

JEFFERSON/HAMILTON VIEWPOINTS

JEFFERSON

HAMILTON

On Who Should Govern

Had deep faith in the common people especially farmers

Believed that the common people often acted foolishly

Distrusted special privilege

Thought that the rich, educated and wellborn were the people who should rule

Wished to lower voting qualifications

Wanted to raise voting qualifications

On the Structure of Government

Favored a weak central government, strong state governments

Favored a strong central government

Preferred a more democratic government

Thought that the American government should be modeled on the British system

Wanted to reduce the number of federal employees

Wanted to increase the number of federal employees

Favored a strict interpretation of the Constitution

Supported a loose interpretation of the Constitution

Believed that individual liberties must be protected by laws

Thought that individual liberties, such as freedom of speech, should be sometimes restricted

On Economics

Thought that agriculture should be the backbone of the nation

Wanted a balanced economy of agriculture, trade, finance, and manufacturing

Did not support giving government aid to trade, finance, and manufacturing

Favored giving government aid to trade, finance, and manufacturing

Opposed the establishment of a national bank

Established a national bank

Wanted to eliminate internal taxes

Wanted to maintain internal taxes

Wanted to pay off the national debt

Wanted to use the national debt to establish credit

On Foreign Policy

Believed that America was obligated to help France

Supported Britain, the parent country

Jeffersonians (Democratic-Republican Party)

Hamiltonians (Federalist Party)

Made up of artisans, shopkeepers, frontier settlers, and small farmers

Consisted of bankers, manufacturers, merchants, professional people, and wealthy farmers

Was strongest in the South, in the Southwest, and on the frontier

Had the most support in New England and along the Atlantic coast