



U. S. History: From the Colonial Period to 1877

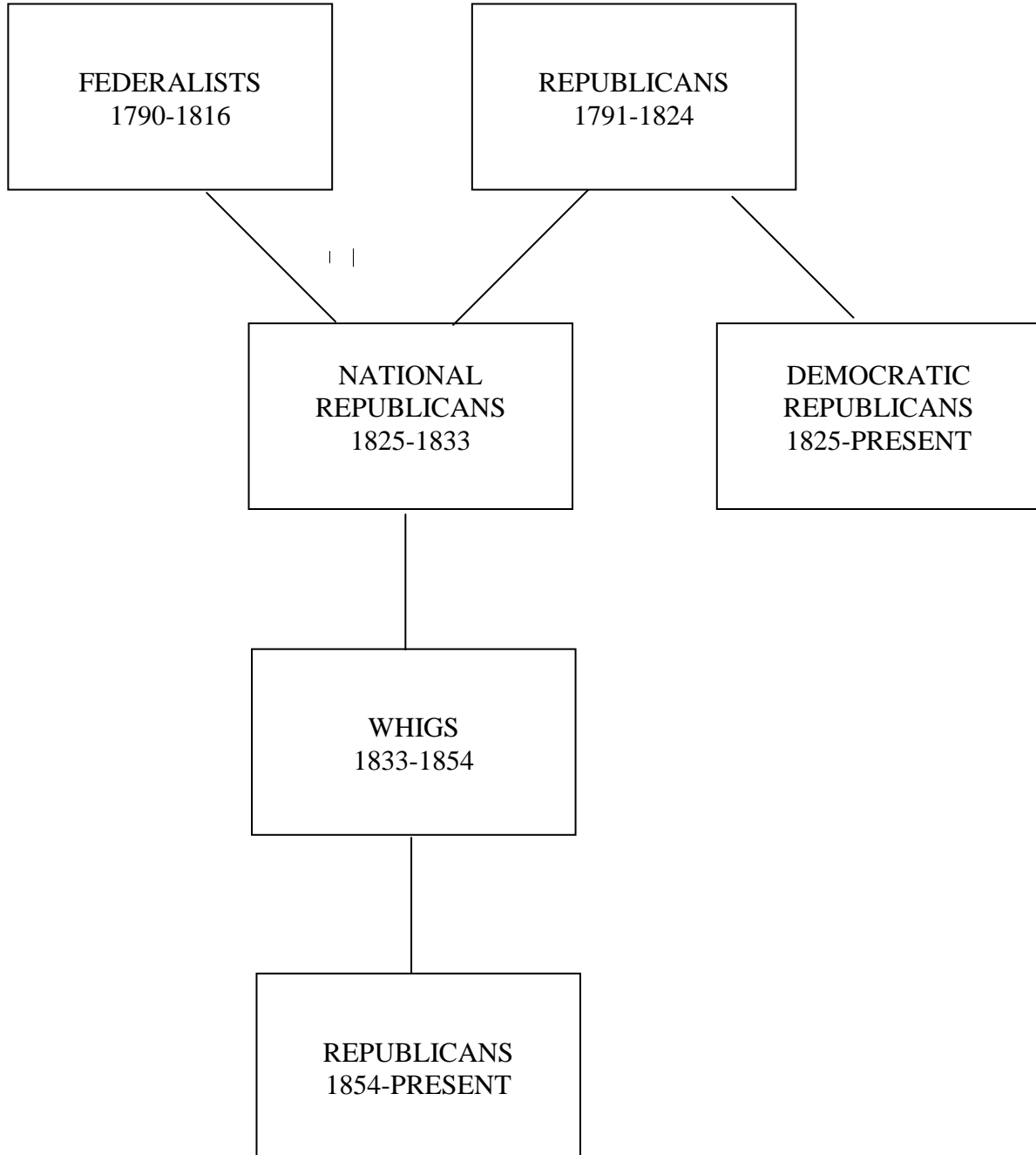
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8.3 THE FIRST PARTY SYSTEM: FEDERALISTS V. REPUBLICANS

POLITICAL PARTIES	<p>POLITICAL PARTIES are organizations that mobilize voters on behalf of a COMMON SET OF INTERESTS, concerns, and goals. In many countries political parties play a crucial part in the democratic process. The functions of political parties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Formulating political agendas ■ Selecting candidates ■ Conducting election campaigns ■ Managing the work of elected representatives ■ Providing the means by which people can have a voice in government. 	
1st POLITICAL PARTIES	FEDERALISTS	REPUBLICANS
Constituency	Merchants, bankers, manufacturers from New England and the middle-Atlantic states.	Artisans, shopkeepers, small farmers, and large plantation owners from the South and from western regions at the nation.
Leadership	ALEXANDER HAMILTON	THOMAS JEFFERSON
View of Human Nature	Hamilton, a self-made man, distrusted the people. Man, he thought, is naturally selfish, unreasonable, and violent.	Jefferson, born to wealth and social position, thought that if men are given the opportunity, they are naturally decent and reasonable.
Attitude Toward Government	<p>Believed in a highly CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT as a means of keeping order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Saw the common people as unable to govern themselves. ■ Believed that government should be as far removed from the people as possible. ■ Favored a strong federal government and limited powers for the states. ■ Advocated a strong executive department and strong courts to maintain order and insure justice. ■ Favored a standing army. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wanted to imitate British aristocracy (rule by the rich) without a king. ■ Willing to censor the press for political power. 	<p>Believed in a MINIMUM OF GOVERNMENT to safeguard the rights of the people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Saw the common people as able to govern themselves. ■ Believed that government should be as close to the people as possible. ■ Favored local government over national because it was closer to the people. ■ Favored Congress over the other branches of government because it best reflected the popular will. ■ Opposed standing armies because a military leader might seize control of the government. ■ Wanted more democracy than in the British parliament. ■ Favored freedom of speech & press. ■ Wanted greater involvement by the people through lower voting qualifications. ■ Favored reducing government interference by decreasing and number of federal officeholders.
View of the Constitution	Held LOOSE CONSTRUCTIONIST view that the Federal government had implied powers not listed in the Constitution (i.e., the Federal government had all the powers not expressly forbidden it by the Constitution).	Held STRICT CONSTRUCTIONIST view that the Federal government's powers should be limited in favor of states rights (i.e., the Federal government had only the powers expressly stated in the Constitution).
Foreign Policy Perspective	Favored Great Britain in culture and trade.	Distrusted Great Britain and wanted closer relations with France because it had just been through a democratic revolution.

