



John Adams

A Guy Who Was President

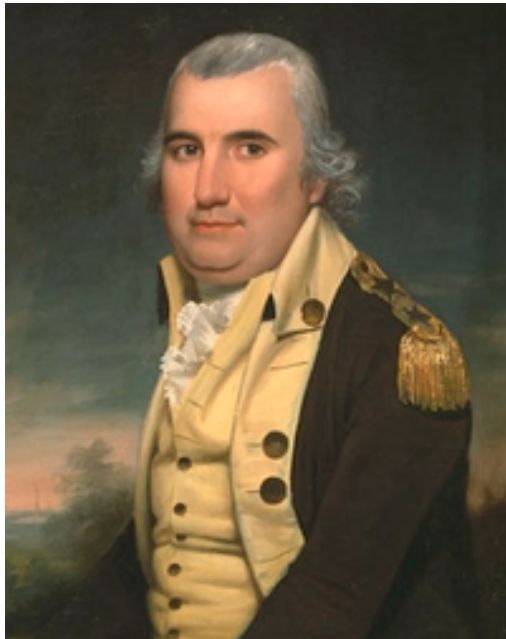
Targets

Questions to Ponder

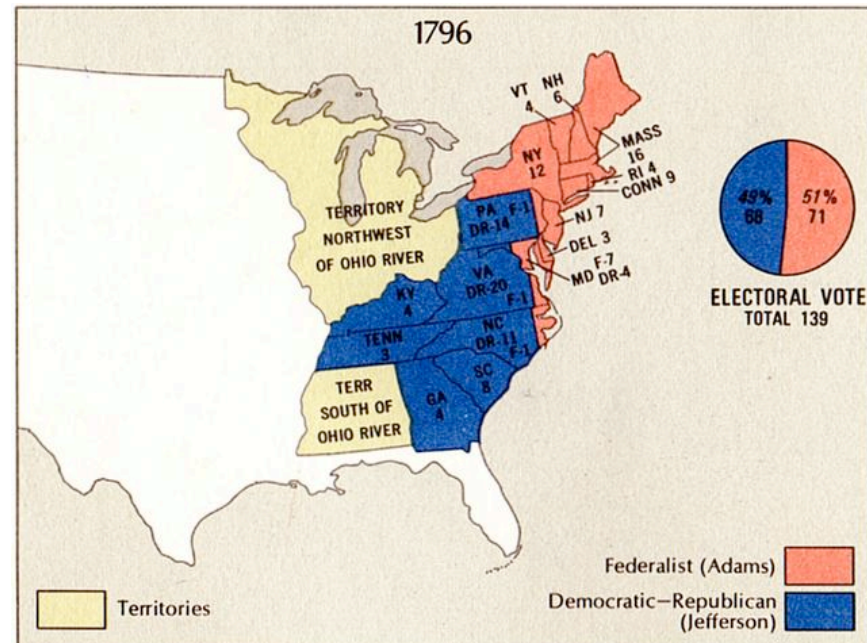
- To what extent were the Alien and Sedition Acts a violation of the Bill of Rights?
- How did the Federalist party justify the need for the acts?
- How did they affect the growth of the Republican party?
- Were the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions opposed to the restriction of rights under the Alien & Sedition Acts or were they concerned about the nature of federalism?

Election of 1796

- Each elector cast two votes; the person with the most votes was Pres., second most, VP
- Hamilton tried to get *Pinckney* elected by obtaining the second vote from both Federalists and Republicans → failed
- → Adams receives Pres, Jefferson VP



Pinckney?!



XYZ Affair

- Adams send US envoy of Marshall, Pinckney and Gerry to France to negotiate end to French impressment of US sailors
- **Talleyrand**, French Foreign Minister tried to bribe→
- Press picks up story, and US demands war against France→
- *Undeclared* sea war for two years→ est. US Navy (1798)
- Adams refused to bend to party politics by declaring war, instead he sent **Murray** to negotiate a new treaty with France to agree to free trade and end to hostilities→ **Napoleon** now in charge so ready to negotiate to set up allies against Britain



Tallyrand



Napoleon



Alien & Sedition Acts

Alien Acts (June-July 1798)

- **Alien Enemies Act** – Restraint of enemy aliens during wartime
- **Naturalization Act** – Citizenship takes 14 years (aimed at Republican party b/c most immigrants joined it)
- **Alien Friends Act** – (for 2 years only) President power to deport any alien he considers dangerous

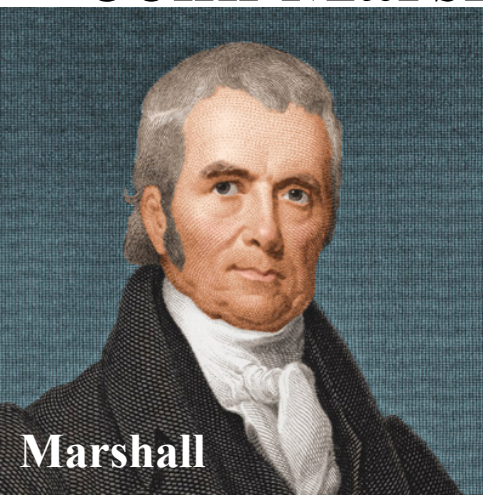
Sedition Act (July 1798) – fines and imprisonment to people who opposed the govt.; expire when new president comes into office

- **Virginia Resolution** (Madison) and **Kentucky Resolution** (Jefferson) – state the authority of the state govs to rule the Alien and Sedition Acts unconstitutional and accd to Kentucky Res null and void → not enforced, but raised the issue of central vs. state gov as supreme law of land



Election of 1800

- Adams denounced High Federalists too late; lost by 8!
- Jefferson and Burr tie (73 EVs) → tie broken in House
 - tie couldn't be broken for a week (some Reps cast blank ballots and Jefferson won necessary nine states; Burr → VP)
- 12th Amendment – voting separate for Pres. and VP.
- Meanwhile...Adams – Secures Federalist position in judiciary for decades by appointed “midnight judges”; **John Marshall** as chief justice



There is a maxim, 'Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.' It is a maxim for sluggards. A better reading of it is, 'Never do today what you can as well do tomorrow, because something may occur to make you regret your premature action.'

(Aaron Burr)

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