

# Thomas Jefferson in the American Government

Many people only think of the Declaration of Independence when they think about Jefferson, but he did much more than that. After the American Constitution was approved, he was Secretary of State for first president George Washington, Vice President for John Adams, and became president himself in 1801. He served two terms, from 1801-1809.

While he was Secretary of State he had strong disagreements with the Secretary of the Treasury, a man named Alexander Hamilton. This conflict was so strong that it helped make America's first 2 political parties: the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans. When he was president, Jefferson did many important things. Some of them followed his beliefs and ideas, but some of them did not.

## • JEFFERSON VS. HAMILTON •

*Directions:* Read the quotes that your group is given by Jefferson and Hamilton. Figure out how they disagree on the topic and write their opinions on the table below. Then, when we mix up groups, share and receive the information for the other ideas too. Lastly, answer the summary questions that follow.

Topic	Jefferson's Thoughts	Hamilton's Thoughts	Explain how they were different in their views
National Bank			
Trusting the people to rule			
Foreign Policies			
What America's future should be (agriculture vs. industry)			

## • SUMMARY QUESTIONS FOR JEFFERSON VS. HAMILTON •

1. In one sentence, what was Jefferson's main belief about America and government?	2. In one sentence, what was Hamilton's main belief about America and government?
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3. Who do you agree with more, Jefferson or Hamilton? Why?	4. Who do you think would like America more today, Jefferson or Hamilton? Why?
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• NOTES ON POWERPOINT LECTURE •

*Directions:* Take notes on the events that happened while Jefferson was President. Do not try to write down everything from the slide. Instead, try to write down what each event was and why Jefferson did it.

	What it was	Why TJ did it	Other notes
Inaugural Address			
Keeping the Bank			
Getting rid of the excise tax			
Louisiana Purchase			
Lewis & Clark's trip			
How he handled the newspapers			

	What it was	Why TJ did it	Other notes
The Embargo Act			

• JEFFERSON AS PRESIDENT •

*Directions:* Write down Jefferson's opinions that you discovered in the first part of the lesson on the left, plus his views on political parties, freedom of speech, and his ideas for the best kind of American. Then, decide whether the actions on the right followed Jefferson's beliefs or did not. If Jefferson did what he believed, draw a blue arrow connecting the event with the opinion that it follows. If Jefferson did not do what he believed, draw a red arrow connecting them. Then answer the summary questions that follow.

Jefferson's Beliefs	Arrows	Jefferson's Actions as President
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inaugural Address</li> <li>• Keeping the Bank</li> <li>• Getting rid of the excise tax</li> <li>• Buying the Louisiana Purchase</li> <li>• Sending Lewis &amp; Clark on their trip</li> <li>• Reaction to the press</li> <li>• Signing the Embargo Act</li> </ul>

•SUMMARY QUESTIONS FOR JEFFERSON AS PRESIDENT •

1. Did Jefferson mostly follow his beliefs during his time as President or not? Why or why not?	2. Do you think Jefferson was a good President? Why or why not?
3. Should a President always make choices based on his beliefs or are there times when he needs to do the opposite for the good of America? Explain.	

# Jefferson vs. Hamilton - Quotes on the National Bank

*Directions:* Read the quotes by Jefferson and Hamilton. Then read the "translation" beneath it. Discuss it with your group and use dictionaries to make sure you understand it. Then draw a picture that shows what each man means and write the idea in your own words. Lastly, explain how the men were different in their opinions. Get ready to share with other groups.

## A quote by Thomas Jefferson

I consider the foundation of the Constitution as laid on this ground that 'all powers not delegated to the U.S. by the Constitution, not prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states or to the people'. To take a single step beyond the boundaries thus specially drawn around the power of Congress, is to take possession of a boundless field of power, no longer susceptible of any definition. [Therefore] the incorporation of a bank, and other powers assumed by this bill have not, in my opinion, been delegated to the U.S. by the Constitution. ... The second general phrase is "to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution the enumerated powers." But they can all be carried into execution without a bank. A bank therefore is not necessary, and consequently not authorized by this phrase."

