



Election of 1796
and
Adams
Administration



- Followers of Hamilton

- Federalists = liked big government

- Supported John Adams for President and Thomas Pinckney for VP

- Feared “mobocracy” > emphasized order and stability

- Followers of Jefferson

- Republicans = liked small government

- Supported Jefferson for President and Aaron Burr for VP

- Accused Federalists of becoming party for wealthy

- Federalists = controlled government
- Republicans = organized popular support
 - Immigrant voters (mainly Irish)
 - Concentrated on local and state issues > attack from beneath strategy
- Both parties attacked each other's stands on issues
 - Newspapers with negative stories
 - Libelous and irresponsible character assassinations

1796 Election

- Test of the Constitution
 - Followed process in Constitution > no violent change in govt like elsewhere
- Majority of votes = president
- Second most votes = vice president
- Surprise!!!
 - Adams (Fed) = wins election
 - Jefferson (Rep) = second
 - Both sides thought their VP would come in second

Trouble with France

- France saw Jay's Treaty as start of Anglo-American alliance
 - Starts seizing ships bound for England
- Adams sends diplomats to France to head off war
 - 3 unnamed agents ("X, Y, and Z") of French Foreign Minister Talleyrand demand bribes and loans
 - U.S. delegation refused and left
 - Embarrassment for Republicans
 - Enflamed anti-French sentiment in U.S.

- 2 year undeclared naval war with France in West Indies (1798-1800)
 - Adams = praised for resisting calls to declare war
- Convention of 1800 (treaty with Napoleon)
 - Terminates alliance of 1778 > U.S. = free of Euros
 - U.S. to pay claims by U.S. shippers who lost ships to France

Alien and Sedition Acts

- 1798
- Passed by Federalist dominated Congress
 - Harsh laws aimed at crippling “disloyal” Republicans and quieting criticism of Federalists
 - Defended as necessary war measures

Alien Acts

- Aimed at new immigrants
 - They tended to join Republicans
- Raised requirements for citizenship
- Allowed for deportation of aliens judged as dangerous to peace and safety of U.S.

Sedition Act

- Aimed at stopping domestic criticism
 - Outlawed public criticism of government and officials
 - Aimed at rival politicians and newsmen
 - A clear threat to critics of Federalists

Significance of Alien and Sedition Acts

- Deepened divide between Reps and Feds
- Provoked first statement of nullification theory
- Limited Free Speech
- Limited liberties of foreigners

Republican Response

- Republicans = violation of 1st amendment
- Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions
 - Jefferson and Madison
 - Passed by VA and KY state legislatures
- Protest the Alien and Sedition Acts
- Claimed Acts = unconstitutional and void
 - Since states create national government, states could nullify federal laws that the state considered unconstitutional
 - Principle of *nullification* – key states' rights argument used by South

VA & KY Resolutions

- Federalists argued that Supreme Court, not states, determines constitutionality
- VA & KY Resolutions become propaganda against Federalists in 1800 election
 - Underscoring Federalist violations of civil rights

Left-Side Activity

- Put the following things into a graphic organizer showing their relationship:
 - Trouble with France
 - Alien Act
 - Sedition Act
 - Virginia and Kentucky Resolves