

PART-II

Q No. 02

What were the major accomplishments of the initial federalist administration?

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QUESTION = 2

Introduction:

The initial Federalist Administration (1789-1801), led primarily by George Washington with Alexander Hamilton as the chief architect, laid the political, economic and institutional foundations of the United States. Its accomplishments transformed a fragile post-revolutionary confederation into a functioning federal state.

Establishment of a Strong Central Government:

One of the most significant achievements was the operationalization of the U.S. constitution (1787). The Federalists successfully translated constitutional principles into practice by establishing executive departments, defining federal authority and asserting the supremacy of national law. Washington's presidency

itself set enduring precedents, including civilian control of policy and respect for constitutional limits.

Hamilton's Financial Revolution:

Alexander Hamilton's economic program stabilized the young republic. His policies included:

- Assumption of state debts, which strengthened national credit.
- Creation of a national debt system, binding creditors to federal government.
- Establishment of the First Bank of the United States (1791) to regulate currency and credit.

Hamilton argued that "a national debt, if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing."

By 1795, U.S. creditworthiness had significantly improved in European markets.

Creation of Federal Institutions and Judiciary:

The Judiciary Act of 1789 created a federal court system, including

the Supreme Court, ensuring uniform interpretation of federal law. This institutional framework strengthened legal order and reinforced the authority of the Constitution.

Preservation of Internal Order:

The Federalist administration demonstrated the state's coercive capacity during the 'Whiskey Rebellion (1794)'. Washington's decisive response against armed resistance in Pennsylvania affirmed the federal government's authority to enforce laws, an essential step in maintaining national unity and social order.

Foreign Policy Stabilization:

Federalists pursued pragmatic neutrality in foreign affairs. The Jay Treaty (1794) with Britain resolved outstanding disputes and prevented war, while Washington's Farewell Address (1796) warned against

permanent alliances. These policies protected U.S. sovereignty during a vulnerable phase.

Conclusion:

The initial Federalist administration's major accomplishments were strong central institutions, financial stability, legal order, and cautious foreign policy - were decisive in transforming the United States into a viable nation-state. As historian Gordon Wood notes, Federalists "created the machinery without which the Constitution could not have survived." Their legacy remains foundational to American political development.