

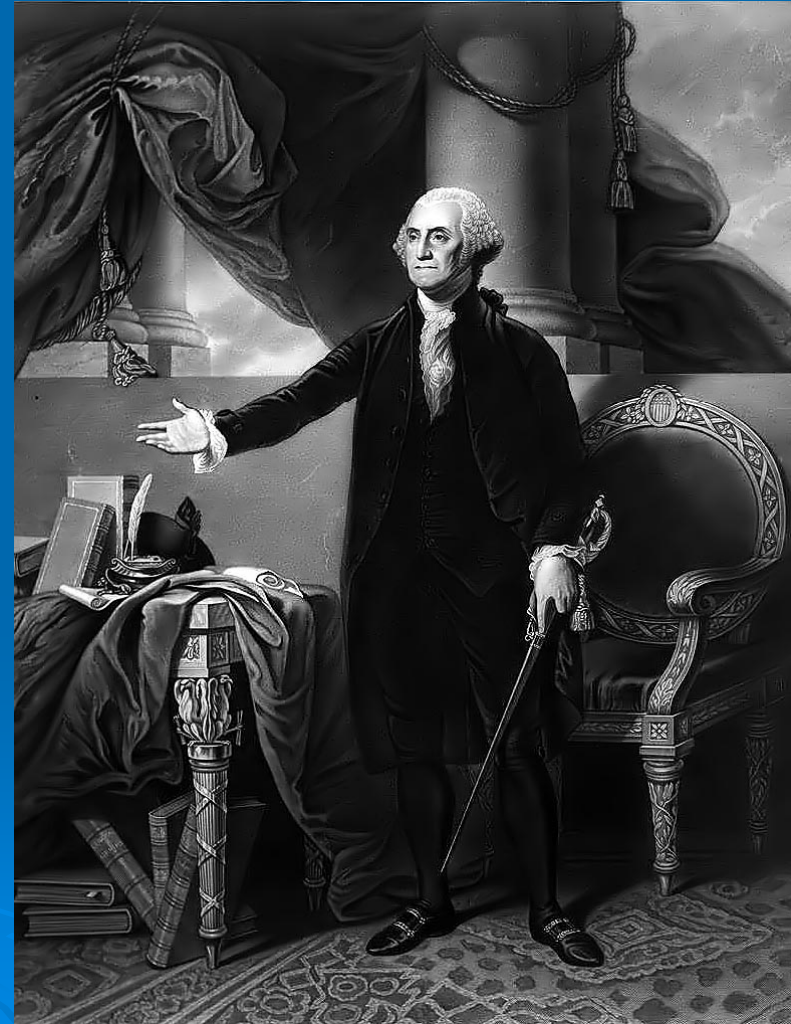
# Washington's Presidency:

Beginning of the Federalist Era



# First President of the U.S.

- Elected in 1789
- Only president ever to be elected unanimously
  - Runner-up was John Adams, who became Vice President under Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution.

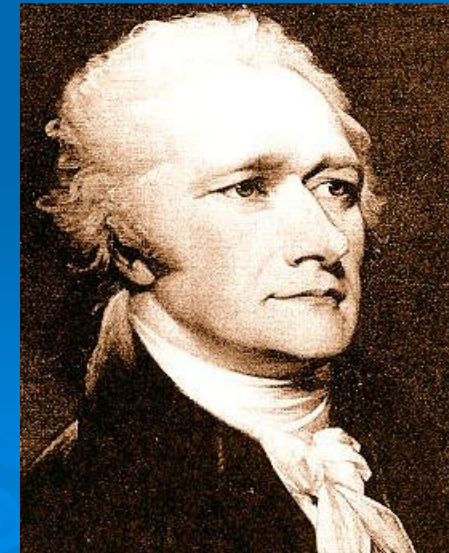
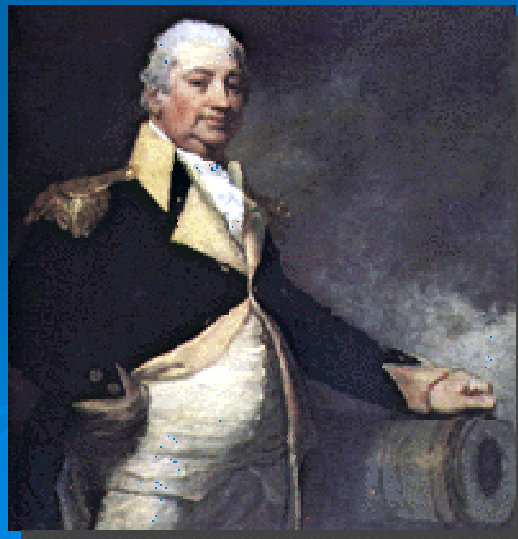
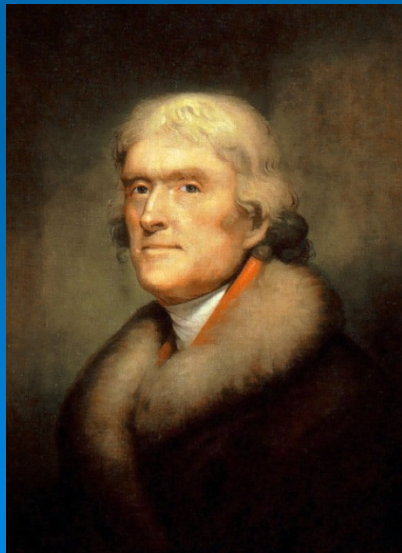


