

Hamilton took constitutional principles, infused them with life, turning abstractions into institutional realities: **the budget system, funded debt, the tax system, the NY stock exchange, the central bank, the mint, customs service, establishment of the Coast Guard & Customs Service.** He saw that business was often obstructed by scarce cash or credit and learned the value of a uniform currency in stimulating trade. The twin specters of despotism and anarchy haunted him for the rest of his life.

Hamilton was mostly self-taught. His hurricane letter from St Kitts, West Indies in 1772 generated such a sensation that local businessmen sent him to North America to be educated. Witherspoon at Princeton was probably the most influential teacher in the history of American education--teaching 1 US president, 1VP, 21 senators, 29 congressmen, and 12 state governors. Beginning with Hamilton's speech at a NYC Sons of Liberty gathering in 1774, Hamilton commanded attention with the force and fervor of his words. He grounded his arguments in natural law, colonial charters, and the British constitution. The task of government was not to stop selfish striving, but to harness it for the public good. The prerequisites of government are an army, a currency, and taxing power. Without good government, greater freedom can lead to greater disorder and back to a loss of freedom.

The pen for our army was held by Hamilton and for dignity of manner, pith of matter, and elegance of style, General Washington's letters are unrivalled in military annals. Hamilton evolved from private secretary to chief of staff.

The man born without honor placed a premium on maintaining his. Countries follow their interests, not their sympathies. Hamilton determined that a war of attrition that eroded British credit would be as effective as a triumph. During the war a sense of national unity seeped into the minds of many American diplomats, administrators, congress men, and the nucleus of officers around Washington. These men had glimpsed the shortcomings of the Articles of Confederation and they later emerged as advocates of a union of the states. **Because of his relationship to Washington, Hamilton's life's enterprise became the creation of a new country.**

James Madison had a richly furnished mind to match his own. 'Tis with governments as with individuals, first impressions and early habits give a lasting bias to temper and character. The closed-door proceedings of the first Continental Congress yielded inspired, uninhibited debate and brought forth one of the most luminous documents in history. Hamilton's eloquence seemed to require opposition to give it full force. The Revolution produced an insatiable need for thinkers and wordsmiths.

The immediate utility of ideas was an incalculable tonic for the founding generation.

No axiom is more clearly established in law or in reason than that wherever the end is required, the means are authorized. If Madison displays a broader knowledge of theory and history in the Federalist, Hamilton betrays a wider knowledge of the world. The judiciary commands neither the press nor the sword. It has scarcely any patronage. Hamilton engineered the transition to a postwar culture that valued sound and efficient government as the most reliable custodian of liberty. Because the Constitution made no mention of a cabinet, Washington had to invent it.

If Washington lacked the first-rate intellect of others, he was gifted with superb judgment. **The security of liberty and property were inseparable. Contracts formed the basis of public and private morality.** States, like individuals, who observe their engagements are respected and trusted. America was rich in opportunity, lacking only liquid capital, which government debt could provide. In nothing are appearances of greater moment than in regards to credit. As too much power leads to despotism, too little leads to anarchy, and both eventually to the ruin of the people.

The rift between Hamilton and Madison precipitated the start of the 2-party system in America. Hamilton activated the "necessary-and-proper" clause, the "general-welfare" clause, and the commerce clause, which created the legal framework for economic growth. The Bank of England and Amsterdam united public authority and faith with private credit. Farmers were debtors by nature and opposed to bankers and creditors. The Bank of the US enabled 4 powers in the Constitution: collect taxes, borrow money, regulate trade, and support fleets & armies. A national bank would wed the interest of the moneyed men with the resources of government.

Madison was the master builder of the Constitution, but Hamilton was its foremost interpreter. An incomparable bureaucrat and theoretician, Hamilton had no gift for practical politics. The intellectual caliber of those leaders surpassed that of any future leaders in America, but so did their animosity toward 1 another. Aaron Burr, the 2nd VP shot Hamilton, the 1st Secretary of the Treasury to death in a duel. Slaveholding presidents from the south occupied the presidency for 1st 50/72 years of America. The Louisiana Territory was purchased from a France bankrupted by Napoleon's wars. Washington led by his character and good judgement. Hamilton was his operations guy.

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