

Chapter 6 – Launching the Nation



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Washington Leads a New Nation



8.1

The Big Idea

President Washington and members of Congress established a new national government.

Main Ideas

- In 1789 **George Washington** became the first president of the United States.
- Congress and the president organized the executive and judicial branches of government.
- Americans had high expectations of their new government.



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Main Idea 1:

In 1789 George Washington became the first president of the United States.

- Americans saw **George Washington** as an honest man and a hero of the Revolution.
 - Many Americans wanted him to be president.
- Electors from the 11 states that had passed the Constitution met in January 1789 to vote.
 - They formed a group called the **electoral college**: a body of electors who represent each state's vote in choosing the president.
 - They selected Washington unanimously and picked John Adams to be vice president.
- First Lady **Martha Washington** entertained at social events.



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Women in the New Nation

Some believed that women should play a greater role in the new nation than Martha Washington did.



Others believed that women played an important role just by teaching their children to be good citizens.



Some hoped that more women would receive an education, because few families provided much education for their daughters.



Most women in the early republic managed their households and worked hard inside or outside the home to support their families.



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Main Idea 2:

Congress and the president organized the executive and judicial branches of government.

Executive Branch

- The new government would set **precedents**, or examples, for future action.
- The First Congress created executive departments.
- The president's cabinet served as his advisers.
- Alexander Hamilton was chosen secretary of the treasury, and Thomas Jefferson, secretary of state.

Judicial Branch

- Congress passed the Judiciary Act of 1789 to set up the federal court system.
- The act created three levels of federal courts and defined powers.
- It set up federal district courts and circuit courts of appeal.
- The president nominated federal judges.



Main Idea 3: Americans had high expectations of their new government.

- The United States had 4 million people in 1790
- Most were farmers, who wanted fair tax laws and the right to settle western lands.
- Merchants, laborers, and craftspeople wanted help with their businesses.
- The first capital was New York City—a trade center and economic hub of the nation, that had 33,000 people and was growing rapidly.



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Hamilton and National Finances



8.3.4

The Big Idea

Treasury secretary Alexander Hamilton developed a financial plan for the national government.

Main Ideas

- Hamilton tackled the problem of settling national and state debt.
- Thomas Jefferson opposed Hamilton's views on government and the economy.
- Hamilton created a national bank to strengthen the U.S. economy.



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Main Idea 1:

Hamilton tackled the problem of settling national and state debt.

- Treasury secretary **Alexander Hamilton's** biggest challenge was paying off the **national debt** (money owed by the United States).
- The United States owed \$11.7 million to foreign countries and \$40.4 million to U.S. citizens.
- Hamilton planned to pay foreign debt first, and all debt at full value.
- Some politicians, including **Thomas Jefferson**, opposed the plan, but Hamilton went ahead with it.



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States' Debts

- States owed \$25 million for Revolutionary War expenses.
- Hamilton wanted the federal government to pay part of the states' debts to help the national economy.
- The South did not want the federal government to pay states' debts.
- Hamilton won the South's support by getting northern approval to move the national capital from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C.



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Main Idea 2: Thomas Jefferson opposed Hamilton's views on government and the economy.

Hamilton's Views

- Believed in a strong central government
- Wanted a balance of power between the "mass of people" and wealthier citizens
- Wanted to promote manufacturing, business, and industrialization
- Wanted higher tariffs on foreign goods to protect American manufacturers

Jefferson's Views

- Wanted to protect the states power
- Believed in the right of "the people" to rule the country
- Supported agriculture and farmers
- Wanted lower tariffs to keep costs low for goods farmers bought



Main Idea 3: Hamilton created a national bank to strengthen the U.S. economy.

- Hamilton wanted a national bank in which the government could safely deposit its money.
- The bank would also make loans to the government and businesses to promote industrialization.
- Hamilton knew that states' rights supporters would oppose his idea.
- He suggested limiting the bank to a 20-year charter.



