

The Second President

The **John Adams'** Years

1796-1800

John Adams



I. **John Adams**

- A. He knew that Washington and Jefferson would be more admired.
- B. He felt he had made great sacrifices and worked harder than any early leader.
- C. He was honest, capable leader who did what was best for the country, even if it hurt him politically.

II. **Conflict with France**

- A. France objected to **Jay's Treaty** because it *avored Britain*. In 1797, French ships began to seize American ships in West Indies.

B. Americans now called for war with France and Adams sent diplomats to Paris to discuss rights of neutral nations.

III. XYZ Affair

A. French Foreign Minister **Tallyrand** sent three agents to deal with American officials.

B. Agents said **Tallyrand** wanted \$250,000 for himself and \$10,000,000 loan for France before talks could begin.

TALLYRAND



- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afB5NJmER5M>

- C. Adams was angry and told Congress. He did not name the French agents, only called them **"X, Y and Z."**
- D. Americans were outraged and demanded war with France.
- E. Americans said *"Millions for defense, not one cent for tribute."*

IV. Adams Avoids War

- A. Adams refused to ask Congress for war, instead built up Navy with new ships and many guns.
- B. Tallyrand then stopped attacking our ships and promised to treat American ambassadors with respect.

I. Alien and Sedition Acts

A. In 1798, **Federalists** pushed through acts during conflict with France.

B. **Alien Acts** was passed to keep out any foreigner thought dangerous to the country.

C. Another law made it harder for an immigrant to become a citizen, changing the wait from 5 to 14 years.

D. **Sedition Acts** said citizens could be fined or jailed if they criticized the government.

Definitions:

- 1. **Aliens:** Foreign-born resident who is not naturalized.
- 2. **Sedition:** Stirring up rebellion against the government.

E. Republicans said the **Acts** violated the Constitution, mainly the First Amendment.

F. Several **Republican** newspaper editors were jailed for expressing their opinions and even members of Congress were jailed for expressing their opinions.

G. Jefferson said states could **nullify** (or cancel) a law if they thought it was wrong.

VI. **Rights of States**



Jefferson

- A. Jefferson and Madison pushed the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions.
- B. They claimed that **each state had an** equal right to judge if a law was Constitutional. They said a state had the power to **nullify** any law within its borders.
- c. The question went unanswered for years. **The Alien and Sedition Acts** were dropped soon after.

VII. Election of 1800

- A. Republicans hoped to force Federalists out of office in 1800. They raised two issues:

THE
KENTUCKY
AND
VIRGINIA RESOLUTIONS, &c.

OF
1798--1799,

THE
Great Debate in the United States Senate, 1833;

AND
MANY OTHER PAPERS RELATIVE
TO THE
Constitution and Government of the United States;

STATES RIGHTS,
AND
NULLIFICATION.

BALTIMORE,
JOHN P. DES FORGES, ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSTORE,
No. 12 Light Street, Baltimore.

Federalists had raised taxes for potential war with France, **The Alien and Sedition Acts**.

B. Republicans supported **Thomas Jefferson** for President and **Aaron Burr** for Vice President.

C. Federalists again named **John Adams**.

D. It was a tie in the Electoral College, each with 73 votes. The **House of Representatives** would then settle the election.

E. After 4 days and 36 votes, Jefferson was chosen, with Burr as Vice President.

F. **Twelfth Amendment**, in 1804, made electors vote separately for President and V.P.

VIII. End of Federalist Era

A. Election of 1800 showed power would transfer from one party to another peacefully.

B. Federalists began to lose power, won fewer seats in Congress.

C. In 1804, Vice President **Aaron Burr** killed **Alexander Hamilton** in a duel and Federalists lost their leader.

D. Republican Presidents kept most of Hamilton's economic programs.

