

Inaugurating the Republic: Congress and George Washington's First Inaugural Address

Center for Legislative Archives

Worksheet 3: Review and Reflection Questions

1. What does President Washington say about each of the following?

His desire for the presidency	
The importance of public support	
Divine assistance for the U.S.	
"The invisible hand"	
A revolution in government	
Political parties	
Balance and order in government	
Constitutional Amendments	
Amendments that might change the government vs amendments that protect rights	
What God should grant to the government	

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Worksheet 3: Review and Reflection Questions Continued

2. How did the President promote the idea of a government by the people in his address?
3. What mistakes does he indirectly warn Congress against?
4. For what part of America's success did Washington give credit to divine favor?
5. What statement does Washington make about the importance of virtuous behavior in governing?
6. Would you describe Washington's goal in this address as primarily establishing his presidency or establishing a republic under the Constitution? Why?

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