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John Adams 1797-1801



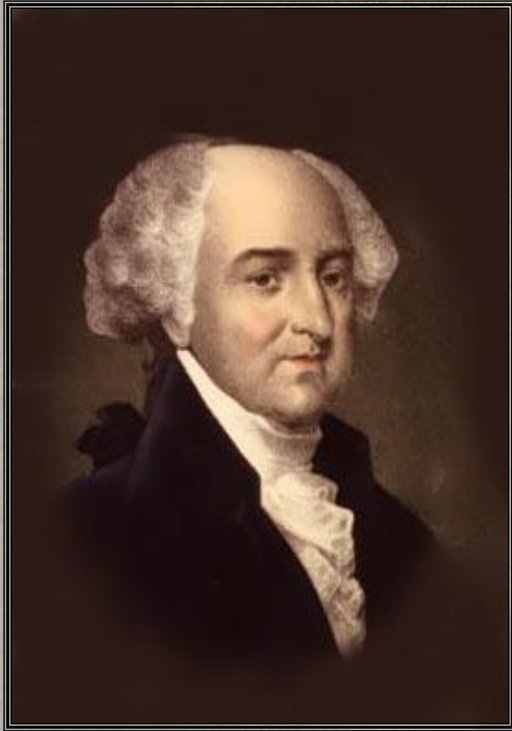
The Election of 1796

**John Adams
VS
Thomas Jefferson**

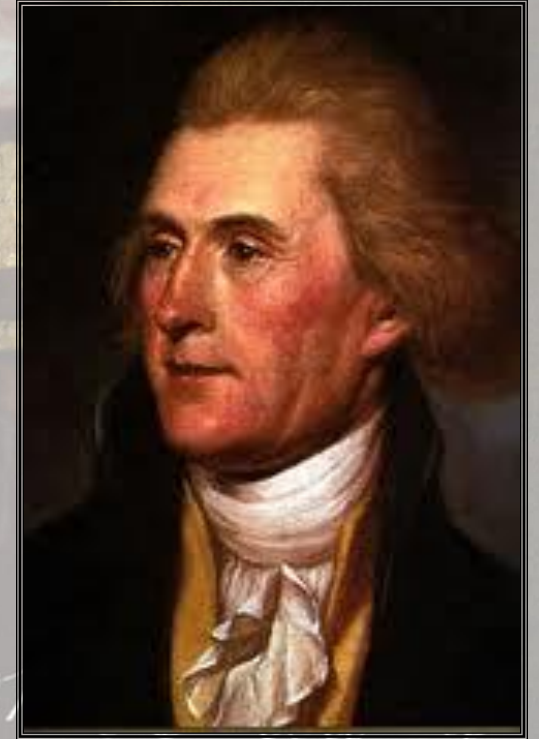
Electoral votes:

