

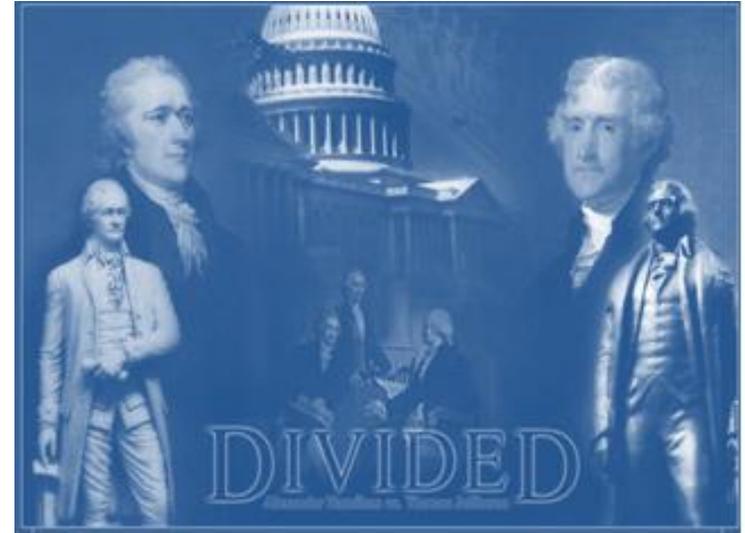
HISTORICAL ANALYSIS – Causation – The First Two Party System

Historical Causation (cause and effect/impact)

Historical thinking involves the ability to identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationships among historical causes and effects, distinguishing between those that are long term and proximate. Historical thinking also involves the ability to distinguish between causation and correlation, and an awareness of contingency, the way that historical events result from a complex variety of factors that come together in unpredictable ways and often have unanticipated consequences.

Reminders About Causation -Historians often debate the causes and effects of events, because history is complex and filled with multiple variables. Some facts are facts: black and white. But most of history is gray: up for interpretation. When analyzing causation, we must remember that we are making a judgment and defending our viewpoint. And, remember... every viewpoint has an opposing or differing viewpoint. Analyzing the effects of historical events requires similar skill. It is not only listing ways the event impacted the nation, for example, it is analyzing historical significance of those effects. Did the effect stem directly from the event? Or, was it simply a coincidence in time and place? Was the effect short term or long term? Which cause was most significant? Which effect was most significant? Etc.

Image captured from answersinhistory.wordpress.com



From Period 3 Key Concept 3.2:

Political leaders in the 1790s took a variety of positions on issues such as the **relationship between the national government and the states, economic policy, foreign policy, and the balance between liberty and order.** This led to the formation of **political parties** — most significantly the **Federalists**, led by **Alexander Hamilton**, and the **Democratic-Republican Party**, led by **Thomas Jefferson** and **James Madison**.

| Federalists | Republicans |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favored strong central government as empowered by the elastic clause in the Constitution (“necessary and proper”) 2. "Loose" interpretation of the Constitution, elastic 3. Encouragement of commerce and manufacturing. 4. Strongest in Northeast. 5. Favored close ties with Britain. 6. Emphasized order and stability. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emphasized states' rights as empowered by the Bill of Rights, especially the 10th Amendment 2. "Strict" interpretation of the Constitution, if it’s not in the Constitution... the power goes to the states 3. Preference for agriculture and rural life... agrarian virtue 4. Strength in South and West. 5. Foreign policy sympathized with France. 6. Stressed civil liberties and trust in the people |
| <p>[In practice, these generalizations were often blurred and sometimes contradicted.]</p> | |

REMEMBER THE FIRST TWO PARTY SYSTEM IS DIFFERENT FROM THE FACTIONS IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION...

FEDERALISTS AND ANTI-FEDERALISTS WERE NOT POLITICAL PARTIES.

This is a common error and source of confusion on exams. Make sure you understand the difference!

Causation – The First Two Party System

Prompt: To what extent were conflicting interpretations of the Constitution responsible for the formation of the first two-party system in the United States? What other forces impacted this development in American politics? Confine your analysis to 1789-1800.

| | |
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| <p>Explain three specific events or beliefs that led to the development of the first two-party system. [Choose one political, one economic, and one foreign policy item.]</p> | <p><u>Explain <i>how</i></u> conflicting interpretations of the Constitution impacted the finances and policies of the New Republic.</p> <p>What other economic forces impacted the development of political parties?</p> |
| <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> | <p><u>Explain <i>how</i></u> conflicting interpretations of the Constitution impacted how the Constitution was interpreted and utilized in political policies of the New Republic.</p> <p>What other political forces impacted the development of political parties?</p> |
| <p>Which item had the greatest impact on politics?</p> <p>Is your analysis consistent with the argument that conflicting interpretations of the Constitution were most responsible? If so, remember to address this in your thesis! Remember when you are asked to assess extent... you must do so directly!</p> | <p><u>Explain <i>how</i></u> conflicting interpretations of the Constitution impacted foreign policies during the New Republic</p> <p>What other foreign policy forces impacted the development of political parties?</p> |
| <p>Extension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. On a separate sheet of paper, write your complete introduction using the thesis formula. Consult your writing guidelines if you do not know the formula yet.b. Contextualize the First Two Party System and write a complete conclusion. | |