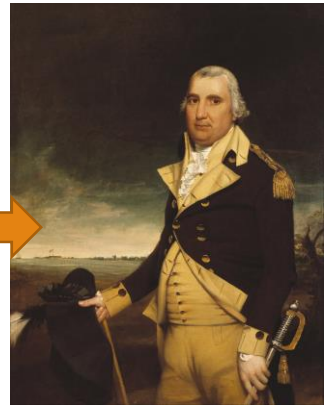
ELECTION OF 1796

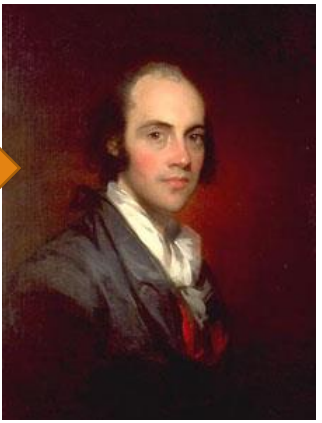
PARTY TICKETS EMERGE DESPITE WASHINGTON'S WARNING

Federalists



- **John Adams**
  - Bad personality
  - Obnoxious and Disliked
- **Thomas Pinckney**
  - Former governor of South Carolina
  - Negotiated Pinckney's Treaty (Treaty of San Lorenzo)

Democratic-Republicans



- **Thomas Jefferson**
  - Retired from Secretary of State in 1793
  - Constant conflict with Hamilton (Federalist Puppet Master)
- **Aaron Burr**

Remember! Constitution was not designed for political parties

- ❑ Each Elector votes for 2 people
  - Most votes President
  - Second Place Vice President

12th Amendment

Differences Between the First Political Parties

Federalists	Democratic-Republicans
Leader: Alexander Hamilton	**Leader:** Thomas Jefferson
Favored:	**Favored:**
• Rule by the wealthy class	• Rule by the people
• Strong federal government	• Strong state governments
• Emphasis on manufacturing	• Emphasis on agriculture
• Loose interpretation of the Constitution	• Strict interpretation of the Constitution
• British alliance	• French alliance
• National bank	• State banks
• Protective tariffs	• Free trade

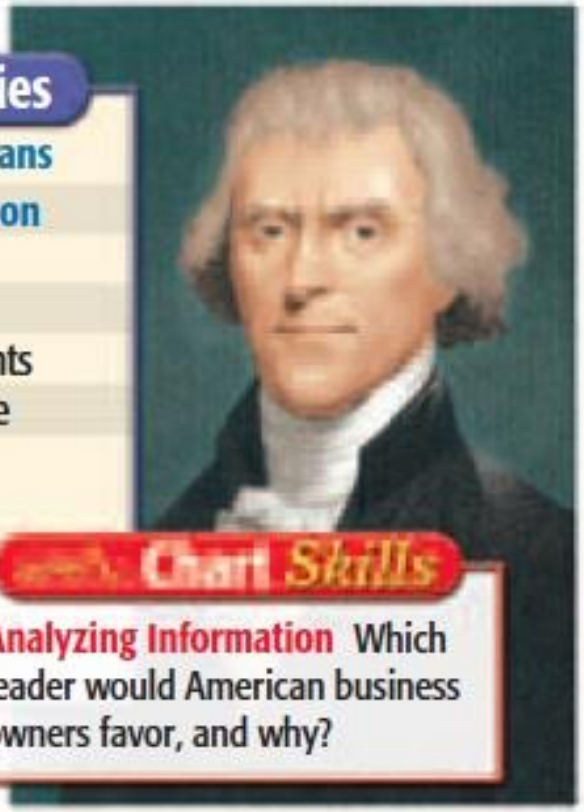


Chart Skills

Analyzing Information Which leader would American business owners favor, and why?

POLITICAL PARTIES IN 1796

Not my business

Hamilton's Silent Hand

- Hamilton
  - HATED Thomas Jefferson
  - DISTRUSTED John Adams

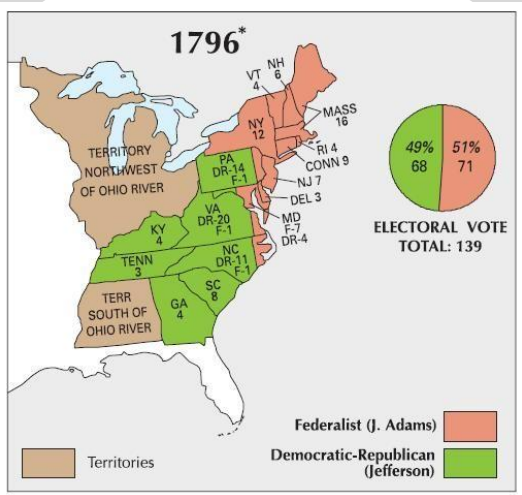
    SO HE TAKES ACTION
    - Published anonymous papers directed at Jefferson
    - Tried to get people to vote for Pinckney

