

# Thomas Jefferson's Presidency

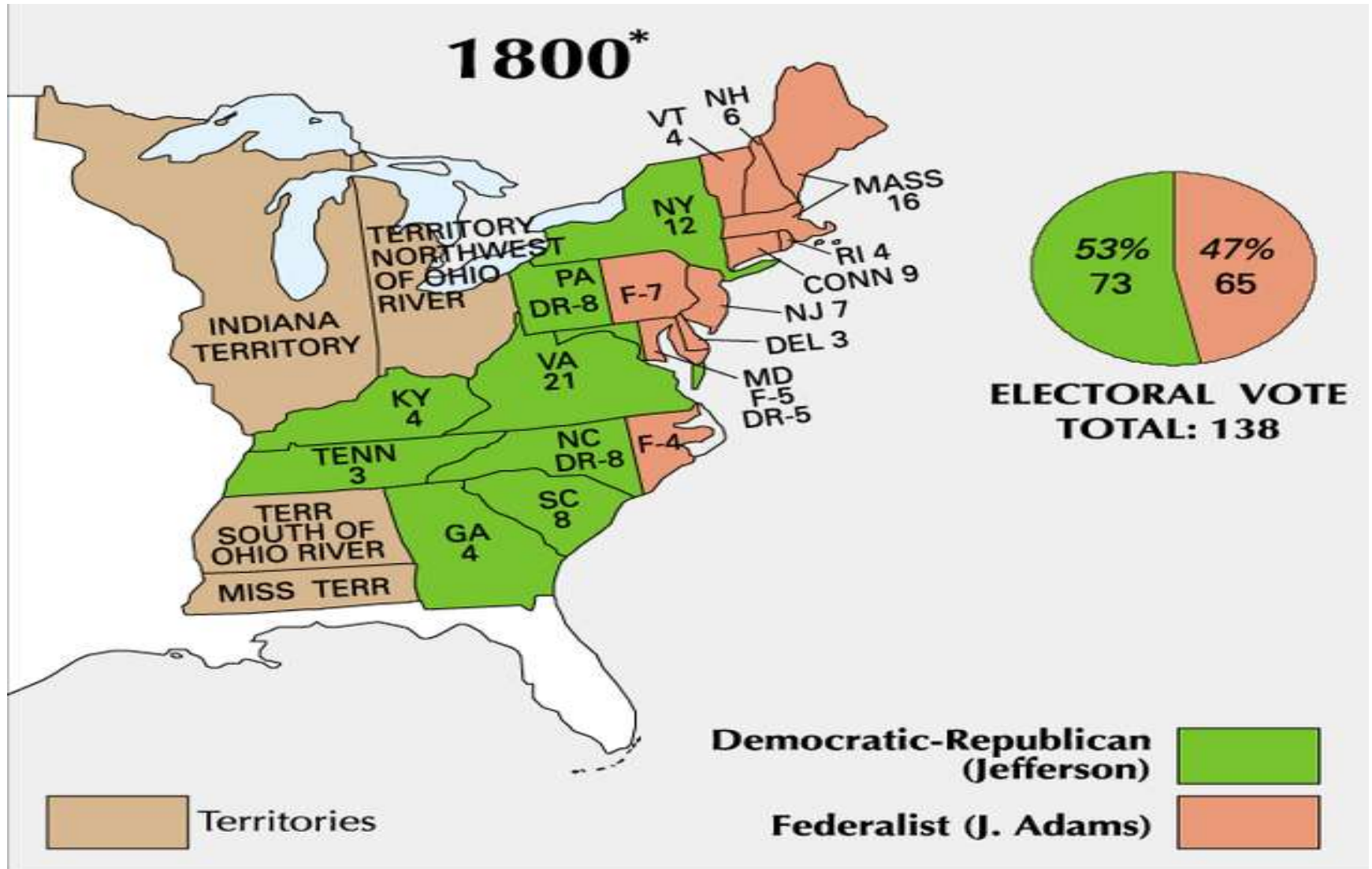
1800-1808

*“Let us then, fellow citizens, unite with one heart and one mind. Let us restore to social intercourse that harmony and affection without which liberty and even life itself are but dreary things ... but every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle. We have called by different names brethren of the same principle. We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists.”*

