Democratic-Republicans

Alexander Hamilton



VS.

Thomas Jefferson



Federalists

- Led by Alexander Hamilton:
 - Rule By the Wealthy class
 - Strong Federal Government
 - Emphasis on manufactured products
 - Loose interpretation of the Constitution (**Implied Powers**)
 - Favor an alliance with the British
 - National Bank
 - Protective Tariffs

Democratic-Republicans

- Led by Thomas Jefferson
 - Rule by the people
 - Strong State Governments
 - Emphasis on Agricultural products
 - Strict interpretation of the Constitution
 - Favor an alliance with the French
 - State Banks
 - Free Trade and Free Markets

CAUSES:

- Different philosophies of government
- Conflicting interpretations of the Constitution
- Different economic and regional interests
- Disagreement over foreign affairs

EFFECTS:

- Federalists and Democratic-Republicans propose different solutions
- The two parties nominate candidates
- Clear division in beliefs
- Political parties become a way of American life.

The Election of 1796

- In the presidential election of 1796, candidates sought office for the first time as members of a party rather than as individuals.
- To prepare for the election, the parties held meetings called **caucuses**, where members of Congress and other leaders chose their party's candidates for office.
- The Federalists nominated Vice President John Adams as their candidate for president, while the Republicans chose Thomas Jefferson.

The Election of 1796

- Adams received 71 electoral votes, winning the election.
- Jefferson, who finished second with 68 votes, became the new vice president, even though he represented a different party from the elected president.

Political Parties Today

Republicans

- More power to people and states
- Lower taxes for *everyone*
- Less gun control
- Marriage between a man and a woman

Democrats

- Larger federal government
- Lower taxes for *lower income*
- More gun control
- Pro Gay marriage



Differences Between the First Political Parties

Federalists

Leader:
Alexander Hamilton

Favored:

- ★ Rule by the wealthy class
- ★ Strong federal government
- ★ Emphasis on manufactured products
- ★ Loose interpretation of the Constitution
- ★ British alliance
- ★ National bank
- ★ Protective tariffs

Democratic-Republicans

Leader:
Thomas Jefferson

Favored:

- ★ Rule by the people
- ★ Strong state governments
- ★ Emphasis on agricultural products
- ★ Strict interpretation of the Constitution
- ★ French alliance
- ★ State banks
- ★ Free trade

Closing Activity

- Select 2 groups of 4 students to represent one of the two political parties (Federalists and Democratic-Republicans).
- In a school issue (or relevant issue to students) have them construct an argument based the principles these groups stood for.
 - Create Slogan, Come up with 3 main points, and select a spokesperson to represent the group in front of the class.
 - Remaining students will do a short writing activity to draw on knowledge gained from lecture. Then later vote on which party they would belong to as both groups present.