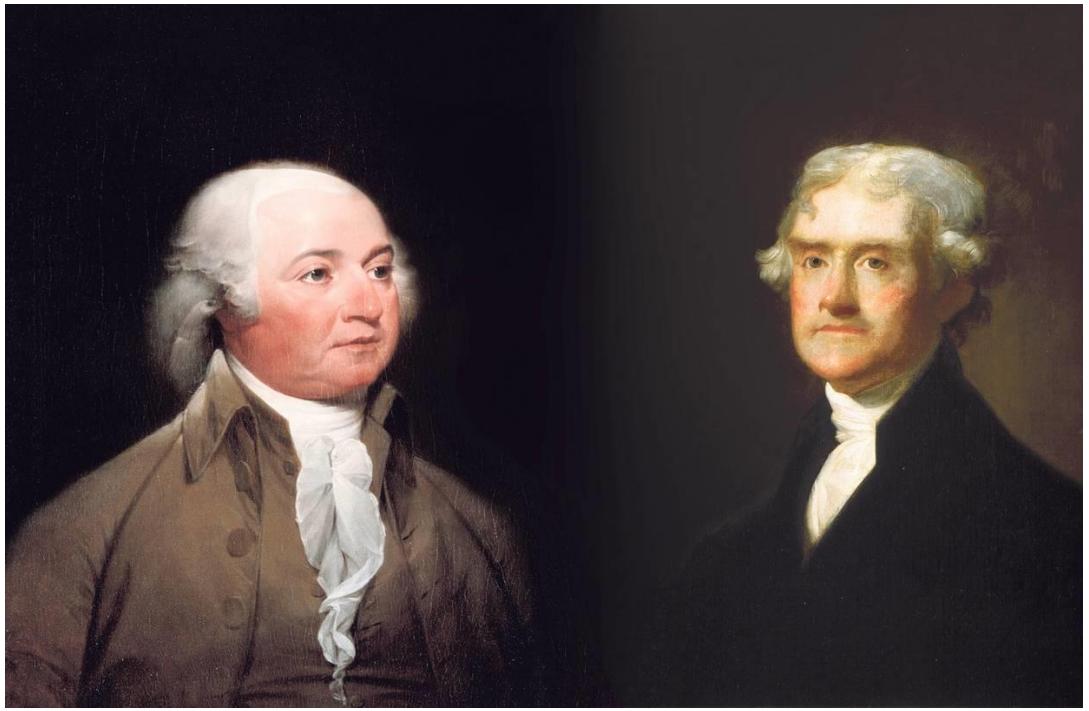
    BUT! Did not work

✓ Adams President

✓ Jefferson Vice President

Result: Divided Government





John Adams Assumes the Presidency

- Inaugural speech: Declares neutrality and respect for the French
  - Democratic-Republicans satisfied
  - Federalists satisfied because
    - Kept three of Washington's cabinet members
    - Cabinet members
      - Hamilton loyalists
      - Followed Hamilton's lead on everything!
- Jefferson and Adams
  - Tried to be civil towards each other
  - Did not last long
    - Hamilton was giving Adams advice
    - Democratic-Republican positions ignored

Inheritance of Trouble

- France unhappy with the election of Adams
  - Jefferson pro-French
  - Angered by US neutrality
  - Angered by Jay's Treaty (U.S. and UK)
- French
  - Stop American ships
  - Seize goods bound for Great Britain
- French refuse to talk with the U.S. minister sent by Washington

- Between 1796-98 French Actions
  - Captured 300+ US ships
  - Seized $20 million in US cargo
- Federalists wanted war, Adams wanted to negotiate
  - Fall of 1797 three men sent to France to negotiate (not received)
  - Built the military – to be ready.