# Executive Departments

- Congress created three executive departments
- Washington chose the heads of those departments
  - Washington began meeting regularly with the heads of the departments
    - For advice and assistance
    - Became known as the President's Cabinet

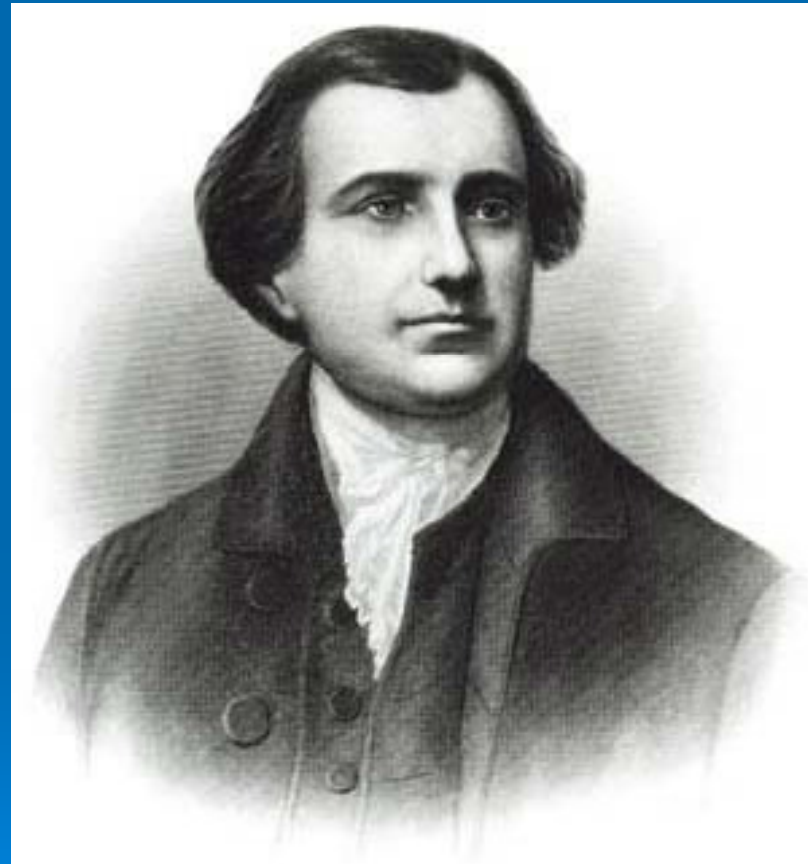
# Presidential Cabinet

- The First Presidential Cabinet
  - Secretary of State – Thomas Jefferson
  - Secretary of War – Henry Knox
  - Secretary of Treasury – Alexander Hamilton



