

## Primary Source for “Room Where It Happened”

Source: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/Residence.html>

Jefferson’s Account of the Compromise of 1790 (The Residence Act)

"I proposed to him (Hamilton) however to dine with me the next day, and I would invite another friend or two, bring them into conference together, and I thought it impossible that reasonable men, consulting together coolly, could fail, by some mutual sacrifices of opinion, to form a compromise which was to save the union. The discussion took place. I could take no part in it, but an exhortatory one, because I was a stranger to the circumstances which should govern it. But it was finally agreed that, whatever importance had been attached to the rejection of this proposition, the preservation of the union, & of concord among the states was more important, and that therefore it would be better that the vote of rejection should be rescinded, to effect which some members should change their votes. But it was observed that this pill would be peculiarly bitter to the Southern States, and that some concomitant measure should be adopted to sweeten it a little to them. There had before been propositions to fix the seat of government either at Philadelphia, or at Georgetown on the Potomac; and it was thought that by giving it to Philadelphia for ten years, and to Georgetown permanently afterwards, this might, as an anodyne, calm in some degree the ferment which might be excited by the other measure alone. So two of the Potomac members (White & Lee, but White with a revulsion of stomach almost convulsive) agreed to change their votes, & Hamilton undertook to carry the other point."

Source: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/Residence.html>

**Lesson 3**  
**Primary Source for “Cabinet Battle 2”**

Excerpt from Pacificus No. 1,

Written June 29, 1793 by Alexander Hamilton

Source: [http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a2\\_2\\_2-3s14.html](http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a2_2_2-3s14.html)

[Philadelphia, June 29, 1793]

“As attempts are making very dangerous to the peace, and it is to be feared not very friendly to the constitution of the UStates—it becomes the duty of those who wish well to both to endeavour to prevent their success.

The objections which have been raised against the Proclamation of Neutrality lately issued by the President have been urged in a spirit of acrimony and invective, which demonstrates, that more was in view than merely a free discussion of an important public measure; that the discussion covers a design of weakening the confidence of the People in the author of the measure; in order to remove or lessen a powerful obstacle to the success of an opposition to the Government, which however it may change its form, according to circumstances, seems still to be adhered to and pursued with persevering Industry.

This Reflection adds to the motives connected with the measure itself to recommend endeavours by proper explanations to place it in a just light. Such explanations at least cannot but be satisfactory to those who may not have leisure or opportunity for pursuing themselves an investigation of the subject, and who may wish to perceive that the policy of the Government is not inconsistent with its obligations or its honor.

The objections in question fall under three heads—

1. That the Proclamation was without authority
2. That it was contrary to our treaties with France
3. That it was contrary to the gratitude, which is due from this to that country; for the succours rendered us in our own Revolution.
4. That it was out of time & unnecessary.”

### Lesson 3 Primary Source for “One Last Time”

Source: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/farewell.html>

President Washington’s Farewell Address, 1796

“The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries, which result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of Public Liberty

Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind, (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight,) the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

It serves always to distract the Public Councils, and enfeeble the Public Administration. It agitates the Community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

There is an opinion, that parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the Government, and serve to keep alive the spirit of Liberty. This within certain limits is probably true; and in Governments of a Monarchical cast, Patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon the spirit of party. But in those of the popular character, in Governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tendency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And, there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be, by force of public opinion, to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched, it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into a flame, lest, instead of warming, it should consume.”

### Discussion Questions for Lesson 3

#### Cabinet Battle 1:

1. After view the video clip, what do you believe was Hamilton's reasoning for assuming states' debts?
2. What was Jefferson's argument against assuming states' debt and establishing a national bank?
3. How did Hamilton justify assuming the states' debts left over from the Revolutionary War?

#### Room Where It Happened:

1. What issue is Jefferson, James Madison and Hamilton trying to resolve in this song?
2. How did these men reach a resolution that appeased both parties?
3. What motives led Jefferson and Hamilton to agree on this resolution?
4. After listening to the song and reading Jefferson's account of the compromise why do you feel like it was important to move the nation's capital?

#### Cabinet Battle 2:

1. What was Jefferson's argument to why America should get involved in foreign affairs involving France and Great Britain?
2. What was Hamilton's reasoning for staying out of this foreign conflict?
3. Who's side does Washington take and why?

#### Washington On Your Side:

1. What major accusation does Jefferson against Hamilton at the beginning of this song?
2. After reading the previous primary resources and listening to the accompanying tracks, do you believe Jefferson should have resigned from his post as Secretary of State?
3. What role do you think his and Hamilton's relationships with Washington played in Jefferson's decision to resign?
4. Do you believe Washington was ever on Jefferson's side?

#### One Last Time:

1. What issues does President Washington warn against in this track and his Farewell Address?
2. Why does Washington feel the need to step down from his post as president?
3. What does he believe he will achieve by stepping down?
4. What does Washington intend to do during this retirement from the presidency?
5. After listening to this track, do you feel there was any favoritism towards Hamilton by Washington? Why or why not?

## Assessment

### Understanding the Conflicts of Jefferson and Hamilton through “Hamilton: An American Musical”

**Instructions:** Please answer the following questions in order to reflect your understanding of our lesson on the conflicts between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton during their time in Washington’s first cabinet.

1. How much do you believe the personal differences between Jefferson and Hamilton played into the breakdown of their relationship while in Washington’s first cabinet?
2. What role do you feel the conflicts between Jefferson and Hamilton played in the creation of the two-party system?
3. How did these factions, especially those between Jefferson and Hamilton, lead to the two-party system?
4. How does this system still divide our country today?
5. How did the sharp political divisions of Washington’s cabinet help set the precedent for later presidents and their cabinet appointments?