The Birth of Political Parties

Chapter 8, Section 2
The emergence of two political parties.

Early political groups were called factions. They were widely thought to be selfish groups.

Washington and others feared that factions would be destructive to the new government.
By the 1790s, Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton were quarreling and growing apart.
Jefferson’s and Hamilton’s differences led to the development of the first political parties.

Republicans supported Thomas Jefferson and his ally, James Madison.

Federalists supported Alexander Hamilton and his ideas.
The Republicans wanted to keep most power at the state or local level.

They feared that a strong central government would act like a monarchy.
The Federalists said that the United States needed a strong federal government.

They believed the federal government would hold the country together and deal with its problems.
The two parties also had geographic differences.

Federalists were strong among Northern merchants.

Republicans were supported largely by Southern farmers.
Federalists and Republicans disagreed about many issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Republicans</th>
<th>Federalists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Were led by Thomas Jefferson</td>
<td>Were led by Alexander Hamilton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Believed people should have political power</td>
<td>Believed wealthy and educated should lead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Favored strong state government</td>
<td>Favored strong central</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emphasized agriculture</td>
<td>Emphasized manufacturing, shipping, and trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Favored strict interpretation of Constitution</td>
<td>Favored loose interpretation of Constitution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Were pro-French</td>
<td>Were pro-British</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposed national bank</td>
<td>Favored national bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opposed protective tariff</td>
<td>Favored protective tariff</td>
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</table>
In 1796, Washington said he would not seek a third term. There would be an election.

Both political parties nominated a candidate.

Republican Candidate: Thomas Jefferson

Federalist Candidate: John Adams
In 1796, the President and Vice President were not elected together, as they are today.

The candidate with the most votes became President.

The second-place candidate became Vice President.
Adams finished first and Jefferson finished second. The nation gained a Federalist President and a Republican Vice President.

This led to serious tensions during the next four years.