From his Opinion on the Constitutionality of Establishing a National Bank, written to George Washington, 1791

## Said again in modern English

To me, the most important part of the Constitution is the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment, which says that any power the Constitution does not give to the national government is a power that the states have. The national government cannot take these powers from the states. If we go beyond that idea by even a little bit is the same as taking way too much power for the government, and it can go on like that forever. Because of this, I think making a Bank is very unconstitutional.

... There is a part of the Constitution that says Congress can make laws that are "necessary and proper" for governing the nation. But Congress can govern the nation without a bank. Therefore it is not necessary and because it is not necessary Congress may not do it.

## A quote by Alexander Hamilton

It is not denied that there are implied as well as express powers, and that the former are as effectually delegated as the latter. ... Then it follows, that as a power of erecting a corporation may as well be implied as any other thing, it may well be employed as an instrument or mean of carrying into execution any of the specified powers. ... The whole turn of the clause containing it [that Congress may make "all laws necessary and proper"], indicates, that it was the intent of the convention, by that clause to give a liberal latitude to the exercise of the specified powers. The expressions have peculiar comprehensiveness. They are - "to make all laws, necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers and all other powers vested by the constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or office thereof." To understand the word as the Secretary of State does, would be to depart from its obvious and popular sense, and to give it a restrictive operation; an idea never before entertained.

From his Opinion on the Constitutionality of Establishing a National Bank, written to George Washington, 1791

## Said again in modern English

Everyone knows that there are powers in the Constitution that are actually written out and powers that are there but just not said directly, and both are important. Making a bank is one of these powers that is not written in the Constitution, but can still happen, especially since it will help do the things that the Constitution says Congress must do. ... When the people who made the Constitution said that Congress can make laws that are "necessary and proper" they obviously meant to give Congress more power to do things and not less power. The words "necessary and proper" are big and cover a lot of ideas. If you think of them like Jefferson does you are reading it totally wrong because he makes it seem like only absolutely necessary things can happen, and that makes Congress's power way too small.

Draw what it means

Draw what it means

Write what it means in your own words

Write what it means in your own words

Explain how Jefferson and Hamilton were different in their views

# Jefferson vs. Hamilton - Quotes on Trusting the People to Rule

*Directions:* Read the quotes by Jefferson and Hamilton. Then read the "translation" beneath it. Discuss it with your group and use dictionaries to make sure you understand it. Then draw a picture that shows what each man means and write the idea in your own words. Lastly, explain how the men were different in their opinions. Get ready to share with other groups.

<p style="text-align: center;">A quote by Thomas Jefferson</p> <p>Governments wherein the will of everyone has a just influence, as is the case in England in a slight degree, and in our states in a great one ... [have] a great deal of good in [them]. The mass of mankind under that enjoys a precious degree of liberty and happiness. It has its evils too: the principal of which is the turbulence to which it is subject. But weigh this against the oppressions of monarchy, and it becomes nothing. <i>Malo periculosam libertatem quam quietam servitutem.</i> [I prefer dangerous liberty to quiet servitude.] Even this evil is productive of good. It prevents the degeneracy of government, and nourishes a general attention to the public affairs. I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical</p> <p>From a letter to James Madison, 1787</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A quote by Alexander Hamilton</p> <p>All communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and well born, the other the mass of the people. The voice of the people has been said to be the voice of God; and however generally this maxim has been quoted and believed, it is not true in fact. The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right. Give therefore to the first class a distinct, permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the second, and as they cannot receive any advantage by a change, they therefore will ever maintain good government. Can a democratic assembly, who annually revolve in the mass of the people, be supposed steadily to pursue the public good? Nothing but a permanent body can check the imprudence of democracy. There turbulent and uncontroled disposition requires checks.</p> <p>From his Response to New Jersey and Virginia plans at the Constitutional Convention (as recorded by Robert Yates), 1787</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Said again in modern English</p> <p>Governments where the people have a voice in what happens, just like the sort of have in England and we really have here, are really good governments. The ordinary people in those countries enjoy a lot of freedom and happiness. There are bad parts to them too, though, and the main one is that they are kind of crazy and not very secure. They can change a lot. But when you think about this bad part as compared to the good part and you realize it's all worth it in the end. It's better to be free, even if it's a little dangerous, than to be secure but oppressed by your government. And you know what, even the insecurity and change is really a good thing because it keeps the government from getting old and out of touch. It keeps the people interested in the government. And I believe that it is good for the people to rebel every once in a while because it clears the air, keeps things fresh, and protects freedom.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Said again in modern English</p> <p>All societies have rich people and ordinary people. A lot of people say that the ordinary people are the voice of God, but this is not true. The ordinary people in a country are always changing their minds and they are usually wrong about things. Therefore, in our government we should give more power to the rich people. They will stop the ordinary people from changing things up all the time. Also, the rich already have everything they need, so they won't want to change everything as a way to get more stuff. Can we really trust the ordinary people to vote and make a government for us? We need the rich to be in the government permanently (like a King is) in order to make sure the country doesn't go crazy.</p>

