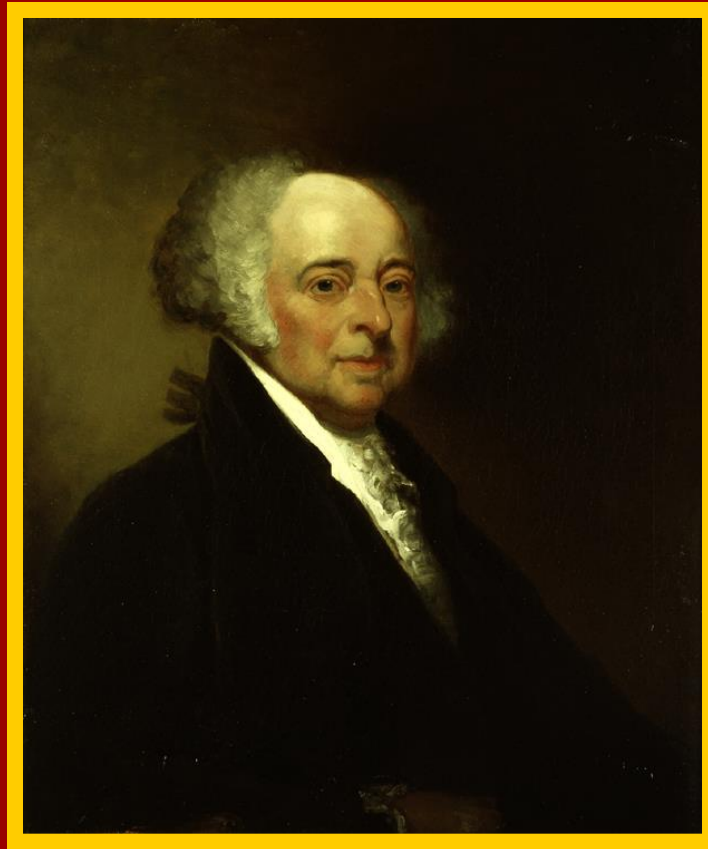


THE PRESIDENCY OF JOHN ADAMS



Karen H. Reeves

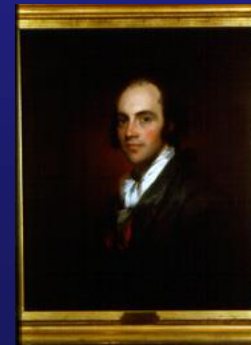


ELECTION OF 1796






- Adams: Politically naïve, heavy-handed
 - First election involving political parties
 - Candidates
 - Federalists: Adams, Pinkney
 - Republicans: Jefferson, Aaron Burr
-
- Vote carried by Adams (President), then Jefferson (VP)

Pinkney



Burr

XYZ AFFAIR





- 1795 French Directory (gov't.) denounced Jay Treaty 
attacked American ships
- **Adams sent peace commission  met by 3
French officials (“XYZ”)**
- **Demanded loans for Fr. + bribes to see Fr. Officials**
- **Amer. Refused, returned home  Congress
voted to increase army/navy (war imminent)**
- 1798 Quasi-War: Amer. Vs. Fr. Trade ships in Caribbean
Direct Tax (property, slaves & dwellings) pay for war



DOMESTIC PROBLEMS



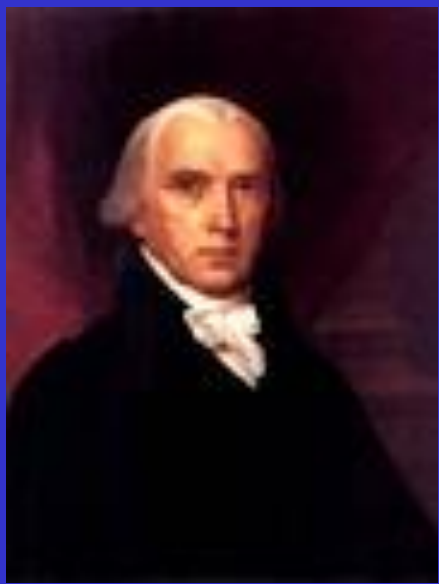
ALIEN & SEDITION ACTS

- **Problems with Fr. made Amer. turn vs. immigrants**
- **Hurt Dem-Rep party (made up of immigrants)**
- **1798 (4 laws) = ALIEN & SEDITION ACTS**
 -  **Increased yrs. needed for alien to become citizen**
 -  **New citizens couldn't vote**
 -  **Gave Pres. Power to deport “dangerous” aliens**
 -  **Made “sedition” (using acts/lang. To stir up rebellion vs. gov't.) a crime**

DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

KENTUCKY & VIRGINIA RESOLUTIONS

- 1798 Jefferson & Madison framed answer to Alien & Sedition Acts based upon Constitutionality of issue



- Jefferson's argument: under principle of states' rights each state could rule a law "null & void" if it ruled law Unconstitutional

- Federalists argument: only Supreme Court could declare Constitutionality

ELECTION OF 1800

- **Federalist Party divided:**
Adams kept U.S. from Civil War with Convention of 1800

- 1799 Napoleon ruling France so relations improved
- Treaty of Morfontaine: 



- released U.S. from 1778 Franco-Amer. Alliance
- Fr. would not have to pay for damages to Amer. Ships

WAR AVOIDED!

ELECTION OF 1800

- Election bitter (perceptions)

- Federalists seen as “monarchists”

- Republicans seen as “godless”  Deism

- Rep. mobilized voters (many new immigrants)

- Federalists lost key voters:

- Mid-Atl. commercial farmers (b/c of direct tax)

- Artisans in port cities (over Jay's Treaty)

- Only N.E. solidly Federalists

ELECTION OF 1800



Democratic-Republicans: Jefferson & Burr tied

Vote went to House ➡ Dominated by Federalists

➡ Voted for Burr ➡ Deadlocked ➡

Jefferson chosen by promising NOT to dismantle the
Hamilton Economic Plan



1804: 12th Amendment ➡ Electors vote separately for
President and Vice-President