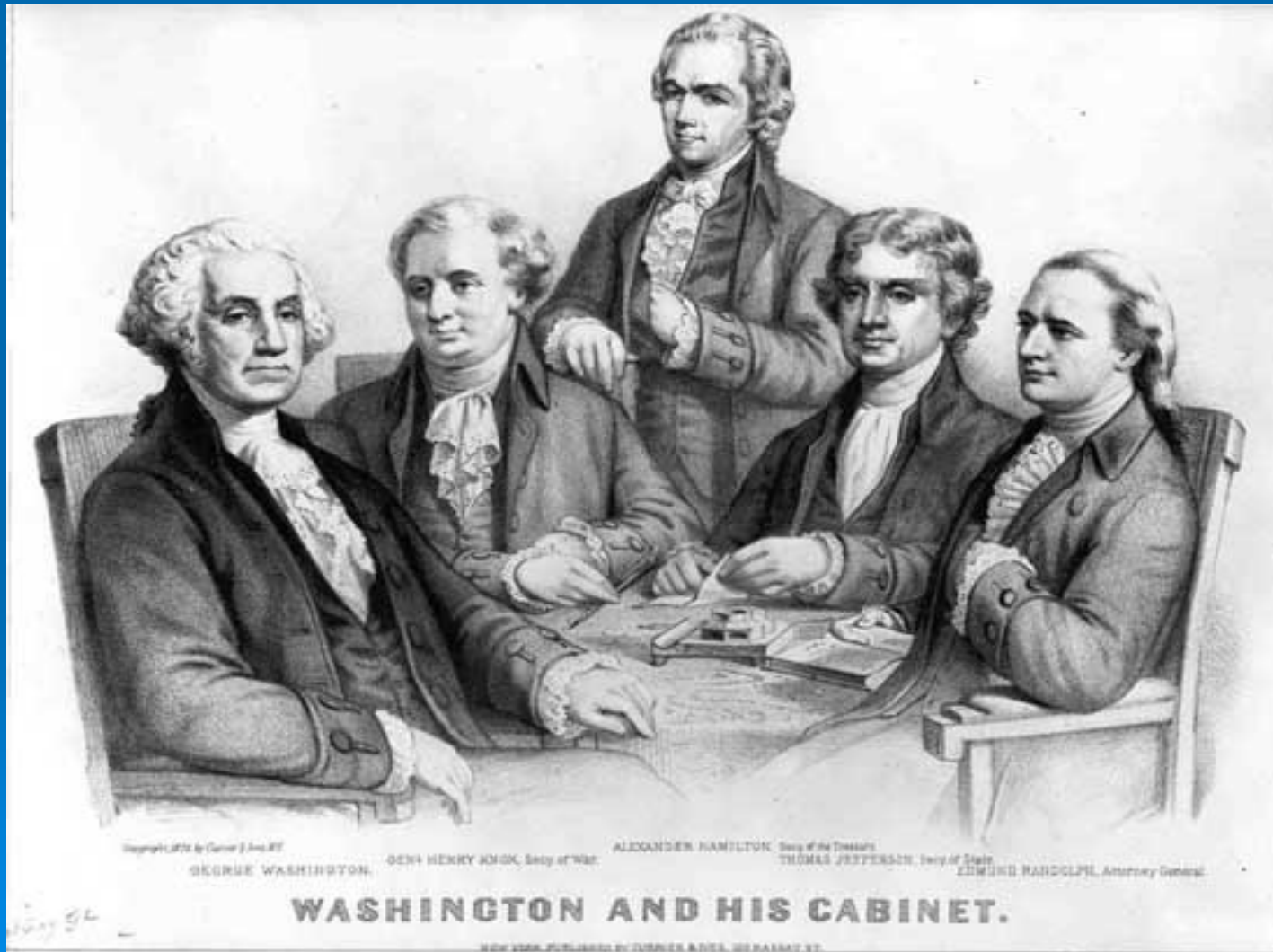
# Judicial Branch

- Judiciary Act of 1789 created federal court system with three levels
  - Established District and Appellate Courts
  - Organized the Supreme Court with six Justices
  - Created Department of Justice and office of Attorney General
    - Edmund Randolph joined cabinet