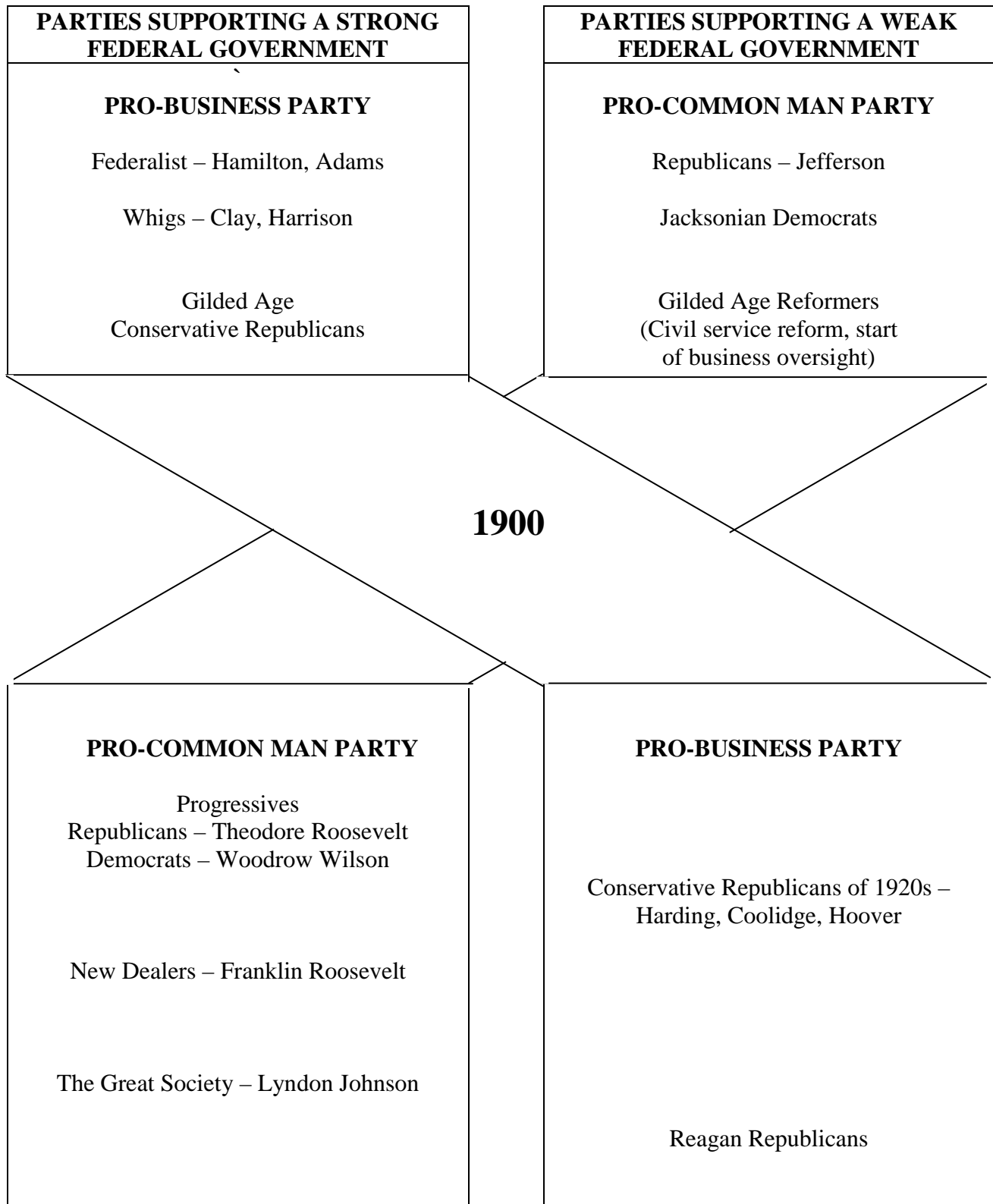
AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES

How the Federalists and Republicans fit into the American Political Party System



AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES

From the standpoint of support of the Federal government and the common man



<p>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</p>	<p>What do you perceive as the ideological foundation of the Federalist Party? The Republican Party?</p> <p>Did the Federalists or the Republicans better capture the spirit of the American Revolution?</p> <p>Imagine that you are a voter or congressman during the 1790s. Who would you have supported, Alexander Hamilton and the Federalists, or Thomas Jefferson and the Republicans? What particular position or idea would most influence your choice?</p>
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