

Federalist Party vs. Democrat-Republicans

Issue	Federalists	Demorat-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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This issue, never finally settled until the Civil War, was the basic philosophical point of contention between the two parties.
French Revolution	Opposed the Revolution and opposed American support for the anti-monarchy group	Supported the popular forces in the French Revolution and favored American assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The debt of America to France for its assistance during the American Revolution is seen as due and unpaid by the D-Rs
Jay Treaty	Supported as an effort to build better relations with Britain	Opposed. More positive relations with France are favored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jay Treaty was seen by the D-Rs as an attempt to dump cheap British imports in the American market.
Alien & Sedition Acts	Supported as necessary to prevent growth of D-Rs and to limit criticism of Federalist officials	Opposed, along with the enlarged army, as a threat to citizen's individual liberties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criticized by Jefferson and Madison in the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, where doctrine of nullification was first explained.
Area of support	New England	South and West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-Atlantic states moved from the Federalist to the D-R column, particularly after 1798.
Hamilton's economic plans	Supported enthusiastically	Opposed. Hamilton's plans were seen as aiding his cronies, Northern states which had not yet paid off their debts, and as generally weakening the power of the states.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal to establish the national bank became the point of greatest contention and provided the first open break between Jefferson and Hamilton.

*Based on *The American Journey: A History of the United States* by Goldfield, et al.