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Bank's Opponents and Supporters

Opponents

- Jefferson and Madison said Hamilton's economic plans gave too much power to the national government and that the Constitution did not give Congress the power to create the bank.
- They favored a **strict construction** view of the Constitution—the government should do only what the Constitution says it can do.

Supporters

- Hamilton believed in a **loose construction** of the Constitution—the government can take actions the Constitution does not forbid.
- President Washington and Congress agreed with Hamilton that it would provide stability for the U.S. economy.
- **The Bank of the United States**— the country's first national bank— was chartered in 1791.



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Challenges for the New Nation



8.3.5

8.4.2

The Big Idea

The United States faced significant foreign and domestic challenges under Washington.

Main Ideas

- The United States tried to remain neutral regarding events in Europe.
- The United States and Native Americans came into conflict in the Northwest Territory.
- The Whiskey Rebellion tested Washington's administration.
- In his Farewell Address, Washington advised the nation.



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Main Idea 1:

The United States tried to remain neutral regarding events in Europe.

- The **French Revolution** against the French king broke out in 1789.
- France and Great Britain later went to war.
- Some Americans, including Thomas Jefferson, supported the French.
- President Washington and others wanted to remain neutral. He believed this was the safest plan for the U.S. in the long run.
- The United States issued the **Neutrality Proclamation**, in 1793, saying it would not take sides.



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Other Challenges to U.S. Neutrality

Jay's Treaty

- The British were seizing American ships in the French West Indies.
- Washington wanted to prevent another war; so did the British.
- **Jay's Treaty** was signed in 1794.
- It settled disputes that had arisen between the two countries in the 1790s.
- The treaty was unpopular in the United States.

Pinckney's Treaty

- The Spanish disputed the U.S. and Florida border.
- Spain closed the New Orleans port to U.S. trade in 1784.
- This hurt the American economy.
- **Pinckney's Treaty** was signed in 1795.
- The southern U.S. border was set at 31° N latitude.
- The port of New Orleans reopened.



Main Idea 2:

The United States and Native Americans came into conflict in the Northwest Territory.

- Americans settled in the Northwest Territory despite Native Americans' protests.
- Native Americans went to war.
- Early Native American victories came under Chief **Little Turtle**.
- General Anthony Wayne's troops won the **Battle of Fallen Timbers** in 1794.
- **The Treaty of Greenville** ended the war in 1795 and gave Americans most Indian lands in the Northwest Territory.



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Main Idea 3: The Whiskey Rebellion tested Washington's administration.

Reaction to Whiskey Tax

- People in areas like western Pennsylvania were angry at the tax on American-made whiskey passed by Congress in 1791.
- Whiskey was a cash crop to western Pennsylvania farmers.
- Farmers were angry that cases about the law were tried in district courts, often far away from the people affected.

Whiskey Rebellion Is Crushed

- Fighting called the Whiskey Rebellion broke out in 1794.
- Washington led an army against the rebels, but the rebellion ended without a battle.



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Main Idea 4: In his Farewell Address, Washington advised the nation.

- Wanted to leave public life in 1796
- Wrote Farewell Address to the people
- Warned against dangers of foreign ties
- Warned the nation to work out its political differences
- Warned against too much public debt



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John Adams' Presidency



8.3.4

The Big Idea

The development of political parties in the United States contributed to differing ideas about the role of the federal government.

Main Ideas

- The rise of political parties created competition in the election of 1796.
- The XYZ affair caused problems for President John Adams.
- Controversy broke out over the Alien and Sedition Acts.



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Main Idea 1:

The rise of political parties created competition in the election of 1796.

- **Political parties** began to form in the 1790s.
- Alexander Hamilton helped found the **Federalist Party**, which supported a strong federal government.
- Thomas Jefferson and James Madison founded the **Democratic-Republican Party**, which wanted to limit the power of the federal government.
- The Federalist John Adams defeated the Democratic-Republican candidate, Thomas Jefferson, in the election of 1796.
- Adams became president, and Jefferson, vice president.