Thomas Jefferson

1<sup>st</sup> Inaugural Address 1801

# Election of 1800



# Political Changes under Jefferson

- Stayed with Federalist Bank and Neutrality policies
- Installed Republican Ideals
  - reduced the size of the military
  - repealed the excise taxes (including whiskey)
  - lowered the National debt
  - only had Republicans in his Cabinet

# Louisiana Purchase

- Napoleon has war with Britain, needs to sell land to get \$
- Pinckney Treaty is not working, right of deposit was in jeopardy
- \$10 million is offered for New Orleans and strip of land spanning to Florida
- Napoleon offers all of Louisiana for \$15 million before U.S. offers anything
- Jefferson is faced with compromising his own principles, asks Congress to ratify agreement



# Louisiana Purchase

- **Was the Louisiana Purchase Constitutional?**
- Jefferson sets aside his ideals for the betterment of the country
- Agreement is ratified, but Jefferson has to eat his words in front of Federalists
- Felt all land could be agricultural, for the small farmer, thus solidifying Republican stronghold in government
- Wanted to keep urban New England from gaining Federalist strength in government
- Lewis and Clark expedition is sent
- Mapping and better relations with Indians helps open West

# Marbury vs. Madison 1803

- John Marshall – Chief Justice of Supreme Court
- Serves of Court for 34 years
- Court is only Federalist stronghold left in National government
- Marbury vs. Madison
  - J. Adams makes several “last minute” appointments to the Court while leaving office
- Stamps with Presidential seal and gives to Secretary of State Madison to file