Adams: 71

Jefferson: 68



Federalist Candidate



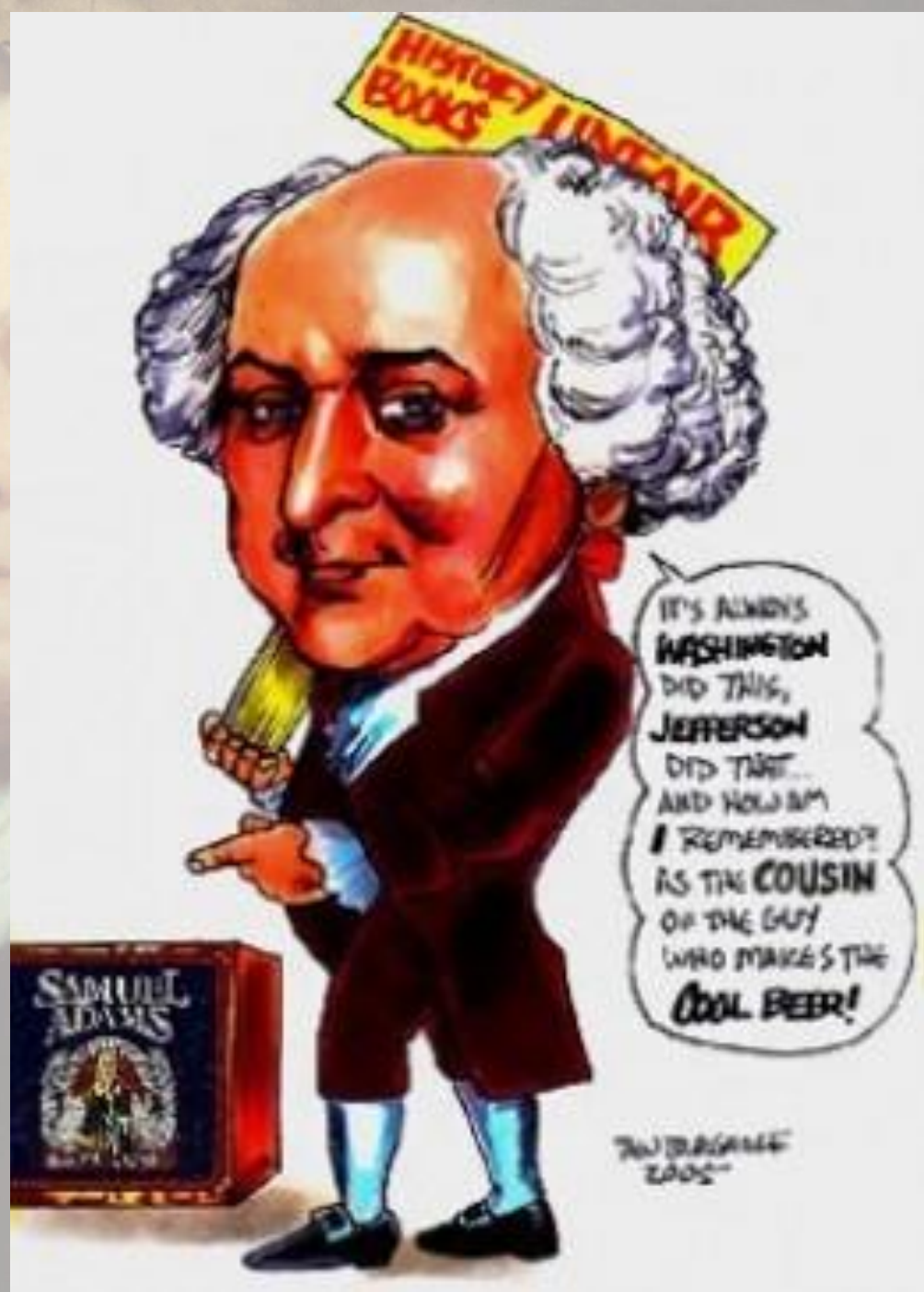
Jeffersonian Republican
Candidate

Federalists in Power

Hold majority in all 3 branches of federal govt

Jefferson came in 2nd place, won most of his votes from the South (12th Amendment would later fix this issue)

French Revolution: 1789- late 1790s still has our two parties divided over foreign affairs



Rising International Tensions

“Barbary States” on the northern coast of Africa had interrupted Mediterranean shipping

- Morocco, Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli

European nations routinely paid “tribute” so the ships wouldn’t be bothered

In 1795, the U.S. paid nearly \$1m for the release of a ship and its crew from Algiers



Department of the Navy - 1798

Adams added the Department of the Navy to the Executive Depts.

-Known as the “Father of the U.S. Navy”

Why does Adams administration create this department?

Had several warships built (including the *USS Constitution* aka “Old Ironsides”) to protect U.S. shipping and crew



The XYZ Affair

The French were angry about Jay's Treaty

- Began stopping American ships en-route to Britain and seizing goods

Adams sent 3 men to Paris to negotiate in 1797:

- Charles Pinckney, Elbridge Gerry, John Marshall trying to talk to France's FM Talleyrand
- French officials leave men waiting for weeks
- Americans are approached by 3 French agents who demand a \$250,000 "tribute" just for a meeting

Pinckney responded:

“Millions for Defense, but not one cent for tribute”



John Adams

Following the XYZ Affair, America and France began fighting an undeclared war at sea – The “Quasi War”

1798: France proposes new negotiations that are discussed at the **Convention of 1800**, Jefferson and Napoleon agree:

- U.S. agrees to assume American shippers’ damages for France
- France will release the U.S. from the defensive Treaty of 1778 and respect U.S. “freedom of the seas”
- Lays groundwork for L.P.