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President John Adams

- He had the hard task of following **George Washington** as president.
- Adams was a leading patriot during the Revolutionary War and was later a foreign diplomat.
- He lacked Washington's dignity but was respected for his hard work, honesty, and intelligence.



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Main Idea 2: The XYZ affair caused problems for President John Adams.

- An early goal of Adams was to improve relations with France
- U.S. diplomats were sent to France.
- The French foreign minister, Talleyrand, would not meet them.
- Three French agents secretly demanded a bribe before they would discuss a treaty with the Americans.
- The so-called **XYZ Affair** outraged Americans and led to a call for war with France. They would pay "millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute."



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Preparing for War and Peace

Preparations for War

- Adams asked Congress to expand the navy to more than 30 ships.
- He also asked Congress to approve a peacetime army.
- However, Adams did not want war with France.



Peace Efforts

- Federalists were stunned by Adams's decision not to go to war.
- American and French ships began fighting in the Caribbean.
- The United States and France eventually signed a treaty.





Main Idea 3: Controversy broke out over the Alien and Sedition Acts.

Alien and Sedition Acts

- Four laws were passed by the Federalist-controlled Congress to crush the Democratic-Republican opposition to war in 1798.
- The Sedition Act forbade anyone from publishing or voicing criticism of federal government.
- Jefferson and Madison viewed the acts as a misuse of government power.

Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions

- Jefferson and Madison wrote resolutions passed by Kentucky and the Virginia legislatures. 
- The documents argued that the Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional.
- They supported the idea that states could challenge the federal government. 



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The First Cabinet



Washington's cabinet members kept him informed on political matters and debated important issues with one another. Each of the men chosen had experience that made him a wise choice to advise the nation's first president. By 1792 cabinet meetings were a common practice.

1. Henry Knox, secretary of war
2. Thomas Jefferson, secretary of state
3. Edmund Randolph, attorney general
4. Alexander Hamilton, secretary of the treasury
5. George Washington, president



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The Struggle for Neutrality

1789



July 1789
French citizens storm the Bastille.



April 1789 George Washington becomes president.

October 1790
British-backed Little Turtle defeats U.S. forces under General Josiah Harmar.

1793



April 1793 President Washington issues the Neutrality Proclamation.

November 1794
Jay's Treaty sparks protest throughout the United States.

1795



October 1795 Pinckney's Treaty reopens the port of New Orleans.

August 1795 The Treaty of Greenville ends fighting in the Northwest Territory.



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Primary Source

POLITICAL CARTOON

After the XYZ affair, French ships continued to attack American merchant ships. In this cartoon, the United States is represented by the woman. The men, symbolizing the French, are taking valuables from her. The people in the distance are other European nations.



Why do you think this man is encouraging the woman to look away?

These people aren't helping the woman. What do you think the cartoon is suggesting by this?



French Revolutionaries Storm the Bastille



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Pinckney's Treaty



ANALYSIS SKILL

READING TIME LINES

To what extent was President Washington successful in maintaining American neutrality?