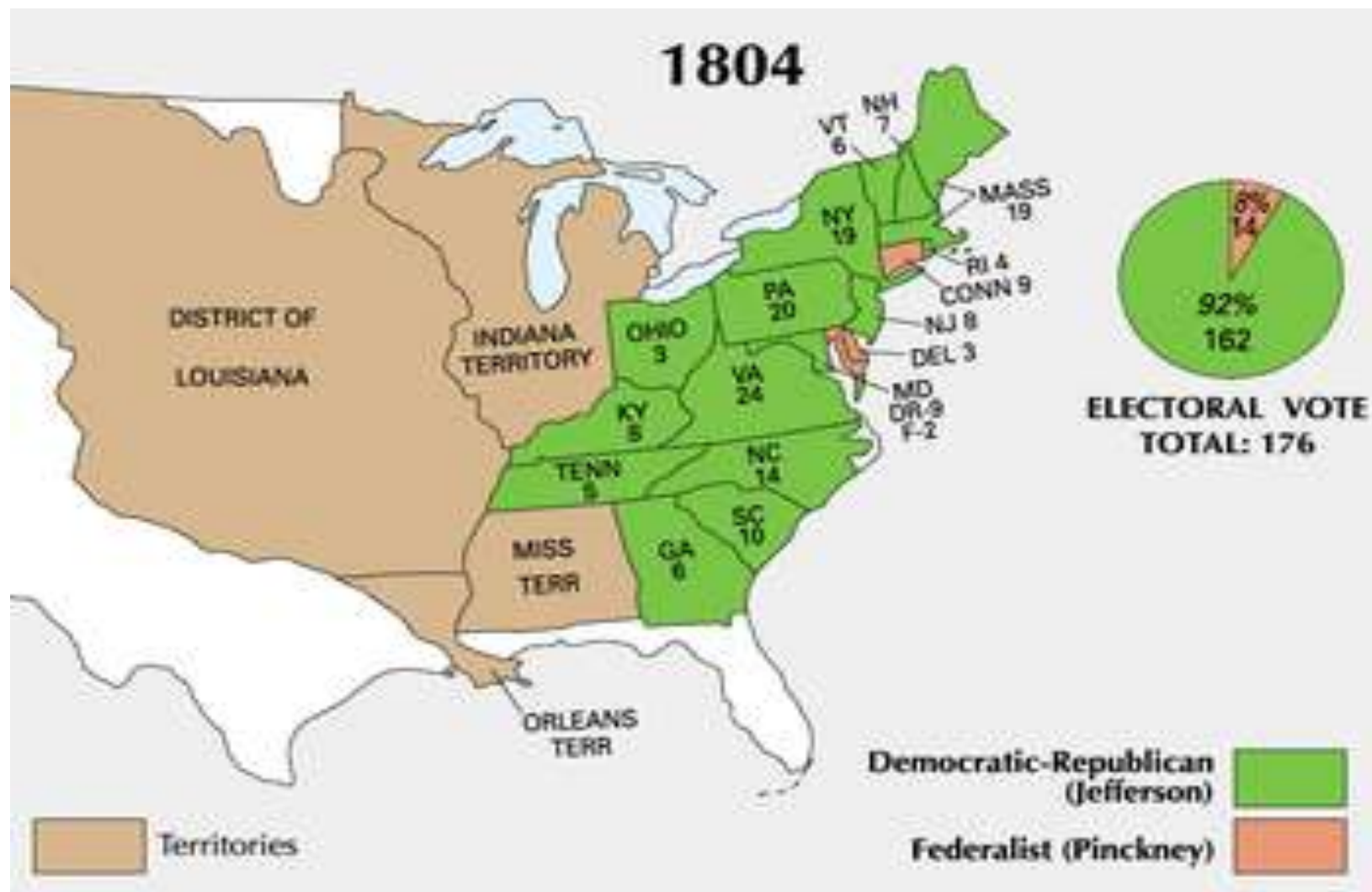
# Marbury vs. Madison 1803

- Madison refuses to file with Jefferson's urging
- Marbury sues for his rightful job
- Jefferson felt Court would side with Marbury, would invoke KY & VA Resolutions
- Marshall's Court decides that while Marbury should have job, but the Judiciary Act of 1789 was unconstitutional
- Victory for Republicans, but long term victory for loose constructionists
- Judicial Review is established as the courts' power to determine unconstitutional actions

# Marbury vs. Madison 1803

- Jefferson tries to have federal judges impeached. Successful at first, later just seemed ridiculous.
- **Why did Jefferson try to impeach judges?**
- Chase Impeachment Trial (see reading)
- Threat of impeachment does cause many judges to be less partisan in their decision making processes

# Election of 1804



# Election of 1804

- Aaron Burr is not selected to stay on as Jefferson's Vice President
- Burr tries to become Governor of NY with the hope of NY joining New England and seceding from the Union
- Most of NY follows Hamilton, Burr's plan will not work, loses & blames Hamilton
- Challenges Hamilton to a duel, kills him

# Election of 1804

- With Hamilton's death, Federalist Party lose their last major figure
- Burr goes west and talks of taking Mexico from Spain and unite with Louisiana Territory
- Jefferson has him arrested and tried for treason - acquitted

# The Barbary Pirates

- North African pirates attack U.S. merchant ships
- Washington and Adams paid tribute to pirates to leave U.S. alone
- Pasha of Tripoli wants more tribute from Jefferson. He refuses
- Jefferson sends small naval detachment to fight. Didn't win, but message is sent.
- **SO WHAT?**

# Challenges to Neutrality

- Impressment of sailors into British navy after they took merchant ships from U.S.
- Confiscate cargo as well
- Even though France is also impressing, the British are blamed – WHY?
- British warship *Leopard* attacks *U.S.S. Chesapeake* off Virginia coast
  - 3 Americans killed, 4 others are captured and impressed
  - many Americans want war with the British

# Embargo Act of 1807

- No U.S. ships allowed into foreign ports anywhere
- Caused greater problems for U.S. than to Britain
- Gets so bad that New England talks of secession (Essex Junto & Hartford Convention)
- Repeal Act in 1809, except for trade with France and Britain
- **Why did Jefferson take such actions?**