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Explain how Jefferson and Hamilton were different in their views

# Jefferson vs. Hamilton - Quotes on what America's future should be (agriculture vs. industry)

*Directions:* Read the quotes by Jefferson and Hamilton. Then read the "translation" beneath it. Discuss it with your group and use dictionaries to make sure you understand it. Then draw a picture that shows what each man means and write the idea in your own words. Lastly, explain how the men were different in their opinions. Get ready to share with other groups.

<p style="text-align: center;">A quote by Thomas Jefferson</p> <p>Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God, if ever he had a chosen people, whose breasts he has made his peculiar deposit for substantial and genuine virtue. ... While we have land to labor, then, let us never wish to see our citizens occupied at a work-bench, or twirling a distaff. Carpenters, masons, smiths, are wanting in husbandry: but, for the general operations of manufacture, let our work-shops remain in Europe. ... The mobs of great cities add just so much to the support of pure government, as sores do to the strength of the human body. It is the manners and spirit of a people which preserve a republic in vigor.</p> <p><i>From Notes on the State of Virginia, 1781</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A quote by Alexander Hamilton</p> <p>Manufacturing establishments not only occasion a positive augmentation of the produce and revenue of the society ... they contribute essentially to rendering them greater than they could possibly be, without such establishments.</p> <p>From the Introduction to the Report on Manufacturing, 1791</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Said again in modern English</p> <p>Farmers are God's favorite people, if He has favorites. We know this because he has made farmers the best kind of people: moral and honorable. ... Therefore, as long as we have all this land here in America, let's try to be farmers and not factory workers. Yes, we need people who make things in small workrooms, like carpenters and blacksmiths, in order to run farms. But let's not set up really big factories here. We can buy all that stuff from Europe. ... The big cities that are made when you have factories like the ones in Europe are bad for a good government because they are places that are corrupt and immoral. [They make the people in them immoral and bad, which is really bad for a republican democracy.]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Said again in modern English</p> <p>Factories and business are good for a society not only because they help us make more stuff and more money, but they also help all our products be better than they could ever be on their own. [In other words, just farming or making raw materials isn't as valuable as using a factory to turn those materials into something else.]</p>

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Explain how Jefferson and Hamilton were different in their views

# Jefferson vs. Hamilton - Quotes on Foreign Policies

*Directions:* Read the quotes by Jefferson and Hamilton. Then read the "translation" beneath it. Discuss it with your group and use dictionaries to make sure you understand it. Then draw a picture that shows what each man means and write the idea in your own words. Lastly, explain how the men were different in their opinions. Get ready to share with other groups.

<p>A quote by Thomas Jefferson</p> <p>I considered the British as our natural enemies and as the only nation on earth who wished us ill from the bottom of their souls. And I am satisfied that were our continent to be swallowed up by the ocean, Great Britain would be in a bonfire from one end to the other.</p> <p>From a letter to William Carmichael, 1787</p>	<p>A quote by Alexander Hamilton</p> <p>I believe the British government forms the best model the world ever produced, and such has been its progress in the minds of the many, that this truth gradually gains ground. This government has for its object public strength and individual security. ...</p> <p>From his Response to New Jersey and Virginia plans at the Constitutional Convention (as recorded by Robert Yates), 1787</p>
<p>Said again in modern English</p> <p>The English hate us and are our enemies. They are the only country on earth that hates us so much that they want really bad things to happen to us. I believe that if America was flooded by the oceans and our whole country was gone, England would be so happy that they would have huge parties all across their county.</p>	<p>Said again in modern English</p> <p>The English monarchy is the best government people have ever had in all of history, and lots of people feel this way. It is good because its number one goal is to be strong and keep its people safe.</p>

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