XYZ Affair

- **President Adams wants to restore peace with France**
  - **Sends representatives (Charles Pinckney, John Marshall, Elbridge Gerry) to meet the Foreign Minister.**
    - **Talleyrand puts them off.**

- **Charles de Talleyrand (French Foreign Minister)**
  - **After a delay sends 3 unnamed French agents (X, Y, Z) to meet with American Delegation and present demands**
    - **Talleyrand wants $250,000 (bribe) just to talk**
    - **Provide France a $12 million loan**
- **Pinckney's response: "No! No! Not a sixpence!"**
- **Commissioners depart France to tell Adams**
- **Americans, even Democratic-Republican's are infuriated**
  - **Call for War**
  - **Create Department of the Navy**
  - **Build Warships**

Response

- Adams DEMANDS
  - Weapons on cargo ships
  - Enlarge the Navy
  - Create Department of the Navy
  - Build forts to defend the harbors
  - Enter into alliances with neutral nations
- Congress decides to:
  - Establish Department of the Navy
  - Build Warships
  - Increase size of the Army
  - Establish an Army Reserve
- June 1798: Congress
  - Suspends trade with France
  - Directs Navy to capture armed French ships

Quasi-War of 1798-1799

- Quasi: undeclared war (legally)
- Fought completely on the water
  - Mostly in the Caribbean, 100+ French ships captured
- Adams knows the US is not prepared to fully enter a war, which is why he never asks to declare war
- Hostilities End
  - Convention of 1800 (Treaty of Mortefontaine) ratified in 1801.
  - Terminated the only formal treaty of alliance the young nation had signed.

(It would be nearly 150 years before we entered into another formal alliance).

Response at Home

- Federalists and Democratic-Republicans at each other's throats!
- Very little chance of an invasion of the states by France.
  - Democratic-Republicans felt that it was all the work of Hamilton's "Silent Hand" to build the army against people against the government
  - Does Hamilton want to be second-in-commend behind Washington? OF COURSE! Washington too old defer to Hamilton.
- Adams growing more mistrusting of his cabinet, but goes with it (too politically weak to fight them) Realizes Hamilton's ploy and finally acts against him, but too late.
- Democratic-Republican newspapers talked trash about Adams
  - "Man without patriotism"
  - Pro-French mobs on the streets in Philly (the capital)
- Adams stocked up on weapons in his presidential quarters
- Federalists burn Democratic-Republican newspapers

JOHN ADAMS IS LOSING IT!!!

- Alien and Sedition Acts
  - Signed into law by President John Adams in 1798
  - Four laws passed by the Federalist-controlled Congress
  - America preparing for war with France.

  - WHAT DID THEY DO
    - Increased the residency requirement for American citizenship
      - Five year requirement eliminated, NOW
      - Fourteen years
    - Authorized the President to imprison or deport aliens considered "dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States"
    - Restricted speech critical of the government.
      - These laws were designed to silence and weaken the Democratic-Republican Party.
  - Backfired
    - Negative reaction to the Alien and Sedition Acts helped contribute to the Democratic-Republican victory in the 1800 elections.

Congress repealed the Naturalization Act in 1802, while the other acts were allowed to expire.

Federalists' Attack on French

Alien Acts

- Extend wait time for citizenship from 5 years → 14 years
- Mandatory registration with the federal government
- Presidential power authorized in time of war
  - Deport or imprison any foreigner suspected of being a danger to the US
  - NO trial needed!

Intent of the Act

- Harass French immigrants
- Discourage others from coming

NOTE: **Alien is any person living in a country who is not a citizen of that country**

Federalists' attack on the Democratic-Republicans

Tensions very high

Sedition Act

- Made conspiracy and revolt illegal.
- Penalized speaking or writing anything against the President or Congress
- 15 men, Democratic-Republican editors charged
  - 12 convicted

