

The Kentucky Resolution, in particular, insisted on the principle of **nullification**, or the idea that a state could nullify, or cancel, any act of Congress that it considered unconstitutional. The **Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions** warned of the dangers that the Alien and Sedition Acts posed to a government of checks and balances as these checks and balances were guaranteed by the Constitution. Jefferson and Madison were not successful in overturning the acts while Adams was President. However, within two years the Democratic-Republicans won control of Congress, and they either reversed the acts or let them expire between 1800 and 1802.

**Peace with France** While Federalists and Democratic-Republicans battled at home, the United States made peace with France. Although war fever was high, Adams reopened talks with France. This time the two sides quickly signed the Convention of 1800, an agreement to stop all naval attacks. This treaty cleared the way for U.S. and French ships to sail the ocean in peace.

Adams's actions made him enemies among the Federalists. Despite this, he was proud of having saved the nation from bloodshed. In 1800, Adams became the first president to govern from the nation's new capital city, Washington, D.C. In 1800, however, he lost the presidential election to Thomas Jefferson.

**MAIN IDEAS & DETAILS** Explain the issues that divided Americans during Adams' presidency.

3

Section Assessment



ONLINE QUIZ

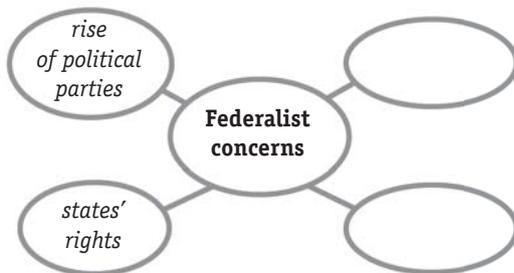
For test practice, go to Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com

TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of:
  - John Adams
  - XYZ Affair
  - Alien and Sedition Acts
  - states' rights
  - nullification
  - Kentucky & Virginia Resolutions

USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Main Ideas and Details** Complete the diagram you started at the beginning of the section.



KEY IDEAS

3. What did Washington warn against before he left office?
4. What led to the rise of political parties?
5. Why did Congress pass the Alien and Sedition Acts?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Evaluate** Why was Washington's warning about political parties not heeded?
7. **Make Inferences** Why do you think so many merchants and manufacturers were Federalists?
8. **Draw Conclusions** How did the XYZ Affair show the young nation's growing confidence?
9. **Synthesize** How might the theory of states' rights undermine the federal government?
10. **Connect to Today** What are some issues that the two leading American political parties disagree on today?
11. **Writing Editorial** Imagine you are a newspaper editor in 1798. Write an editorial in favor of, or opposed to, the Alien and Sedition Acts.