

John Adams' Presidency



Election of 1796

- ▶ Adams wins by 3 Electoral Votes over Jefferson
- ▶ Jefferson becomes Vice President under Constitutional Rule (changed with the 12th Amendment)

XYZ Affair

- ▶ American's are angry over U.S. ships being seized by French
- ▶ Adams sends delegates over – meet with French Ministers called “X, Y, and Z” to protect their anonymity
- ▶ X, Y, and Z request bribes for negotiating. This info makes the newspapers, many call for war against France
- ▶ Hamilton hopes that war will happen so U.S. can get French and Spanish lands
- ▶ Adams resists, says military is not strong enough. Uses this event to raise taxes to build up military

Alien and Sedition Acts

- ▶ Public anger against French gives Federalists an advantage
- ▶ Adams passes
 - Naturalization Act – increase from 5-14 years for immigrants to get citizenship
 - Alien Act – President can deport any “dangerous” aliens in time of war
 - Sedition Act – Illegal for newspaper editors to criticize President or Congress

Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions

- ▶ Democratic-Republicans argue Alien & Sedition Acts are against the 1st Amendment / (No Judicial Review yet)
- ▶ Kentucky takes Jefferson's resolution and Virginia takes Madison's resolution stating states entered into a compact in forming National government, so if federal act violates compact, states can **nullify law**
- ▶ Crisis fades because federalists lose majority in Congress and John Marshall asserts Judicial power is the deciding factor of constitutionality of laws

Election of 1800

- ▶ Called the “Revolution of 1800”
- ▶ Peaceful transition of power from one party to another
- ▶ Federalist to Democratic-Republicans
- ▶ Jefferson becomes President