

Preamble #56 – Washington's Warnings

In his farewell address, Washington warned the new nation of many things. Read through his warnings (translated into modern language).

~Think of your unity as the safeguard of your individual happiness & liberty. Preserve unity and accord with fierce protectiveness, and if anyone even starts to try to make one group in the country to become angry and bitter with another group, point it out and voice your strong disapproval.

~Watch out for political parties – stay away from them. They will become their own group and battle each other for control of you. This leads to harmful results at best, despotism [mean & destructive kings & rulers] at worst.

~Avoid building up debt by discouraging spending; pay off that debt in peace time.

~Steer clear of future permanent alliances. Honor the ones we have, but don't expand them and don't make new ones. We have to make sure we have a respectable defense through appropriate organizations [military or militia]. Then we can trust temporary alliances in case of emergencies.

1. Have presidents followed Washington's advice? Think about what you know about political parties, U.S. involvement in other nations, and our national debt.

2. Do you think Washington's warnings were right/good? Why or why not?