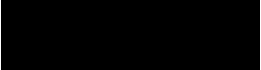




Honor Project

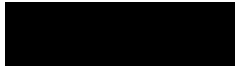
Alexander Hamilton was one of three men that wrote the Federalist Papers. He (Alexander Hamilton) specifically, wrote essays 59 - 85. His papers 67-77 focus on the American presidency. Specifically, defending the presidency. While defending the presidency he was able to bring his views to light. In order for most modern-day Americans to bring their own views to the public, they participate in polls and write articles directly expressing their opinions. While there are differences in the views between modern-day Americans and Hamilton, there are also similar views. In this essay, a comparison, as well as a contrast between modern Americans' views and Alexander Hamilton's views, will be made. All the sources used in this study have been checked with *Media Bias/Fact Check* this site checks all sources for their credibility/bias. If any source has a bias it will be mentioned and if the source has any form of credibility it will also be mentioned.

In essay 68 titled “The Mode of Electing the President,” Hamilton argues that direct elections would lead to foreign influence within the government. As shown here “Nothing was more to be desired than that every practicable obstacle should be opposed to cabal, intrigue, and corruption. These most deadly adversaries of republican government might naturally have been expected to make their approaches from more than one quarter, but chiefly from the desire in foreign powers to gain an improper



ascendant in our councils.” (Kesler and Rossiter/ The Federalist paper) With this, it is made clear that foreign influence on the government is not desirable. However in contrast to this, in a post that was published on a debate website titled *Debate.org*, the question of whether a foreign-born president should be allowed to serve as a U.S. President was proposed. The results of the poll were 67% of the takers voted “yes”. One argument that a user made in approval of a foreign-born president was as quoted, “As a nation founded on the principles of equality, freedom, and tolerance, we should not exclude those born outside our borders.” (Debate.org)

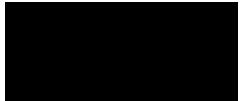
In essay 71 the president's term length is discussed, Hamilton claims that the traditional four-year term span would present the president with enough time to pursue policies he feels are essential and prevent him from pursuing things that are unnecessary. We see this as stated, “Between the commencement and termination of such a period there would always be a considerable interval, in which the prospect of annihilation would be sufficiently remote not to have an improper effect upon the conduct of a man endued with a tolerable portion of fortitude; and in which he might reasonably promise himself, that there would be time enough, before it arrived, to make the community sensible of the propriety of the measures he might incline to pursue.” (Kesler and Rossiter/ The Federalist paper) Using this logic Hamilton pursues the notion that a four-year length would be ideal. However, modern Americans have had mixed feelings about this in the past years. Within the past years, there have been several attempts to repeal the 22nd Amendment, which would allow presidents to serve longer terms. In an article titled “Eight More Years! The Case for Removing Term Limits” posted on *Newrepublic.com*, the argument for presidents to have the ability to serve longer



terms was made. “Repealing the 22nd Amendment would not eliminate the possibility of presidential stumbles, but might lessen them, particularly if the country faced the prospect of electing an untutored new executive in the midst of a foreign policy crisis”. While *Newrepublic.com* was reported to have a high left-leaning bias, they were also reported to have a high credibility rating. Taking this rating into account it is reasonable to think this article was made with the people's opinions in mind.

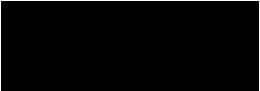
In essay 74 titled “The Command of The Military and Naval Forces, and The Pardoning Power of The Executive” Hamilton discusses the president and the military. Specifically, the president's role with the military. By doing this Hamilton expresses the strength a president would need, as quoted “Of all the cares or concerns of government, the direction of war most peculiarly demands those qualities which distinguish the exercise of power by a single hand. The direction of war implies the direction of the common strength; and the power of directing and employing the common strength forms a usual and essential part in the definition of the executive authority.” (Kesler and Rossiter/ The Federalist paper) This lines up with modern-day American beliefs in a president's need for strength. According to a post made on *Quora.com*, (a “social” site that most people use to ask questions on various topics) the question of what qualities would be most desirable for a president to have was asked. While there was a multitude of answers with various different characteristics the most notable was “strength.” One user by the name of Patrick Jones stated, “Demonstrative strength of character” is a desirable characteristic. (Quora.com)

In essay 75 titled “The Treaty-Making Power of the Executive.” Hamilton states “The history of human conduct does not warrant that exalted opinion of human virtue




which would make it wise in a nation to commit interests of so delicate and momentous a kind as those which concern its intercourse with the rest of the world to the sole disposal of a magistrate, created and circumstanced, as would be a President of the United States. To have intrusted the power of making treaties to the Senate alone would have been to relinquish the benefits of the constitutional agency of the president, in the conduct of foreign negotiations.” (Kesler and Rossiter/ The Federalist paper) Within this quote, Hamilton insinuates that responsibility would be needed within a president. This corresponds with modern-day Americans' views. As seen in an article written by Jamie Ballard, posted on *YouGovAmerica* titled “What Leadership Qualities Do Americans Want in a President?” Ballard mentions the poll results of a Yahoo News/ YouGov poll from July 2020, that questioned people about the qualities they preferred in a president. Within this article, Ballard states “For 85 percent of Democrats, and 80 percent of Republicans, the ability to take responsibility is very important....” With these results, it is clear that Most modern-day Americans see responsibility as an important quality. While the bias rating on *Yahoo News/ YouGov* is left-center the credibility was rated high. *Media Bias/Fact Check* can even be quoted saying “We also rate them High for factual reporting (original content) due to proper sourcing and a clean fact check record.” With this in mind, it is unneeded to assume any inaccurate reportings with these numbers.

In conclusion, while it is possible to compare and contrast the views of modern Americans and Alexander Hamilton, it is difficult to specifically come to an absolute conclusion about the differences between each subject. Since we can not ask every modern American their view on the president (and have their answers match) and we



can not personally ask Alexander Hamilton his views on what a president should be, the best we can do is look at Hamilton's essays and form a conclusion from them and look at polls that modern Americans take. From doing this it is made clear that, while a significant amount of time has passed there are still similar views between Hamilton and modern Americans. Two examples of similarity of views are strength and responsibility. Both Hamilton and Americans think that those are two well-needed qualities in a president. However, with similarities, there are also dissimilarities, an example is the views on the president's term length. Hamilton argues that the standard four-year term span would give the president enough time to do whatever policies he feels must be satisfied, While modern Americans hold mixed emotions about the term length. With these in mind, we can see that not much has changed and there are an equal amount of similarities and dissimilarities between modern Americans and Alexander Hamilton's views on the qualities of a president.



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