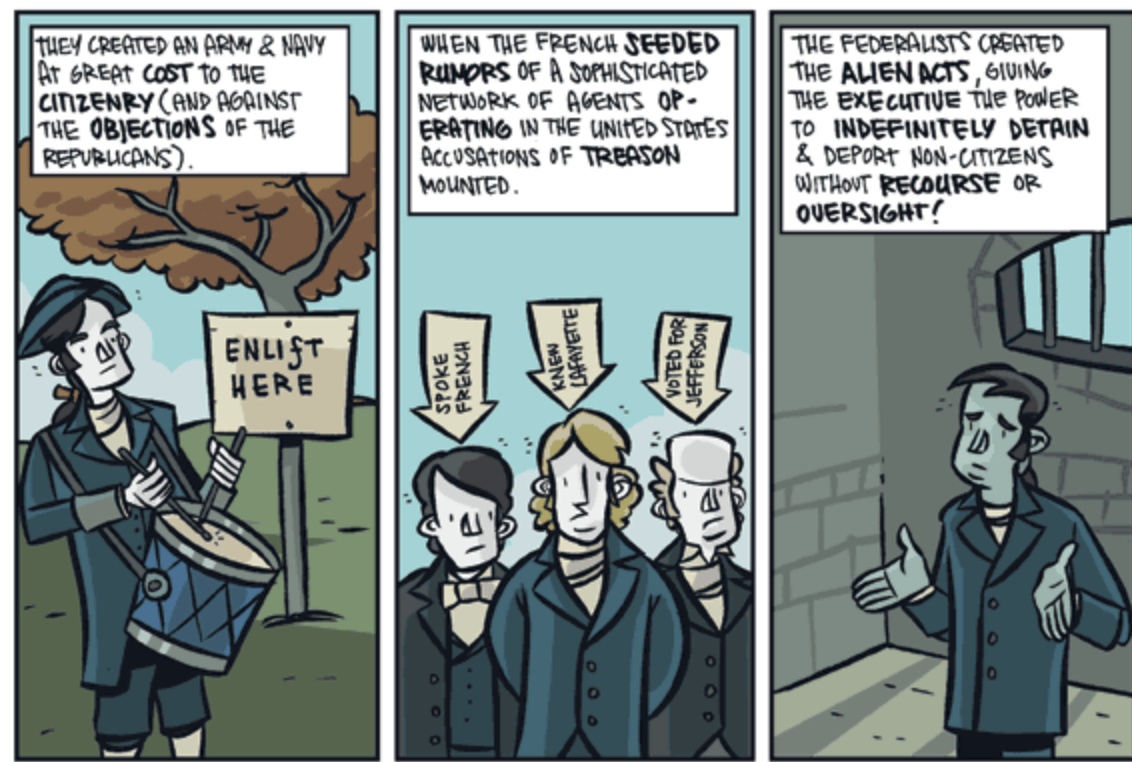
John Adams

The Alien and Sedition Acts 1798

At the height of public anger at France, the Federalists pushed 4 laws through Congress

Many of new immigrants were from France and Ireland, and thus anti-British

- **1st Law:** changed the period for people waiting to become citizens from 5 to 14 years
- **2nd & 3rd Laws:** gave the president the power to deport (without trial) any alien deemed “dangerous to the nation”
- **4th Law:** made it illegal to say or print anything “false, scandalous, and malicious” about the federal govt or govt official



The Virginia and Kentucky Resolves

1798-99

Dem-Reps angry about the A & S Acts:

