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| **American History I** | **Unit 2 – Articles of Confederation through Adams** |
| **Washington’s Farewell Address (Honors)** |

The period for a new election of a citizen, to administer the executive government of the United States, being not far distant […] I should now apprize you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

**1. On the Federal Government:** The unity of Government, which constitutes you one people, is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very Liberty, which you so highly prize. […] you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective and individual happiness; […] watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion, that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning 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.

**2. On political parties:** […] the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it. It serves always to distract the Public Councils, and enfeeble the Public Administration. It agitates the Community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one part against another, foments occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption […]

**3. On the Hamilton’s Economic Plan:** As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is, to use it as sparingly as possible; avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace, […] avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts, which unavoidable wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burthen, which we ourselves ought to bear. […] it is essential that you should practically bear in mind, that towards the payment of debts there must be Revenue; that to have Revenue there must be taxes; that no taxes can be devised, which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant […]

**4. On foreign affairs & alliances:** It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world; so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it; for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements. I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy. I repeat it, therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But, in my opinion, it is unnecessary and would be unwise to extend them. Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable establishments, on a respectable defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

**5. On the military and a standing army:** Hence, likewise, they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments, which, under any form of government, are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to Republican Liberty. In this sense it is, that 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.

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| **What do you know about the events and situations in 1796 U.S. for each of the issues below?** | **Paraphrase George Washington’s belief as stated in his Farewell Address.** | **Is this position *practical*** **considering the issues of the time? Why or why not?** |
| **The Federal Government:** |  |  |
| **Political Parties:** |  |  |
| **Hamilton’s Economic Plan:** |  |  |
| **Foreign Affairs/Alliances:** |  |  |
| **The U.S. Military:** |  |  |

When leaving the office of the presidency, George Washington gave advice regarding his positions on foreign affairs and political parties? Is his advice practical for **our** time? Choose three of the five topics to address.