JEFFERSON/HAMILTON VIEWPOINTS

JEFFERSON

On Who Should Govern
Had deep faith in the common people especially farmers
Distrusted special privilege
Wished to lower voting qualifications

On the Structure of Government
Favored a weak central government, strong state governments
Preferred a more democratic government
Wanted to reduce the number of federal employees
Favored a strict interpretation of the Constitution
Believed that individual liberties must be protected by laws

On Economics
Thought that agriculture should be the backbone of the nation
Did not support giving government aid to trade, finance, and manufacturing
Opposed the establishment of a national bank
Wanted to eliminate internal taxes
Wanted to pay off the national debt

On Foreign Policy
Believed that America was obligated to help France

Jeffersonians (Democratic-Republican Party)
Made up of artisans, shopkeepers, frontier settlers, and small farmers
Was strongest in the South, in the Southwest, and on the frontier

HAMILTON

On Who Should Govern
Believed that the common people often acted foolishly
Thought that the rich, educated and wellborn were the people who should rule
Wanted to raise voting qualifications

On the Structure of Government
Favored a strong central government
Thought that the American government should be modeled on the British system
Wanted to increase the number of federal employees
Supported a loose interpretation of the Constitution
Thought that individual liberties, such as freedom of speech, should be sometimes restricted

On Economics
Wanted a balanced economy of agriculture, trade, finance, and manufacturing
Favored giving government aid to trade, finance, and manufacturing
Established a national bank
Wanted to maintain internal taxes
Wanted to use the national debt to establish credit

On Foreign Policy
Supported Britain, the parent country

Hamiltonians (Federalist Party)
Consisted of bankers, manufacturers, merchants, professional people, and wealthy farmers
Had the most support in New England and along the Atlantic coast