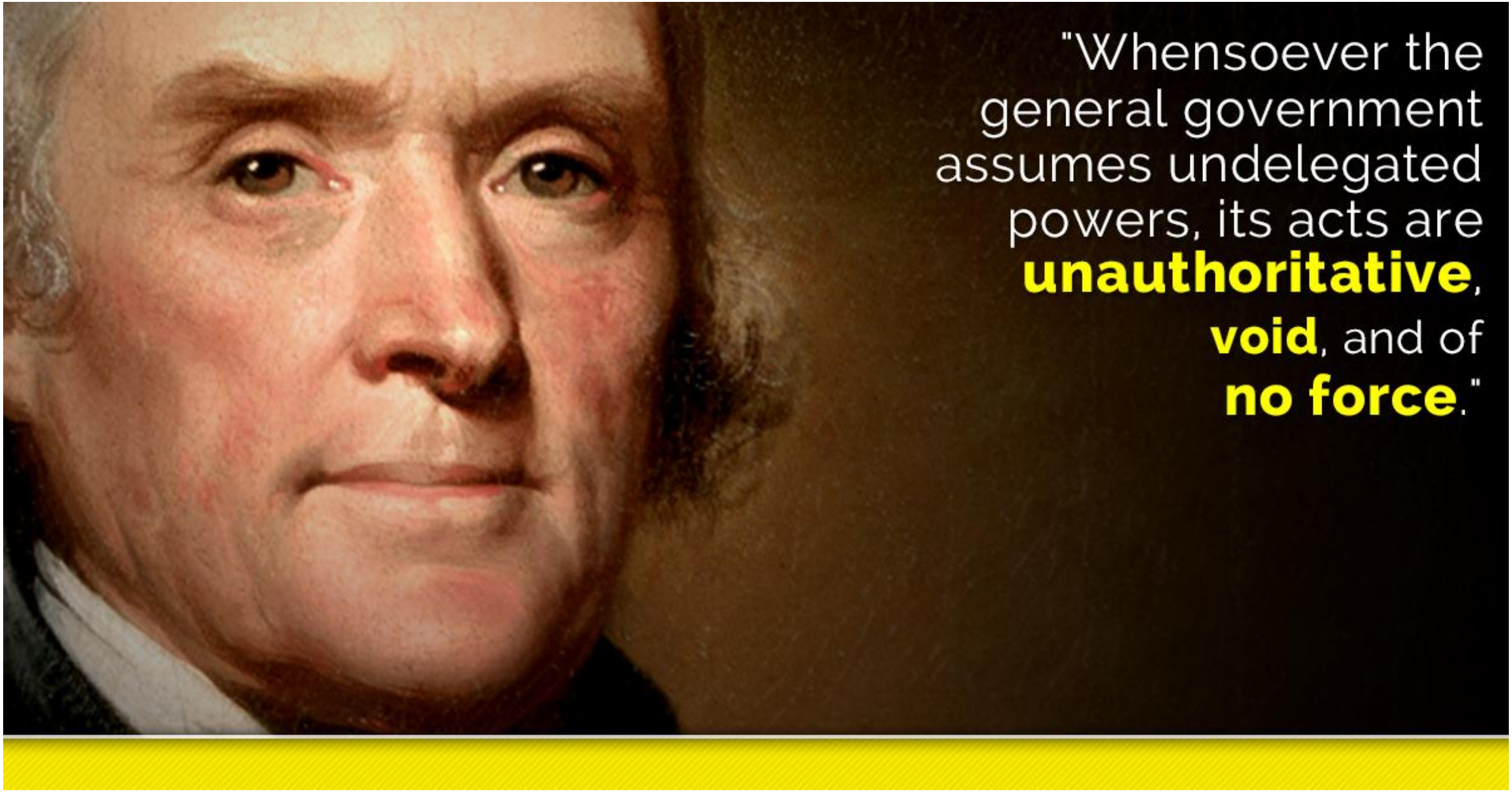
The Response

Democratic-Republicans

- Upset
  - Violates the basic concept of the Bill of Rights
- Not enough votes in Congress to overrule
- Federalist court maintains Constitutionality

Madison and Jefferson turn to state legislatures

- Each drafted a **resolution anonymously**
  - Provided to Virginia and Kentucky
    - Propose to the federal government
    - Demonstrate power of states
    - CHECK CONSTITUTIONALITY OF A FEDERAL LAW
    - NULLIFY LAWS DEEMED UNCONSTITUTIONAL


"Whensoever the general government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force."

