1. Adams 2nd president—Jefferson VP
   • Serves 1 term—1797 to 1801

2. Possible war with France—Why?
   • French: US neutrality
   • US: *impressment* of our ships
   • Kidnapped our ships

3. Adams tries to avoid war
   • *XYZ Affair*  
     • French bribed the US
     • US wants war with France
     • *Undeclared naval war*—1798 - 1800

4. Adams prepares US for war...
   • *Alien and Sedition Act*—1798  
     • No immigrants and silenced free speech

5. VP Jefferson against these laws
   • Violated Bill of Rights
   • the states can refuse to obey it—*nullify*

6. Adams vs. French—1800—kept US out of war
   • Agreement:
     • Napoleon Bonaparte agreed to abandon US responsibility to the Franco/American Treaty of 1778

**The Adams Administration**

- The Constitution in Crisis
- 1797-1801

**Washington’s Farewell Address**

- **WARNINGS:**  
  - Political Partisanship
  - Sectionalism
  - Foreign Entanglements
  - Respect the Constitution

**The Election of 1796**

- John Adams
  - FEDERALIST
  - VS.

- Thomas Jefferson
  - REPUBLICAN
Adams Becomes President

1796 campaign

- Adams was supported by New England and Federalists
  - Defeated Jefferson 71-68 in Electoral College
  - Jefferson becomes VP
- France and US close to war.
  - Jay's Treaty
  - US not honoring the Franco-American Treaty of 1778

The Endurance of Sectionalism

The Constitution, as originally written, made no provisions for political parties. The original formula for the selection of the President and Vice President reflected this.

The Results:

John Adams, President
Thomas Jefferson, Vice President

Partisan Newspapers

Gazette of the United States (Federalist)
National Gazette (Republican)
The Griswold-Lyon Fight 1798


• Griswold acted two weeks after the House had failed to expel Lyon on the grounds of “gross indecency” — for pelting Griswold with a stream of tobacco juice spit. When the attack came, Lyon defended himself with a pair of fire tongs.

I’ve got 99 problems… Partisanship’s only one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEDERALISTS</th>
<th>The First Party System</th>
<th>REPUBLICANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federalism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fears</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gov. Involvement in Economy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Bank</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protective Tariff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Assumption of State War Debts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Base</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**FEDERALISTS**
1. Alexander Hamilton/John Adams
2. Led by merchants, bankers and lawyers living primarily in New England.
3. Favored a strong central government.
4. Interpreted the Constitution loosely—"implied powers"
5. Believed in a government by the elite, educated and wealthy.
7. Favored Hamilton's financial policies—support BUS

**DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICANS**
2. Led by planters, farmers and wage earners living primarily in the South and West.
3. Favored strong state governments over national government.
4. Interpreted the Constitution strictly—"enumerated powers"
5. Rule by the educated masses.
6. Pro-France.
7. Opposed Hamilton's financial policies—against BUS
8. **Vision for US**: Agricultural society, little trade and industry

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**Impressment**

An act of kidnapping a ship, its contents, men and forcing them into your navy

*France began impressing our ships and sailors because of our Neutrality Proclamation.*

*France upset because we violated the Franco American Treaty of 1778.*

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**XYZ AFFAIR**

President Adams on the XYZ Affair..."I will never send another minister to France without assurances that he will be received, respected, and honored as the representative of a great, free, powerful and independent nation."

- To avoid war with France, President Adams sent 3 US representatives (John Marshall, Charles Pinckney and John Jay) to negotiate a peace agreement.....
- US representatives were snubbed by the French government.....
  - Eventually, 3 French representatives (known as X, Y and Z because they refused to give their names)
  - XYZ demanded a bribe of $250,000 to merely talk with Tallyrand
- Insulted, we refused the demands and left France....
- US & French begin to fight an undeclared naval war.

---

**Undeclared naval conflict between the US and France (1798-1800).**

**THE “QUASI-WAR”**

**Fighting with France**

- French upset by US violation of **France-US treaty of 1778**
- Upset with **Jay's Treaty** toward alliance with England
- French warships impressed over 300 US merchant ships by 1797

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**Undeclared naval conflict between the US and France (1798-1800).**
“The French government would permit us to remain at Paris and we should be received by Talleyrand one of us could go to American and consult our government on the subject of the loan.

We had no reason to believe that a possible benefit could result from it. And we desired him to tell his government that we would not give a shilling unless American property unjustly captured was previously restored and further hostilities suspended...

Unless this was done, we did not think that we could even consult our government concerning a loan...."
The Alien and Sedition Acts

1798

EXPIRATION DATE:
3/4/1801

Sedition Act

Constitutional?

Was the Sedition Act constitutional?

From Amendment I:
Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...

X RESERVED

SEDITON ACT

“That if any person shall write, print, utter, or publish, or shall cause or procure to be written, printed, uttered or published, or shall knowingly and willingly assist in any false, Scandalous and malicious writing or writings against the government of the United States, or either house of Congress or the President of the United States,
Then such person, being thereof convicted before any court of the United States, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars and by imprisonment not exceeding two years......”

EPIC FAIL

The Sedition Act violated the Constitution on two counts:
• Free Speech & Press (1st)
• States’ Rights (10th)

Clip from HBO’s John Adams (2:46)

Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions

What Now?
DOCTRINE OF NULLIFICATION: Since the States created the National Government, they have the right to nullify, cancel or decide not to obey a law they believed was unconstitutional.

