# Federalists vs. Democratic-Republicans: America’s First Two-Party System

Working with your partners, complete the chart using prior knowledge of events and issues in the 1790s.

<table>
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<th>Political Party</th>
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| Party Leaders   | John Adams (Massachusetts)  
                 | Alexander Hamilton (New York) | Thomas Jefferson (Virginia)  
                                | James Madison (Virginia) |
| **Major Sources/Regions of Support** | | |
| **Views on the Constitution**  
  (including the powers of the national and state governments) | | |
| **Views on Popular Participation in Government** | | |
| **Views on Economic Policy**  
  (including debt, taxation, and the central bank) | | |
| **Views on Foreign Policy**  
  (including the conflict between Britain and revolutionary France) | | |
### Views on the Alien & Sedition Acts of 1798

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                  Alexander Hamilton (New York)  
 | Thomas Jefferson (Virginia)  
                  James Madison (Virginia) |
| Major Sources/Regions of Support | merchants, landowners  
                                Northern states (especially New England)  
 | farmers, artisans, former Anti-Federalists  
                                New York and Southern states |
| Views on the Constitution (including the powers of the national and state governments) | Favored: ORDER  
* centralized government power – to protect the nation and the people’s liberties  
* implied powers and strong government  
* loose interpretation of the Constitution | Favored: LIBERTY  
* states’ rights – to guarantee individual liberties and prevent excessive exercise of governing authority  
* enumerated powers and limited government  
* strict interpretation of the Constitution |
| Views on Popular Participation in Government | *government should be led by elites who have both education and property  
* distrusted “mobocracy” | *government should be responsive to the people and favor a true “republican” form  
* favored a more democratic system |
| Views on Economic Policy (including debt, taxation, and the central bank) | Favored Hamilton’s financial plan:  
* management of the national debt  
* tariffs and excise taxes to provide revenue  
* creation of the First Bank of the United States | Opposed Hamilton’s financial plan:  
* feared giving the national government too much economic power and revenue  
* viewed as beneficial to Northern commercial interests, not Southern agrarian interests |
| Views on Foreign Policy (including the conflict between Britain and revolutionary France) | *Favored peace and a strong commercial relationship with Great Britain (Jay Treaty)  
* Distrusted the French government and the French Revolution | *Favored support for the French people and the revolutionary movement  
* Distrusted Britain and Federalist interests in carrying on a relationship with Britain |
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<th>Views on the Alien &amp; Sedition Acts of 1798</th>
<th><em>Favored official neutrality</em></th>
<th><em>Viewed neutrality as “selling out” American ideals</em></th>
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|                                          | *Supported the undeclared war against France in the wake of the XYZ Affair*  
  *Supported the acts as necessary for preserving national security in the face of a French threat* | *Opposed the undeclared war against France*  
  *Suspected that the creation of a standing army and navy would be harmful to American liberty*  
  *Opposed the acts as an assault upon individual liberties and the Bill of Rights*  
  *Jefferson and Madison secretly drafted the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions in opposition* |