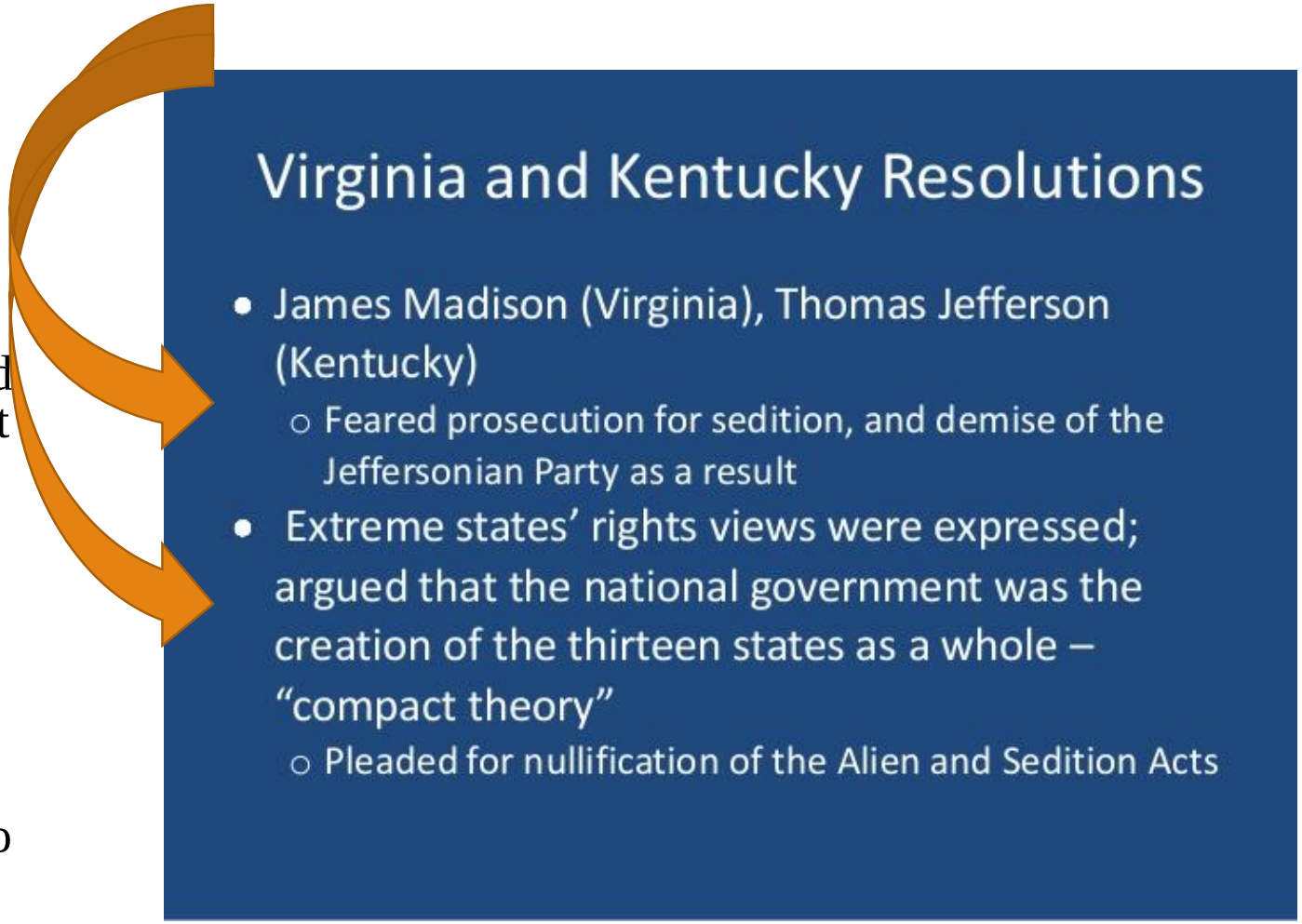
Resolutions

Virginia

- Interposition:
  - Argued that if the federal government did something unconstitutional, the state could **interpose** between the federal government and the people to stop the action

Kentucky

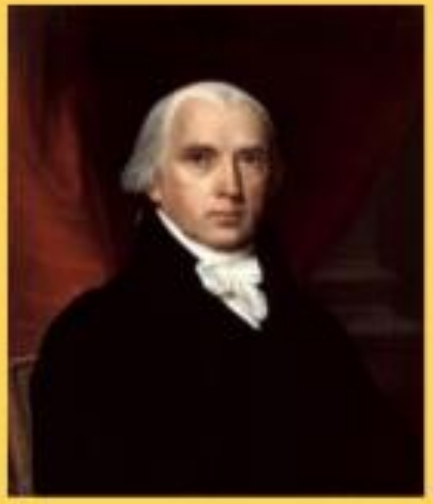
- Nullification:
  - If the federal government passed an unconstitutional law, states had the right to **nullify** or declare it invalid

