

Federalists

- Acquired their name from the sponsorship of the federal Constitution of 1787
- Included many of the revolutionary leaders including
- Washington, Adams, Hamilton and John Jay
- Originally Madison was a Federalist
- Many believe the Federalists went to great lengths to subvert the national government after 1800.
- The Federalists feared France's revolutionary influence.
- In many ways they consistently took the side of Britain against their own government. They wanted to avoid war with Britain at almost any cost.
- Federalists hated slavery and had greater respect for the American Indian.
- Federalists won control of all branches of the federal government in the late 1790's.



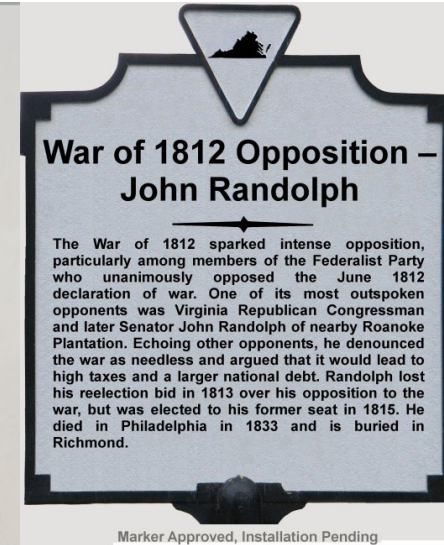
The War of 1812

How Close the Nation Came to Falling Apart



Federalists

- Especially prevalent in Connecticut and Massachusetts, along with Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont
- In some cases they refused to place their state militias under federal control for duty outside of their States.
- Federalists, like John Randolph told Madison to *“abandon the thought of war as it would threaten United States Commerce.”*
- State-centered interpretation of military authority led to direct conflict with federal war efforts.
- Example: in November 1813 Vermont Federalist Governor Martin Chittenden ordered a brigade of Vermont military station in Plattsburgh, NY to return home (some officers refused to obey Chittenden’s orders).
- This incident underscored the extent Federalists would try to resist authority.



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Federalist Opposition to the War

- Throughout the war New England Federalists maintained their opposition causing chaos.
- Federalist controlled banks refused to lend financial support to the war.
- During the war, the US borrowed \$40 million, only \$3 million from Federalist New England.
- In Congress, Federalists stifled bills that levied more funding to the war.
- Federalists opposed Madison's bill to increase military staffing.
- The Federalists had no control on national policy, but opposed it at every turn.
- The Federalist impact was the pool of army volunteers drying up, causing war leaders to struggle at times for trained soldiers. Congress authorized 50,000 one-year volunteers, but only 10,000 could be found. The Army never reached ½ of its authorized strength.



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Republicans (now Democratic Party)

- Known as the “War Hawks”
- Madison, Thomas Jefferson soon broke away from Federalists to become Republicans.
- They objected to the revolutionary debt Hamilton proposed to fund.
- They believed the debt was incompatible with Republican government.
- Republicans argued that foreign relations should be subject to the inspection and consent of the governed.
- Madison and Monroe established their national leadership on their claim to expertise in the nation’s foreign relations.
- Henry Clay and John Calhoun were war hawks of the party pushing for a declaration of war through Congress.



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War Was Costly for Republicans

- Many Republicans thought of the war as a “test” of the Republic
- Only Republicans voted for the Declaration of War with 22 Republicans voting against it.
- Declaration of War declared on June 18, 1812
- Several who voted for war were later rejected by voters
- Several others didn't run for re-election.
- The entire New Hampshire delegation turned over.