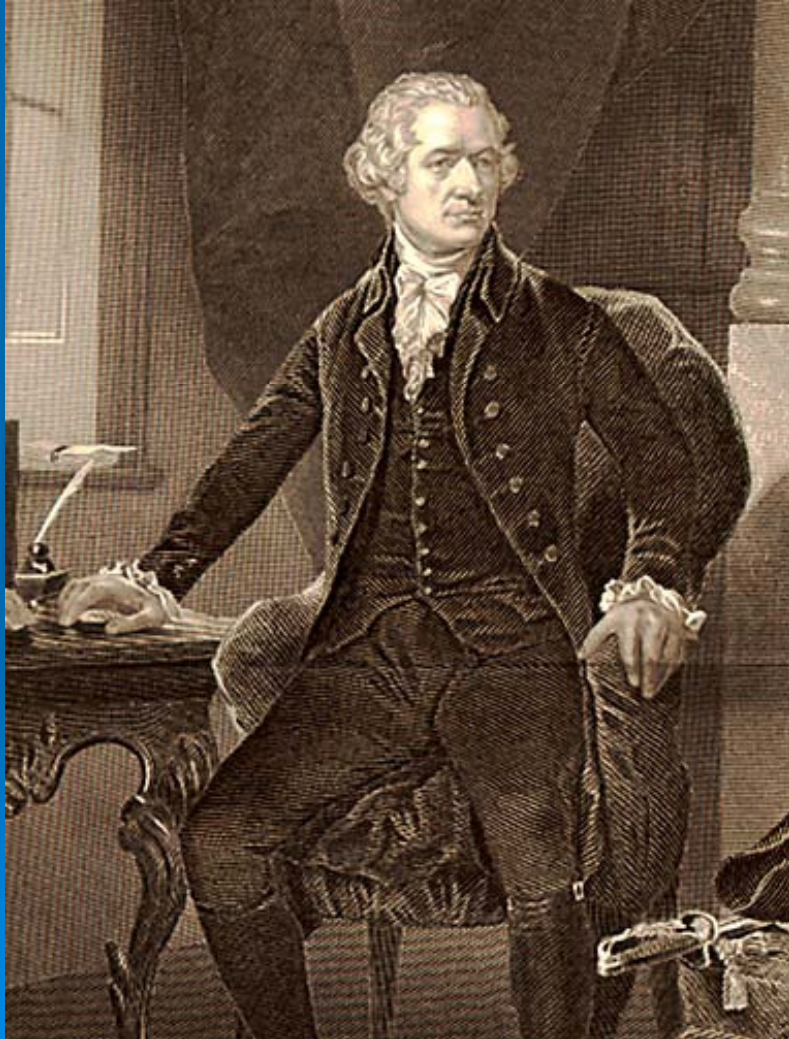


Edmund Randolph – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Attorney General

# Washington's Cabinet



# Alexander Hamilton



- Only Immigrant Founding Father
  - British West Indies
- Worked in the shipping business as a clerk
  - Operated the business as a teen when owner was away
- Father left and Mother died
- Sent to New York for education
- Joined Continental Army
  - Aide to Washington
- Became lawyer
- Financial Genius



# Alexander Hamilton and US Financial Policy



Hamilton shaped the US Financial System to address the challenges resulting from the Revolutionary War:

- 1. Pay off foreign war debt immediately and in full
  - \$11.7 Million (owed primarily to France)
  - Important way to instill confidence in the new nation of the United States





# Alexander Hamilton and US Financial Policy



- 2. Buy back depreciated Revolutionary War bonds at face value
  - US owed \$40 million to citizens in war bonds
  - Effective way to establish trust in new nation
    - Government must do what it said it would
  - Jefferson opposed plan
    - Rewarded speculators at the expense of the poor





# Alexander Hamilton and US Financial Policy



- 3. Assume portion of States' war debt
  - Establishes a federal line of credit
  - \$25 million dollar debt (\$21.5m)
  - Ties all states to Federal Government
  - Help national economy by freeing states' money
  - Reached compromise with Jefferson and Madison that resulted in the location of a new national capital in the south--Washington, DC



# Alexander Hamilton and US Financial Policy



- 4. Create Bank of the United States
  - Bank for Government money and loans
  - 20 year charter
  - Believed that the “necessary and proper” clause gave Congress power to charter Bank
  - Helped US consolidate its debt and pay its creditors
  - Offered stability to the US economy

# Washington's Foreign Policy

## ➤ Neutrality Proclamation (1793)

- Bloody French Revolution caused war between Britain and France



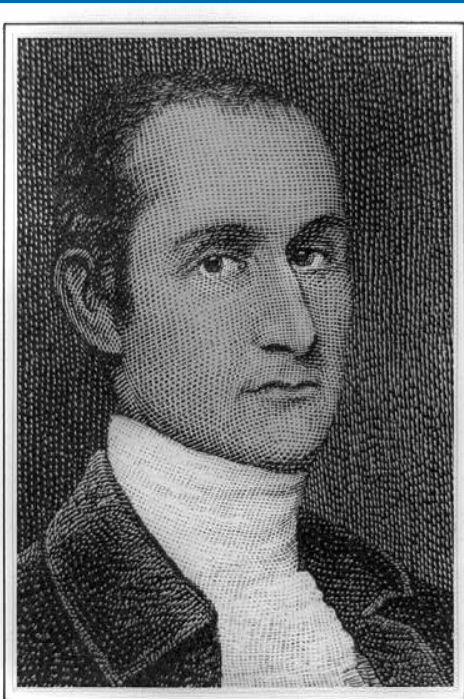
- Washington pursued a friendly and impartial relationship with the two nations
- Jefferson and the Anti-Federalists sided with the French and their push towards individual rights
  - "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is natural manure."