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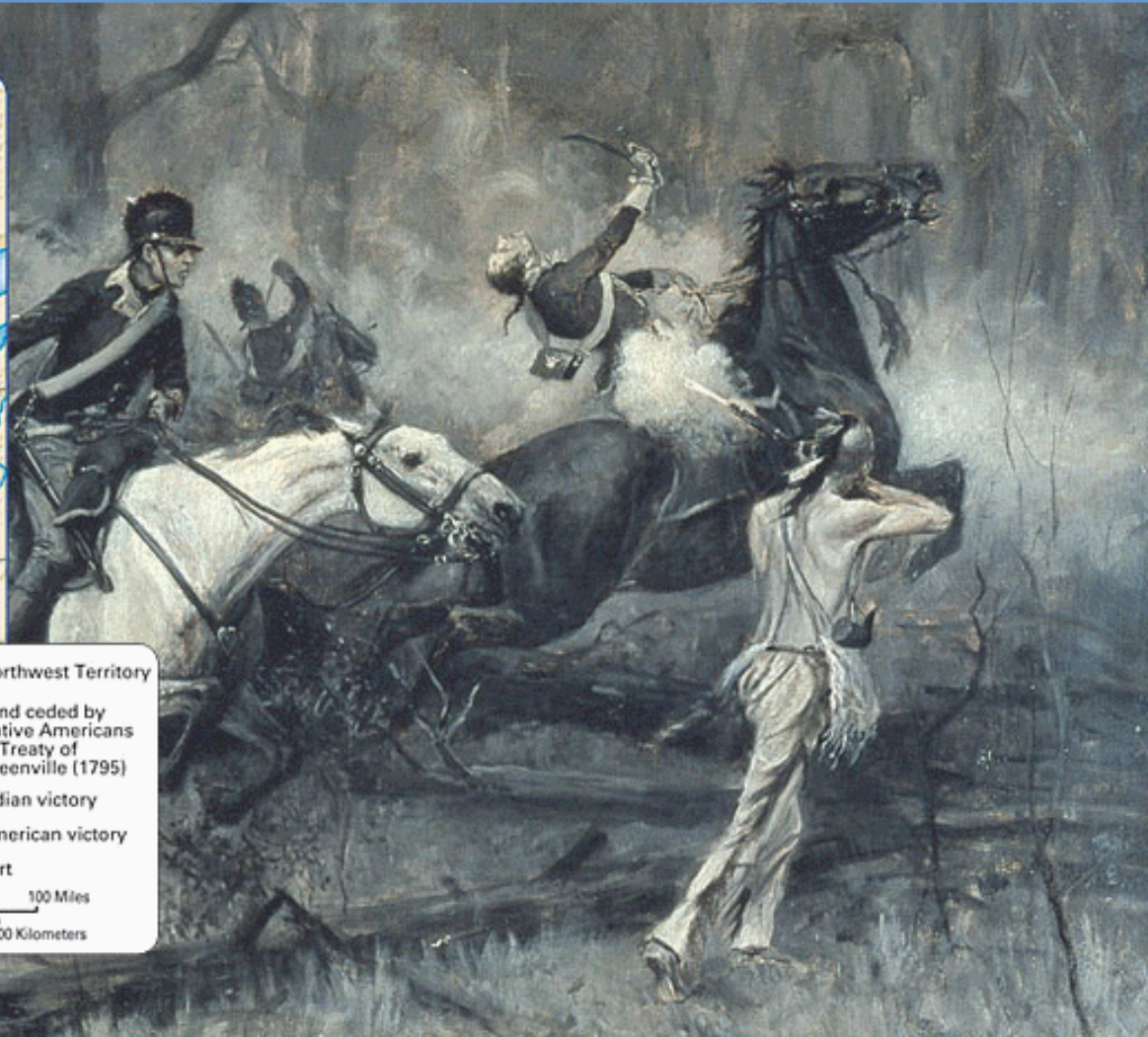
Fighting in the Northwest Territory

Interactive Map



- Northwest Territory
- Land ceded by Native Americans in Treaty of Greenville (1795)
- Indian victory
- American victory
- Fort

