



ANSWERS

1. He believed that because the purchase protected the interests of the citizens of the United States, that it was constitutional.

2. What were the views of those in the United States who were opposed to the purchase:

General Views on Jefferson: They thought he was acting hypocritically because he was usually a strict constitutionalist, and they felt he was stretching the intent of the Constitution to justify his purchase.

Views of the Federalists: They opposed the purchase, favoring a stronger relationship with Britain than with France. They were afraid that the new citizens in the West would threaten the political and economic power of the East Coast states. They also worried that adding more slave-holding states would increase tensions between the North and the South. There was concern about granting citizenship to the French, Spanish, and free black people living in New Orleans which would be required in order for the government to collect taxes.

Views of the Federalists and the Jeffersonians: They feared that the purchase was not constitutional.

3. They called for a vote to deny the purchase, but they were defeated 59 – 57.

They tried to prove that the land was owned by Spain and not France, but this was not supported by available records. One Senator explored the idea of a separate Northern confederacy.

4. France had promised not to alienate Louisiana to a third party and France broke the Third Treaty of San Ildefonso by having the King of Etruria recognized by all European powers.