CHAPTER 10
Launching the New Ship of State, 1789–1800

A. Checklist of Learning Objectives
After mastering this chapter, you should be able to:
1. State why George Washington was pivotal to inaugurating the new federal government.
2. Describe the methods and policies Alexander Hamilton used to put the federal government on a sound financial footing.
3. Explain how the conflict between Hamilton and Jefferson led to the emergence of the first political parties.
4. Describe the polarizing effects of the French Revolution on American foreign and domestic policy and politics from 1790 to 1800.
5. Explain the rationale for Washington’s neutrality policies, including the conciliatory Jay’s Treaty and why the treaty provoked Jeffersonian outrage.
6. Describe the causes of the undeclared war with France, and explain Adams’s decision to seek peace rather than declare war.
7. Describe the poisonous political atmosphere that produced the Alien and Sedition Acts and the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions.
8. Describe the contrasting membership and principles of the Hamiltonian Federalists and the Jeffersonian Republicans, and how they laid the foundations of the American political party system.