

Read the article "Hamilton and Jefferson Start Political Parties" before answering Numbers 34 through 44.

HAMILTON AND JEFFERSON START POLITICAL PARTIES



Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson were two of the greatest political leaders the United States has produced. Hamilton and Jefferson had opposing ideas about the policies the federal government should adopt. After the states adopted the Constitution in 1789, each man argued brilliantly for his beliefs and gathered a large following of supporters. This conflict brought about the birth of the first political parties in the United States.

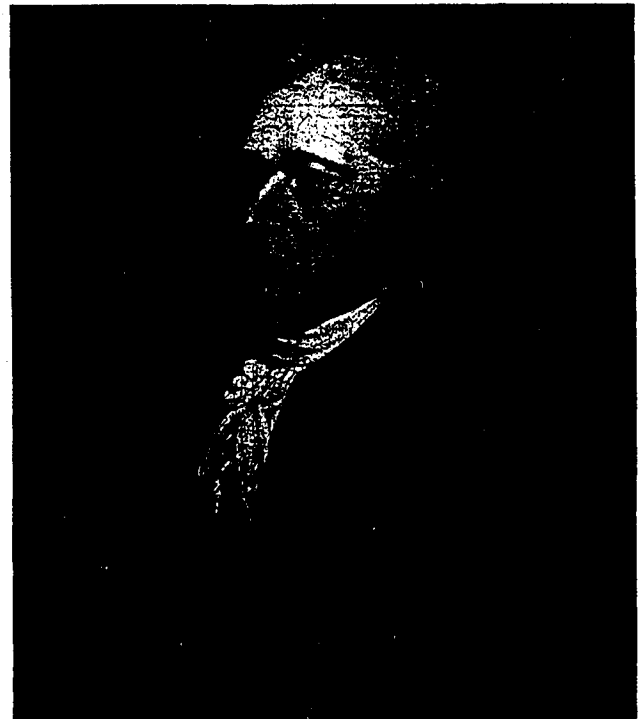
ALEXANDER HAMILTON (1755–1804)

Alexander Hamilton was born in the West Indies in 1755. When he was 12 he went to work for the merchant Nicholas Cruger. His employer thought highly of Alec's ability. When Cruger went off to New York, he left 15-year-old Hamilton in complete charge of the business. When Cruger returned, young Hamilton greeted him with an account book glowing with a respectable profit.

In 1772 a hurricane roared down upon the West Indies, leaving a path of destruction. Alexander quickly wrote a vivid account of the disaster and sent the article to a West Indian newspaper, which published it. Overnight, at 17, he became a celebrity in the islands. People began to talk of "that bright young Hamilton." More important, they collected money to send him to college.

In 1774 Hamilton entered King's (Columbia) College in New York. He soon became a popular student leader and admired for his brilliant and quick thinking. Physically he was short and slender, with a graceful and attractive manner.

When the Revolution broke out, Hamilton became a captain in the New York militia. George Washington, hearing of his writing skill, appointed Hamilton his *aide-de-camp* (all-around assistant).



Alexander Hamilton

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Hamilton Serves the Government