Jefferson’s and Madison’s response to the Sedition Act:
- Believed Sedition Act violated freedom of speech and press.
- They tried to convince the other states not to support the Sedition Act.
- It failed and the Sedition Act remained the law until 1801.

Kentucky Resolutions
- That the General Assembly protests against the alarming infractions of the Constitution, in the "Alien and Sedition Acts" passed at the last session of Congress.
- That this state having by its Convention, expressly declared, that among other essential rights, "the Liberty of Conscience and of the Press cannot be cancelled, abridged, restrained, or modified by any authority of the United States."
- The General Assembly appeals to the other states, in confidence that they will concur that the acts are unconstitutional and that the necessary and proper measures will be taken by each in maintaining the Authorities, Rights, and Liberties, referred to the States respectively, or to the people.

Federalist No. 10
AMONG the numerous advantages promised by a well constructed Union, none deserves to be more accurately developed than its tendency to break and control the violence of faction...

Virginia & Kentucky Resolutions 1798
Protest Resolutions Passed by state legislatures
- COMPACT THEORY
  The Constitution is a compact (agreement) between the states, and they have the authority to interpret it.

How far can states go in resisting unconstitutional laws passed by the federal government?

INTERPOSITION

NULLIFICATION

Kentucky Resolutions
In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down... by the chains of the Constitution.
Jefferson to John Taylor of Caroline
“A little patience, and we shall see the reign of witches pass over, their spells dissolve, and the people, recovering their true sight, restore their government to its true principles.”

Patriotism Above Party
- New French leader, Napoleon and Talleyrand did not want war, or to push the US to Britain
- French send back-channel message that new US minister would be received properly
- 1799: Adams submits to Senate new minister to France

CONVENTION OF 1800
- To prevent a war with France, in 1800, President Adams sent representatives to France to meet with Napoleon and Talleyrand to negotiate a peace agreement....
- Tallyrand guarantees France would accept our representatives and treat them with respect. The agreement was as follows:

Convention of 1800 signed:
- ended Franco-American alliance
- Adams deserves credit:
  - Avoided war
  - Unknowingly laid foundation for LA Purchase
- Adams sacrificed his re-election in 1800 to keep US out of war
  - Patriotism above self-interest

Patriotism Above Party
- Hamilton and the war-hawk Federalists enraged, but most Americans agreeable to try for peace
- 1800: new US envoys come to find Napoleon as new dictator
  - Wants to resolve US conflict

Federalist Witch Hunt
- 1798: Using anti-French hysteria, Federalists in Congress passed the Alien & Sedition Acts
- Alien Laws: raised residency required for citizenship to 14 years (from 5), resulting in fewer Democratic-Republican voters
VA & KY Resolutions

- Jefferson (secretly) & Madison write resolutions adopted by KY & VA legislatures arguing "nullification"
- US government had overstepped its bounds ~ "compact" with states had been violated

Federalist Witch Hunt

- Alien Laws also gave President authority to deport (peace) or imprison (wartime) foreigners
- Sedition Act: prohibited impeding policies of government or falsely defaming officials ~ aimed at Jeffersonian newspapers

VA & KY Resolutions

- As a result, states could "nullify" federal laws ~ specifically the Alien & Sedition Acts
- Federalist response: it's people, not states, that formed union

1. Election of 1796
   - Rise of Political parties
   - Adams 2nd president—Jefferson VP
   - Serves 1 term—1797 to 1801

2. Foreign relations-----possible war with France—Why?
   - US neutrality, treaty of 1778 and Jay’s Treaty
   - US upset----"impressment" of our ships
   - Adams negotiates with France to keep US out of war
     - XYZ Affair
       - US apologize
       - Loan France money
       - $250,000 bribe
       - Americans demand war with France
         - Undeclared naval war—US vs France-1798 - 1800

3. President Adams prepares US for war....
   - Alien and Sedition Act—1798

4. VP Jefferson & Madison against these laws.. “Responses”
   - Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions
     - if US law violates the Constitution, the states can refuse to obey it....“nullification”
     - Why? Compact theory: States created national government and have the right to nullify any law they believe is unconstitutional
       - State's rights vs national govt. conflict

5. Adams vs. Napoleon Bonaparte to keep US out of war
   - Treaty agreement
     - Abandon treaty of 1778
     - US drop the claims against France
   - Adam’s accomplishment:
     - Kept US "neutral" and out of war
     - Sacrifices his presidency and will not be re-elected
     - Why? Went against people and Federalists
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KENTUCKY AND VIRGINIA RESOLUTION
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DOCTRINE OF NULLIFICATION: Since the States created the National Government, they have the right to nullify, cancel or decide not to obey a law they believe is unconstitutional...

COMPACT THEORY: Belief Jefferson and Madison held that since the states created the National Govt. and the states entered into this compact voluntarily, they have the right to refuse to obey any law they believe is unconstitutional....

CONVENTION OF 1800
To prevent a war with France, in 1800, President Adams sent representatives to France to meet with Tallyrand to negotiate a peace agreement..... Tallyrand guarantees France would accept our representatives and treat them with respect. The agreement was as follows:

• France dropped our responsibility to the treaty of 1778
• U.S. would drop the claims (lawsuits brought against the French Govt. for the recovery of private ships and cargo) for the impressment of our merchant ships....
• President Adams sacrificed his re-election and lost to Thomas Jefferson in 1800.