**George Washington’s Farewell Address - Honors**

Published in the *American Daily Advertiser* of Philadelphia on 19 September 1796, George Washington printed his farewell address signifying his stepping down from the presidency after two terms. Containing his convictions the statement offered advice to political leaders and all American citizens on the directions in which he felt his country should move.

Assignment: complete the following questions on a **separate sheet of paper** (and in complete sentences) concerning the quotations from the primary source, “Washington’s Farewell Address”.

**Sectionalism:**

“. . . it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union . . . and indignantly frown [sic] upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.”

1. Paraphrase the above quotation in order to provide an accurate statement describing what Washington advises concerning the possibility of sectionalism.

“. . . your union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.”

2. Political leaders would paraphrase these words in the 1830's to emphasize the need to diminish sectionalism. In Washington’s opinion, can the United States have union without liberty, or liberty without union? Why, why not?

**Political Parties:**

“However combinations or associations . . . may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people . . . .”

3. Paraphrase the above quotation to explain what Washington describes as the most common outcome of political parties.

4. Do you think these outcomes exist in present-day United States? Explain.

“There is an opinion that parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the government and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This within limits is probably true. . . .”

5. Why does Washington advise that political parties are good but only within limits?

**Foreign Affairs:**

“Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all.”

“Nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations and passionate attachments for others should be excluded, and that in place of them just and amicable feelings toward all should be cultivated. The nation which indulges toward an habitual hatred, or an habitual fondness, is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or to its affection, either is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest.”

6. Define:

A) inveterate

B) antipathy

C) amicable

D) animosity

7. Paraphrase the above quotes to display the advice that Washington offers to political leaders and people of America concerning relations with other nations.

“The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible.”

8. What does Washington advise concerning the mixing of economics with politics in foreign relations?

“Europe has a set of primary interests which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns.”

“Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalship, interest, humor, or caprice?”

9. Define “isolationism.”

10. What would an American citizen who is considered an isolationist believe concerning foreign relations?

11. How do the quotes above provide support for a political leader who believes in an isolationist policy?

“It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world. . . . Taking care always to keep ourselves by suitable establishments on a respectable defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies. . . .”

12. This advice offered by Washington was considered to be the best advice for a newly formed, weak but growing nation to follow. But, now that our nation is one of the great nations of the world is this still sound advice? (Support your opinion with textual evidence.)