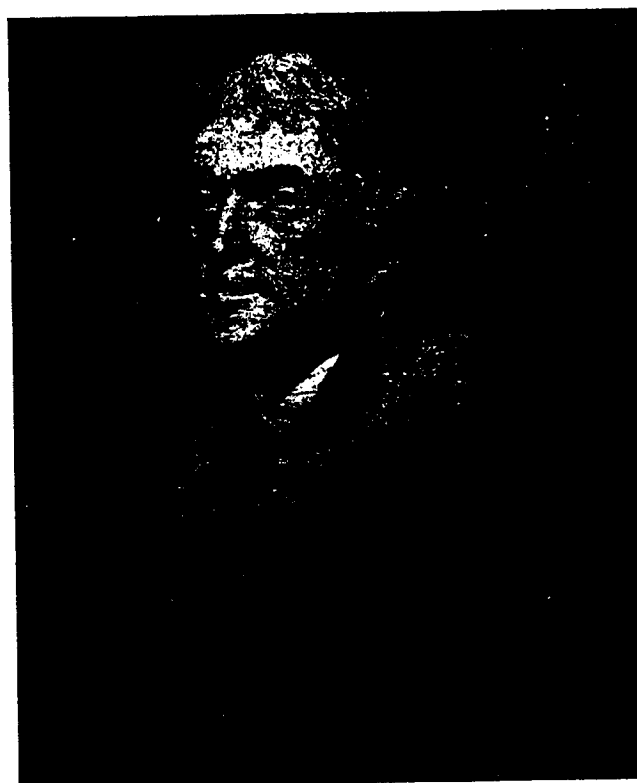
After the war, New York State chose Hamilton as its representative to the Constitutional Convention. Hamilton had some strong ideas about the shape a new federal government should take. He presented a plan to the convention that placed the power in the hands of the educated and moneyed class. The rest of the delegates did not agree with him, and feeling hurt, he walked out of the convention. Nevertheless, Hamilton worked hard to get the Constitution adopted. As part of his campaign, he wrote a series of articles for the famous *Federalist Papers*.

In 1789 President Washington once again asked Hamilton to aid him, this time as Secretary of the Treasury. In this position Hamilton was able to get Congress to pass laws that strengthened the financial position of the federal government. The government agreed to pay all its back debts, and Congress approved a national bank.

Hamilton Dies

In 1795 Hamilton took up private law practice in New York but continued to wield power in both state and national politics. One of his political enemies was Aaron Burr, another New Yorker. Hamilton considered Burr a scheming, untrustworthy man and said many harsh things about him. When these remarks became public, Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel.

On July 11, 1804, the two enemies stood on a dreary height at Weehawken, New Jersey. A voice barked out the fatal word "Fire!" Burr fired one shot, and Hamilton pitched forward, clutching his body. Thirty-one hours later he died. His tombstone stands in the churchyard of Trinity Church, New York City, engraved with the words *Patriot, Soldier, Statesman*.



Thomas Jefferson

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THOMAS JEFFERSON (1743–1826)

Thomas Jefferson was a versatile man. He was:

- a scholar who collected thousands of books
- an educator who founded a new university
- an architect who designed beautiful buildings
- a scientist who experimented with new crops
- a lawmaker who sponsored important legislation
- a philosopher who wrote and explained the meaning of democracy

Born in Virginia in 1743, Jefferson grew up in pioneering farm country. Young Tom was an awkward six-foot-two, not very handsome, and had reddish hair. He was standoffish with strangers, yet he was kindhearted and sympathetic with people who had troubles.

At 17, Jefferson entered William and Mary College, where he learned history, science, mathematics, and foreign languages. Then he went to study law.

Soon Jefferson was earning a good income. His father had left him some land, and his wife also brought him an estate. Altogether his property amounted to more than 10,000 acres and 135 slaves. He designed and built an impressive mansion and called it Monticello. Throughout his life he was interested in agriculture and tried out new crops and farming techniques.

Jefferson Serves the Government

When Jefferson was 26 years old, the people of his district elected him to the colonial legislature. He became known as a spokesman for human rights and an opponent of British colonial policy. He sponsored a bill that gave religious freedom to all Virginians. In 1776, while Jefferson was representing Virginia in the Second Continental Congress, he wrote the Declaration of Independence with its inspiring words "all men are created equal." Jefferson served as Governor of Virginia, member of Congress, Minister to France, Secretary of State, and Vice President.

Then, in 1800, Thomas Jefferson was elected the third President of the United States. He was reelected in 1804. One of the many things he did during his eight years as President was to buy the Louisiana Territory from France. He also kept the United States out of the European wars.

Jefferson Retires

When Jefferson retired, he went to live in his home at Monticello. He devoted his last years to establishing the University of Virginia nearby. He planned the buildings,

supervised every detail of construction, and laid out a program of education.

Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. He had ordered that these words be inscribed on his tomb:

*Here was buried Thomas Jefferson,
author of the Declaration of American
Independence, of the statute of Virginia
for religious freedom and father of the
University of Virginia.*

Hamilton and Jefferson Lead Factions

Hamilton and Jefferson started the first political parties in America. The young nation split into two factions over government policy. Hamilton led a faction known as the Federalists. Jefferson led the opposing Democratic-Republicans (later known as Democrats). As time went on these factions organized and became political parties. Each tried to elect its own leaders and pass its own laws.

Generally, the well-educated and well-to-do people were Federalists. They included bankers, merchants, manufacturers, newspaper editors, and religious leaders.

Hamilton believed that the educated and wealthy people should control the country. He said:

All communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and well born; the other, the mass of the people. . . . The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right. Give therefore to the first class a distinct, permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the second.

Hamilton thought the federal government should have great power so

that the few who were "rich and well born" could rule the whole country.

The Democratic regarded themselves as the party of the people and drew support mostly from small farmers and planters. Jefferson wanted the farmers to have the greatest influence in government and was against having the United States become a manufacturing nation. He wrote:

Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God, if ever he had a chosen people. . . . While we have land to labor, let us never wish to see our citizens occupied at a workbench. . . . For the general operations of manufacture, let our workshops remain in Europe.

Later he wrote:

I am not among those who fear the people. They, and not the rich, are our dependence for continued freedom.

The Democrats of those days distrusted a strong central government, considering it a threat to their rights. "Better to keep power in the state governments where the people can watch it more closely," they said.

The first two Presidents, George Washington and John Adams, were Federalists. After Jefferson became President in 1800, the Federalist party grew weaker and weaker and finally died out. Meanwhile the Democratic party grew stronger and has lasted until today.



Answer Numbers 34 through 44. Base your answers on the article "Hamilton and Jefferson Start Political Parties."

- 1 34 Read this sentence from the article.

Give therefore to the first class a distinct, permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the second.

Which meaning of the word *check* is used by Hamilton in this statement?

- A. compare
- B. control
- C. investigate
- D. tally

- 2 35 What trait did Hamilton and Jefferson BOTH exhibit?

- F. attractiveness
- G. gracefulness
- H. intelligence
- I. shyness

- 3 36 Read this sentence from the article.

Thomas Jefferson was a versatile man.

What does the word *versatile* tell us about Jefferson?

- A. He enjoyed learning.
- B. He was a born leader.
- C. He had great ambition.
- D. He could do many things.

- 4 37 Which detail from Hamilton's early life predicted his later gift for finance?

- F. He ran a business at age 15.
- G. He began working at age 12.
- H. He went to college at age 19.
- I. He published an article at age 17.



5 38 What did the author use to support his explanation of each man's approach to politics?

- A. words from the men themselves
- B. comments from their colleagues
- C. fictional portrayals of the two men
- D. research from historical documents

6 39 Which of Alexander Hamilton's traits is BEST illustrated by the story of his failed plan to the Constitutional Convention?

- F. cleverness
- G. dedication
- H. sensitivity
- I. snobbery

7 40 What did Thomas Jefferson's love of the land lead him to do?

- A. build an impressive mansion
- B. try out new farming techniques
- C. establish the University of Virginia.
- D. form the Democratic-Republican party

8 41

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

 Why did Alexander Hamilton believe that the educated and wealthy should control the government? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

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- 9 42 How did Federalist supporters differ from members of the Democratic-Republican party?
- A. Federalists fought for education, while Democrats worked the land.
 - B. Federalists supported Jefferson, while Democrats supported Hamilton.
 - C. Federalists valued common people, while Democrats distrusted the rich.
 - D. Federalists were often well-to-do, while Democrats were mostly farmers.

10. 43 Judging by the words he wanted on his tombstone, which of Jefferson's accomplishments did he feel was MOST important?

- F. founding the University of Virginia
- G. writing the Declaration of Independence
- H. becoming President of the United States
- I. forming the Democratic-Republican party

44



Read the inscription from Hamilton's tombstone.

Patriot, Soldier, Statesman

How did this brief inscription capture the essence of his life of service? Support your answer with details and information from the article.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly aged or off-white appearance. The edges of the paper are slightly irregular, suggesting it might be a scan of a physical document. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.