0 50 100 Miles
0 50 100 Kilometers



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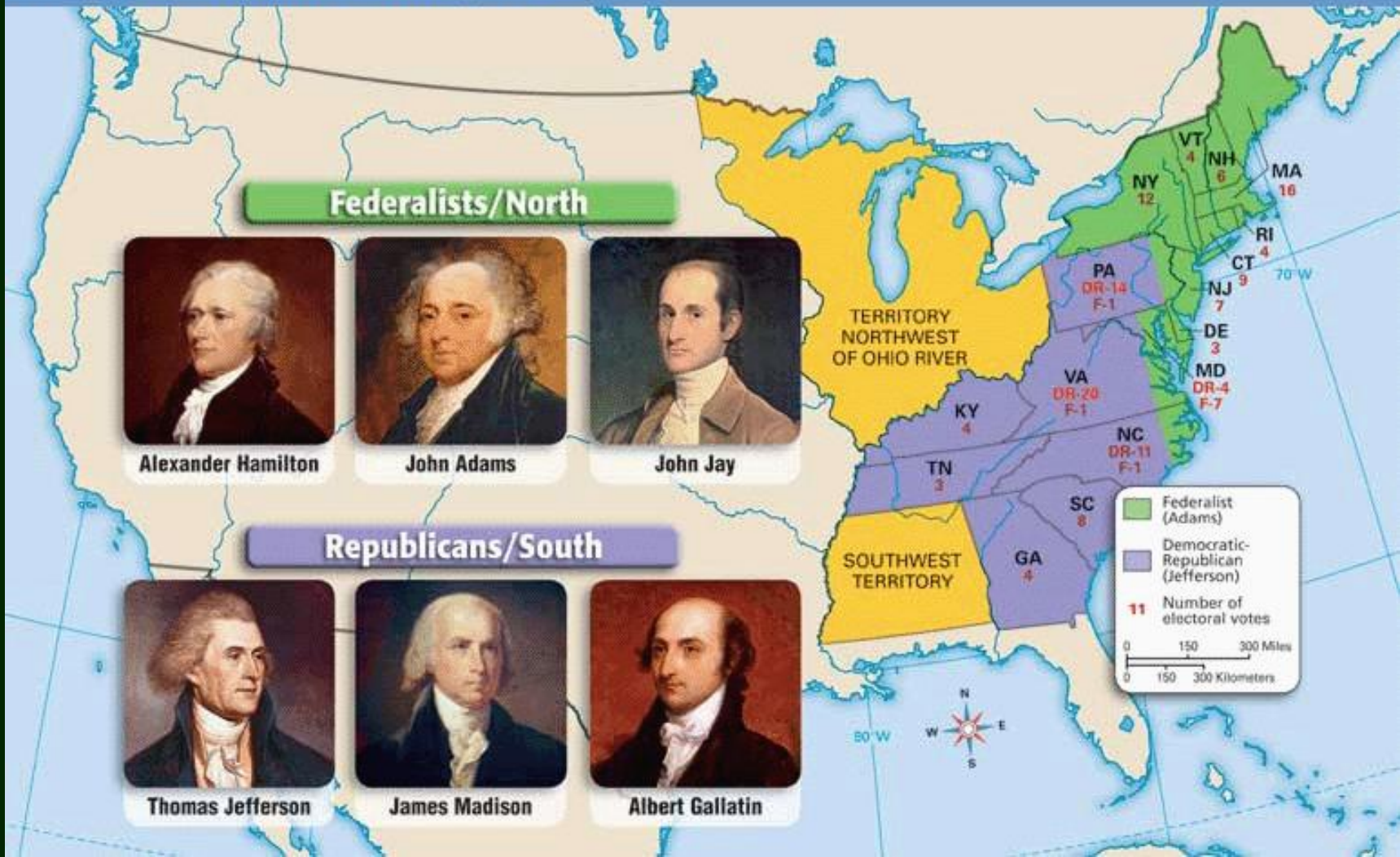


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The First Political Parties, 1796



Hamilton's Economic Plan

QUICK
FACTS

Hamilton's Economic Plan

Alexander Hamilton developed a three-point plan to solve the nation's financial problems.