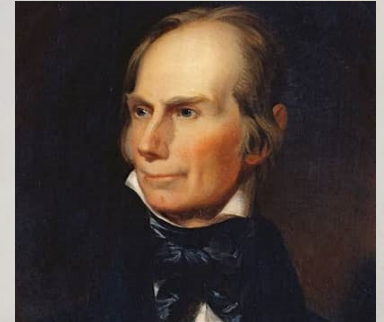
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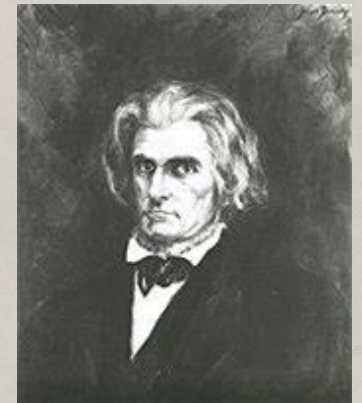


Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun

- Clay and Calhoun were both strong Republicans.
- Clay became known as the “Great Compromiser”. He would run for President 3 times in 1824, 1832, and 1844 and not win.
- He worked his whole life trying to preserve national unity.
- Clay was made Speaker of the House in 1811.
- Both Clay and John C. Calhoun both were strong nationalists determined to protect American honor.
- Calhoun (1824) would become a stout defender of the South and Slavery.
- Calhoun, born in South Carolina, would become the seventh Vice-President and Secretary of War under James Monroe.



Henry Clay



John C. Calhoun



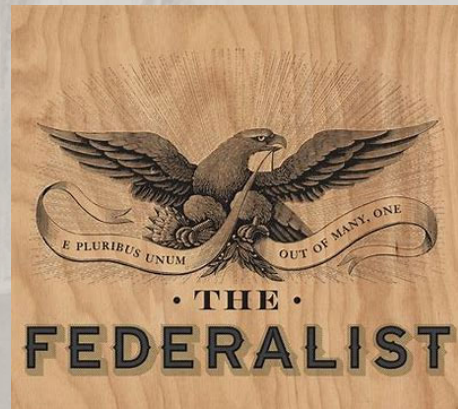
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Note:

- Federalists opposed the Republican strategy of invading Canada, believing it would result in a disaster for America.
- Federalists would continue through the war to insist that our real enemy was not Great Britain, but France, and Napoleon.
- Federalists would impede the war at every opportunity for the duration of the war.



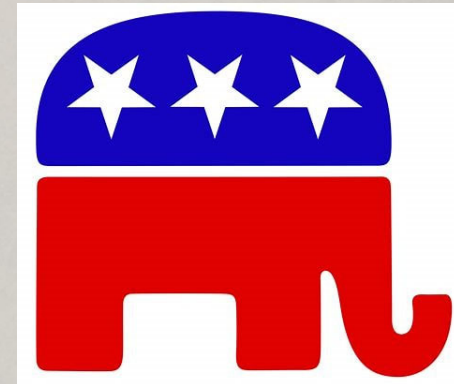
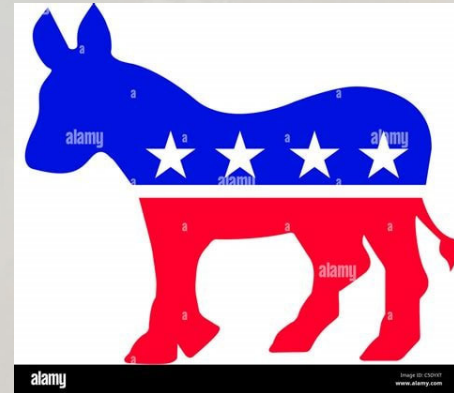
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What Happened to the Federalist Party?

- The Hartford Convention took place in December 1814 with delegates from Federalists States became associated with secession and treason and further alienated the public to Federalists.
- They ran a candidate—Rufus King-- in 1816 but he was soundly defeated. The Party became basically dead in 1817.
- The Republican Party over time became what is now known as the Democratic party. During the War of 1812 many referred to the party as the Democratic-Republican Party.
- The Whig part was formed in 1834 to oppose the “tyranny” of Andrew Jackson. It became the Republican Party in 1854.



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