

Federalist Party vs. Democratic-Republicans

Issue	Federalists	Democrat-Republicans	Notes
National vs. State Governments	Favored a strong central government with the power to control commerce, tax, declare war, and make treaties	Sought to limit the role of the national government, favoring local control	The issue, not settled until the Civil War, was the basic philosophical point of contention between to the two parties
French Revolution	Opposed the Revolution and opposed American support for anti-monarchy group	Supported the popular forces in the Revolution and favored American assistance	The debt of America to the French for their assistance during the Revolution was viewed as due and unpaid by the D-R's
Jay Treaty	Supported the effort to build better relations with England	Opposed—more positive relations with France were favored	D-R's viewed Treaty as an attempt to dump cheap British imports in the American market
Alien & Sedition Acts	Supported as necessary to prevent growth of D-R's and to limit criticism of Federalist officials	Opposed, along with a larger army, as a threat to citizen's individual liberties	Criticized by Jefferson and Madison in the Virginia & Kentucky Resolutions, where doctrine of nullification was first expounded
Area of Support	New England	South and West	Mid-Atlantic states moved from Federalist to D-R side, especially after 1798
Hamilton's Economic Plan	Supported enthusiastically	Opposed—programs viewed as favoring Hamilton's cronies, Northern states that had not yet paid off their debts, and as generally weakening the power of the states.	The proposal to establish the national bank became the greatest source of contention and provided the first open break between Hamilton & Jefferson