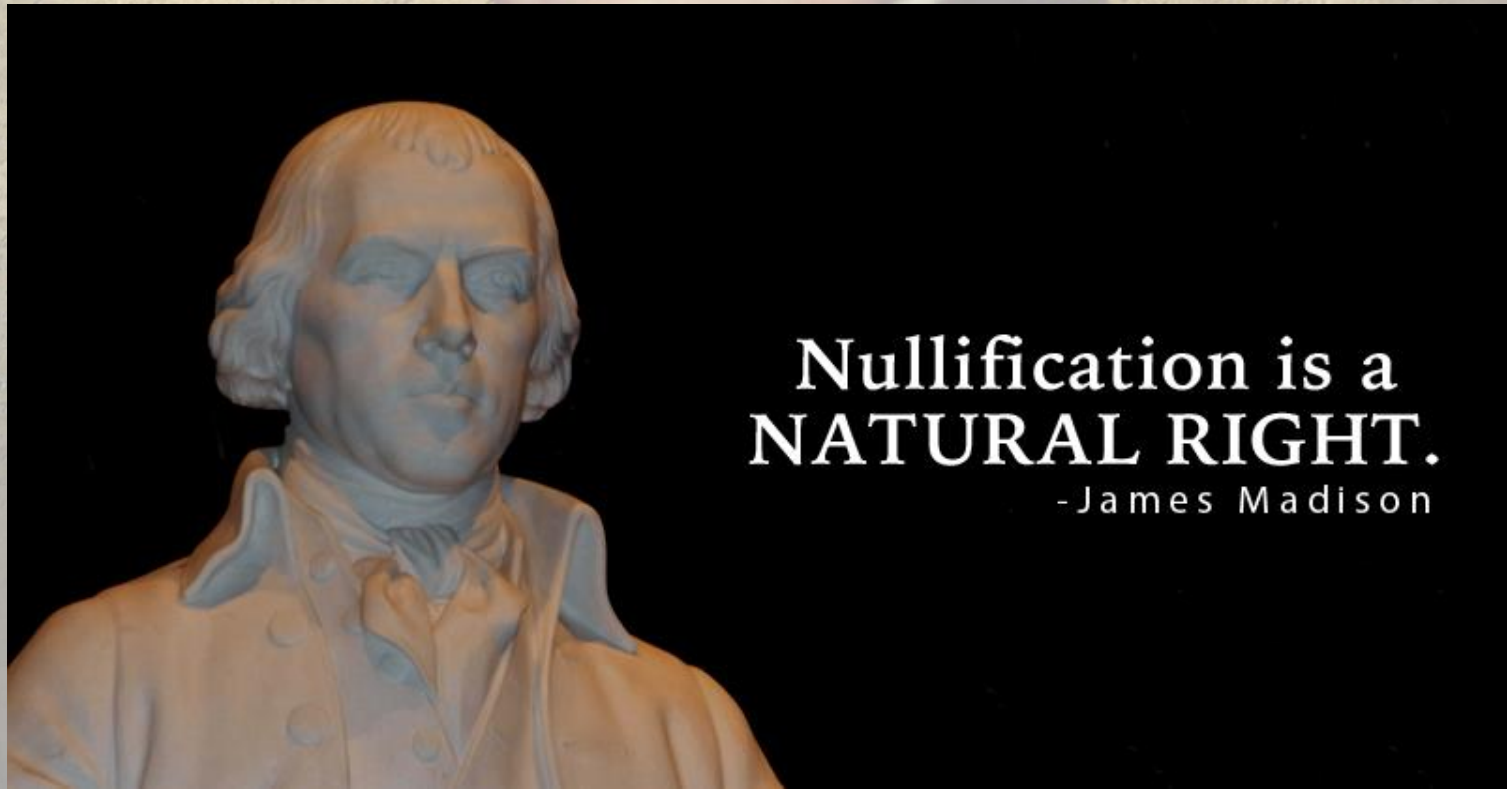
Felt they violated the 1st Amendment and infringed on
“states’ rights”



The Virginia and Kentucky Resolves

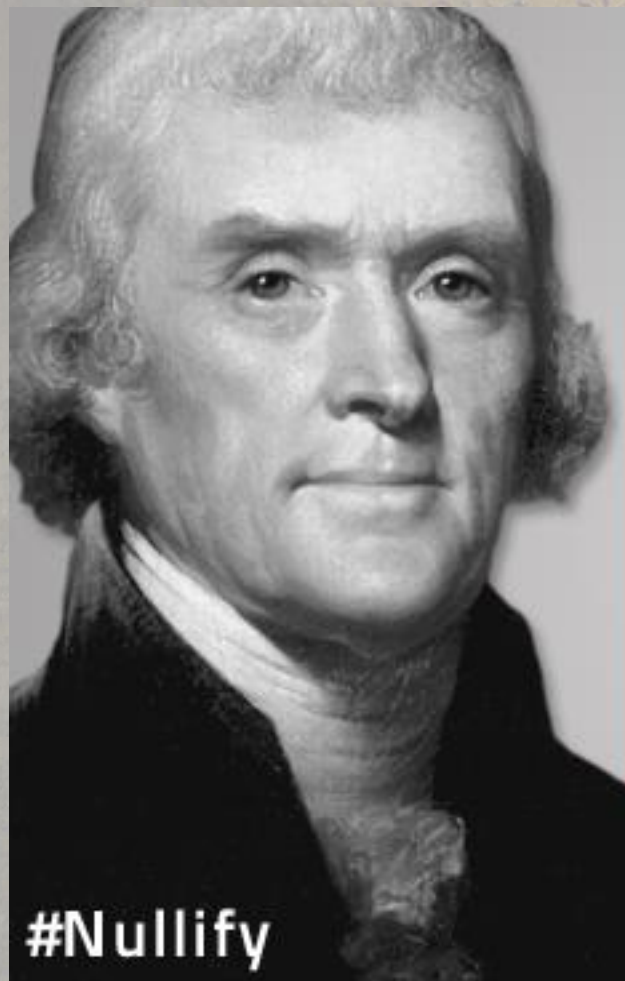
Drafted by Jefferson (KY) and Madison (VA):