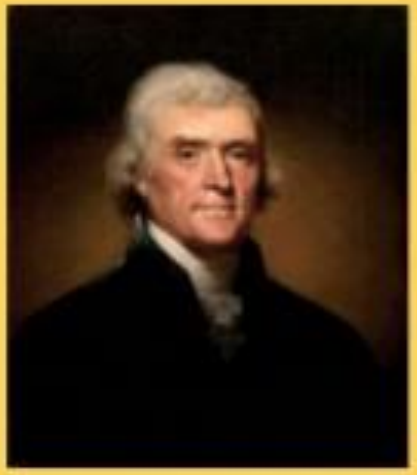


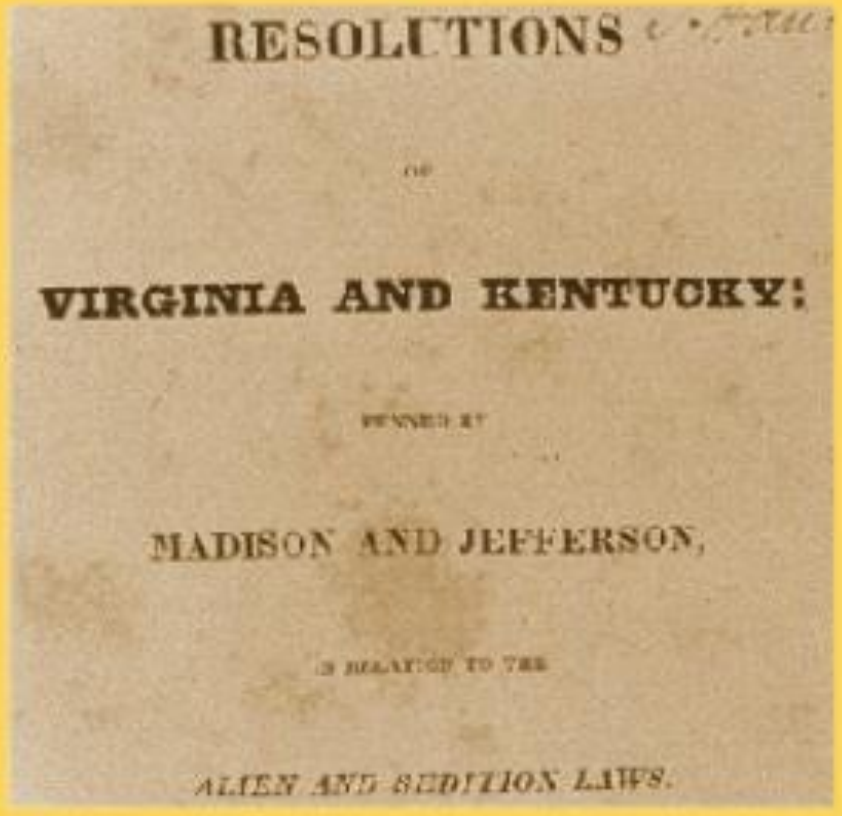
Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions: 1798-99

- Response to the Alien and Sedition Acts
- Articulated the doctrine of "State's Rights"
- Madison (anonymously) wrote the Virginia Resolution
- Jefferson (anonymously) wrote the Kentucky Resolution
- Introduced the idea of interposition and "nullification" - states could nullify federal laws deemed objectionable
- First muted thoughts of secession by a state…

- Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions (1798)
  a. Republicans felt Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional
  b. Jefferson and Madison secretly penned two resolutions that asserted that states have the right to nullify unconstitutional laws passed by Congress.
  c. Federalists retorted that the people, not states created Constitution and that the Supreme Court and not states determined the constitutionality of laws.
  d. No other states but VA and KY adopted resolutions, but southern states would use this later in 19th century to support nullification and secession.





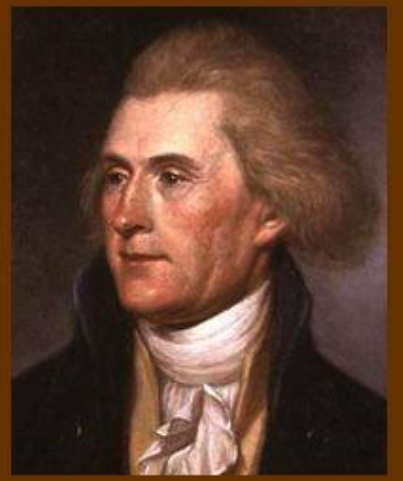


I. Election of 1800

- A. Republican Candidates
  - 1. President- Thomas Jefferson
  - 2. Vice-president- Aaron Burr

  B. Federalist Candidates

  1. President- John Adams

  2. Vice-president- Charles Pickney

  C. For elections at that time, every elector casted 2 votes for President (the one with the second highest vote, would be VP).