1 Deal with the Debt

- Take on the foreign and domestic debt by replacing creditors' old, low-value bonds with new, interest-bearing bonds
- Take over most of the states' \$25 million Revolutionary War debts

would build investor confidence in the stability of the new nation

2 Gain Revenue

- Pass a tariff to both bring in money and help American manufacturers

would free up state money for business and trade

3 Stabilize the Banking System

- Create a national bank
- Create a national mint



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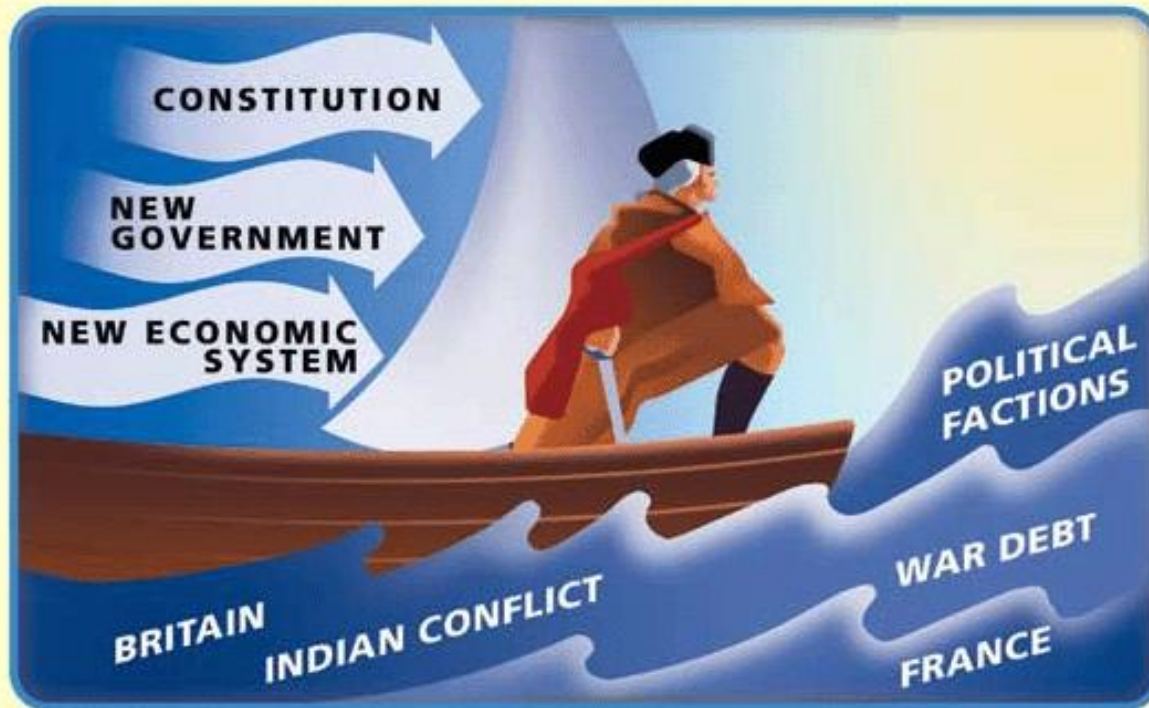
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Visual Summary **QUICK FACTS**

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.



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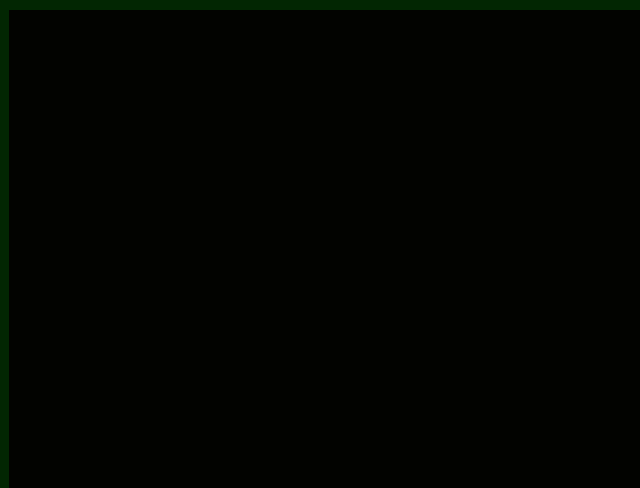
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