- Thomas Jefferson

# Washington's Foreign Policy

## ➤ Jay's Treaty (1794)

- British capturing neutral American merchant ships in the French West Indies
  - Chief Justice John Jay was sent to Britain to negotiate treaty with British
- Both sides received some of their demands
  - British agreed to pay for seized ships, abandon frontier forts, and allow some Caribbean trade
  - Americans agreed to pay pre-revolutionary war debts to British merchants
  - British continued impressment of American sailors
  - Not very effective, but did prevent war with Britain
- Jefferson disagreed with the treaty, feeling that it aligned US too closely with Britain
  - Became a divisive party issue



CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN JAY

# Washington's Foreign Policy

## ➤ Pinckney's Treaty (1795)

- Spanish had closed port of New Orleans to Americans due to border disputes in 1784
- US Ambassador Thomas Pinckney was sent to Spain to negotiate a treaty
  - Treaty was huge success
    - Re-opened the port of New Orleans
    - Moved Florida border

# Washington's Domestic Policy

## The Whiskey Rebellion

- Congress passed excise tax on American made whiskey in 1791
  - To pay off national debt
  - Pennsylvania farmers who couldn't pay the tax rebelled
    - Tarred and feathered tax collectors
    - Skirmishes broke out between rebels and Federal officers
      - Shots fired



Rebels tarring and feathering a tax collector during the Whiskey Rebellion

# The Whiskey Rebellion

- In 1794, Washington personally commanded nearly 13,000 troops to shut down the rebellion
- Most rebels fled without battle
  - Washington captured 20 of the rebels.
- First major show of federal authority and military force
  - Washington WOULD see that the laws were executed



This set a precedent that U.S. citizens who wished to change the law had to do so peacefully by constitutional means.



# Washington's Domestic Policy Northwest Territory

- Americans continued to settle in the Ohio Country north of the Ohio River
  - British had ceded land to US after the war
- Indians rallied around Little Turtle and went to war against settlers
  - Indians felt land was theirs despite treaties
  - Guns and ammunition were supplied by British traders
- Washington sent General "Mad" Anthony Wayne to end the dispute

# Battle of Fallen Timbers



# Washington's Domestic Policy


## Battle of Fallen Timbers

- August 20, 1794, near Toledo, Ohio
- Wayne and his men chased the Indians back to Fort Miami
  - British refused Indians access. They did not want to start another war.
- Americans routed Indians, burning their fields and villages
- Led to Treaty of Greenville in 1795
  - Indians gave up most of Ohio, Chicago, and Detroit
  - Americans gave Indians \$20,000 worth of goods and recognized Indian claims to the land they still held



# Washington's Farewell Address

THE ADDRESS OF  
To the People  
ON HIS DECLINING  
OF  
UNITED



GEN. WASHINGTON  
of America,  
THE PRESIDENCY  
THE  
STATES.

*Friends and Fellow-Citizens,*

THE period for the new election of a citizen to administer the Executive Government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you, at the same time, to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining in the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country; and that, in withdrawing the tender of service, which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest; no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness; but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in the office to which your suffrages have twice called me, have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety; and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that, in the present circumstances of our country, you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust I will only say, that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious, in the outset, of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself; and every day the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied, that if any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services, they were temporary, I have the consolation to believe, that while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment which is intended to terminate the career of my public life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country for the many honours it has conferred on me; still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me; and for the opportunities I have therein enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment by services faithful and persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal.

If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise, and as an incitement to all our citizens, that under circumstances in which the passions, agitated in every direction, were

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 party against another; fomented occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and the 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 favour, 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 effect 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.

It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power, and proneness to abuse it, which predominates in the human heart, is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositories; and constituting each the guardian of the public weal against invasions by the others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern; some of them in our own country, and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them. If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance, in permanent evil, any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labour to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.—The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to court them. A volume might be traced all their connexions with private and public

# Washington's Farewell Address

Washington chose to step down after two terms in office (1789-1797)

## ➤ Farewell Address

- Warns of political divisions at home: political parties
  - Political unity is the key to national success
- Warns about dangers of foreign entanglements
- Advises against public debt
  - Burden to future generations
- Insists that changes in government must be made by amendment, not armed rebellion
- Promotes education
  - Essential for enlightened citizens & public opinion