1. The Constitution was a *compact* between sovereign states
2. Each state had "an equal right to judge for itself" when the Constitution had been violated
3. **IMPORTANT:** proposed that a state can declare a law of Congress unconstitutional



Nullification is a
NATURAL RIGHT.

- James Madison



#Nullify

"A nullification of the act...

IS THE
**RIGHTFUL
REMEDY."**



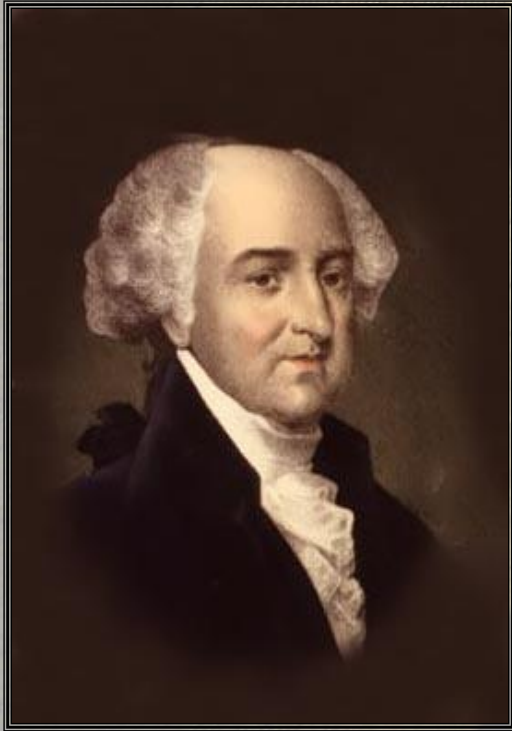
John Adams

Had little *immediate* impact, however:

1. Set the stage for increased sectionalism and the “states’ rights” debate
2. Threatened Federalist authority (who did nothing in reaction)

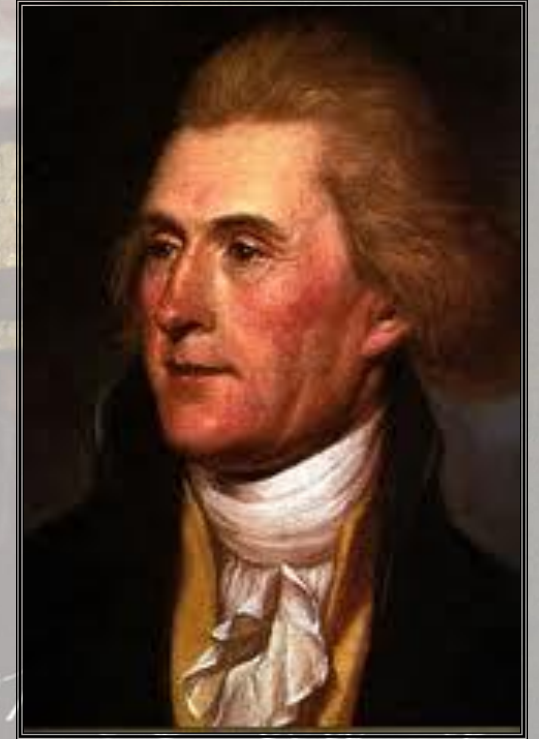
The Election of 1800

JOHN ADAMS VS. THOMAS JEFFERSON (PART II)



Federalist Candidate

Americans were upset at
the Adams
administration over the
A & S Acts



Democratic-Republican
Candidate

Abigail Adams

- First woman to be both the wife and the mother of a U.S. president
- First lady to *live in* the White House
- Known for her strength and intelligence
- Letters to her husband offered strong opinions, especially her wishes for a stronger woman's role in their new country & anti-slavery views

