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John Adams 1797-1801



The Election of 1796



Federalist Candidate

John Adams
Thomas Jefferson

Electoral votes:

Adams: 71

Jefferson: 68



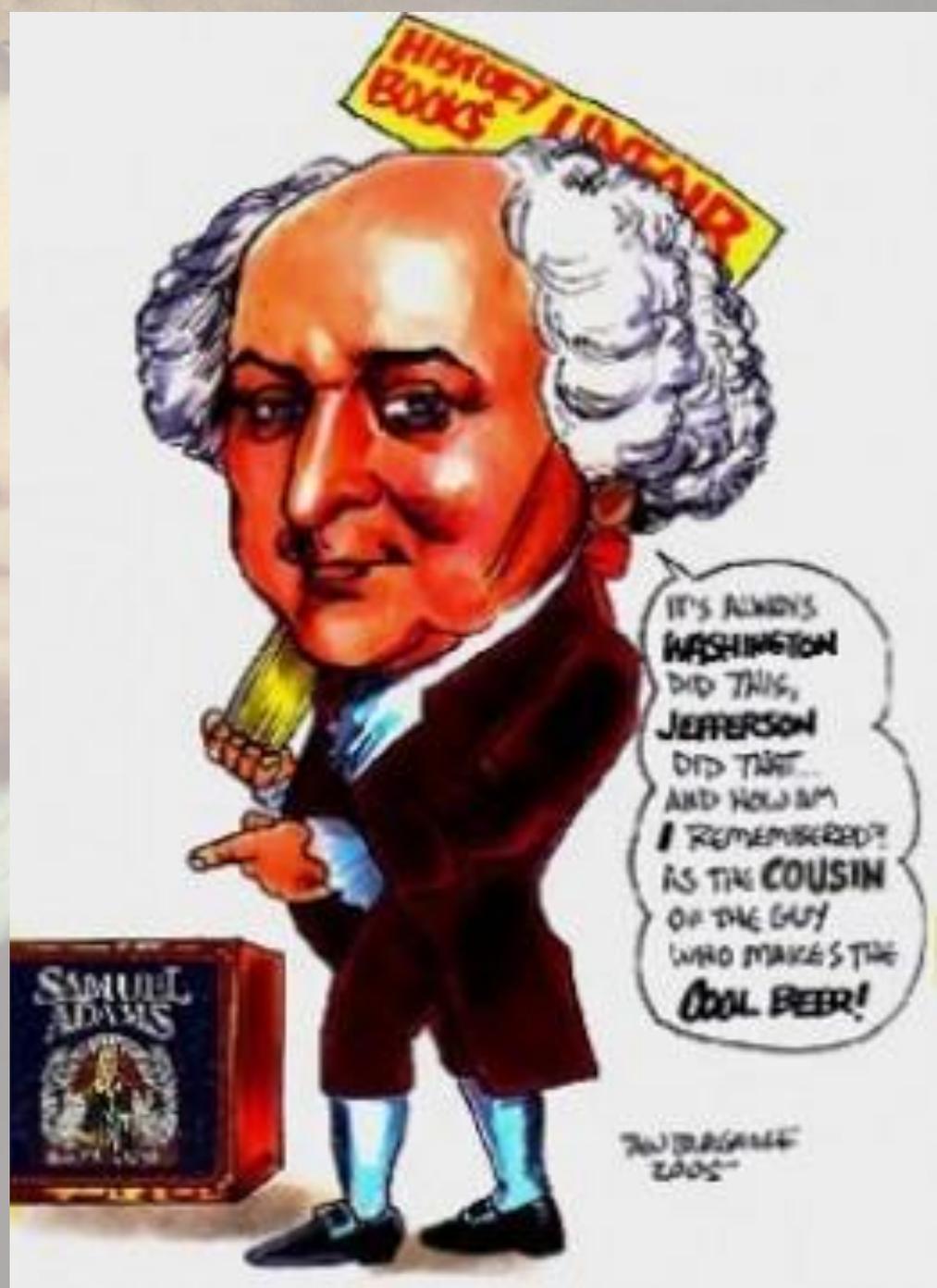
Jeffersonian-Republican
(Dem-Rep) Candidate

Federalists in Power

Hold majority in all 3 branches of federal govt

Jefferson came in 2nd place, won most of his votes from Southern states

(12th Amendment ratified after realizing the election/VP issue)



Rising International Tensions

“Barbary States” on the northern coast of Africa had interrupted Mediterranean shipping

- Morocco, Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli

European nations routinely paid “tribute” so the ships wouldn’t be bothered

In 1795, the U.S. paid nearly \$1m for the release of a ship and its crew from Algiers



Department of the Navy - 1798

Adams added the Department of the Navy to the Executive Depts.

-Known as the “Father of the U.S. Navy”

Why does Adams administration create this department?

Had several warships built (including the *USS Constitution* aka “Old Ironsides”) to protect U.S. shipping and crew



The XYZ Affair

The French were angry about Jay's Treaty

- Began stopping American ships en-route to Britain and seizing goods

Adams sent 3 men to Paris to negotiate in 1797:

- Charles Pinckney, Elbridge Gerry, John Marshall trying to talk to France's FM Talleyrand
- French officials leave men waiting for weeks
- Americans are approached by 3 French agents who demand a \$250,000 "tribute" just for a meeting



John Adams

Pinckney responded:
“Millions for Defense, but
not one cent for tribute”

Following the XYZ Affair, America and France began fighting an undeclared war at sea – The “Quasi War”

1798: France proposes new negotiations that are discussed at the **Convention of 1800**, Jefferson and Napoleon agree:

- U.S. agrees to pay the damages of our own shipping merchants
- France will release the U.S. from the defensive Treaty of 1778 and respect U.S. “freedom of the seas”
- Lays groundwork for the Louisiana Purchase



Adams

The Alien and Sedition Acts 1798

At the height of public anger at France, the Federalists pushed 4 laws through Congress to silence the Dem-Reps

Many of new immigrants were from France and Ireland, and thus anti-British and a threat to Federalist control

-1st law: changed the period for people waiting to become citizens from 5 to 14 years

-2nd & 3rd laws: gave the president the power to deport (without trial) any alien deemed “dangerous to the nation”

-4th law: made it illegal to say or print anything “false, scandalous, and malicious” about the federal govt or govt official



Jefferson and Madison Take Action

Dem-Reps angry about the A&S Acts:

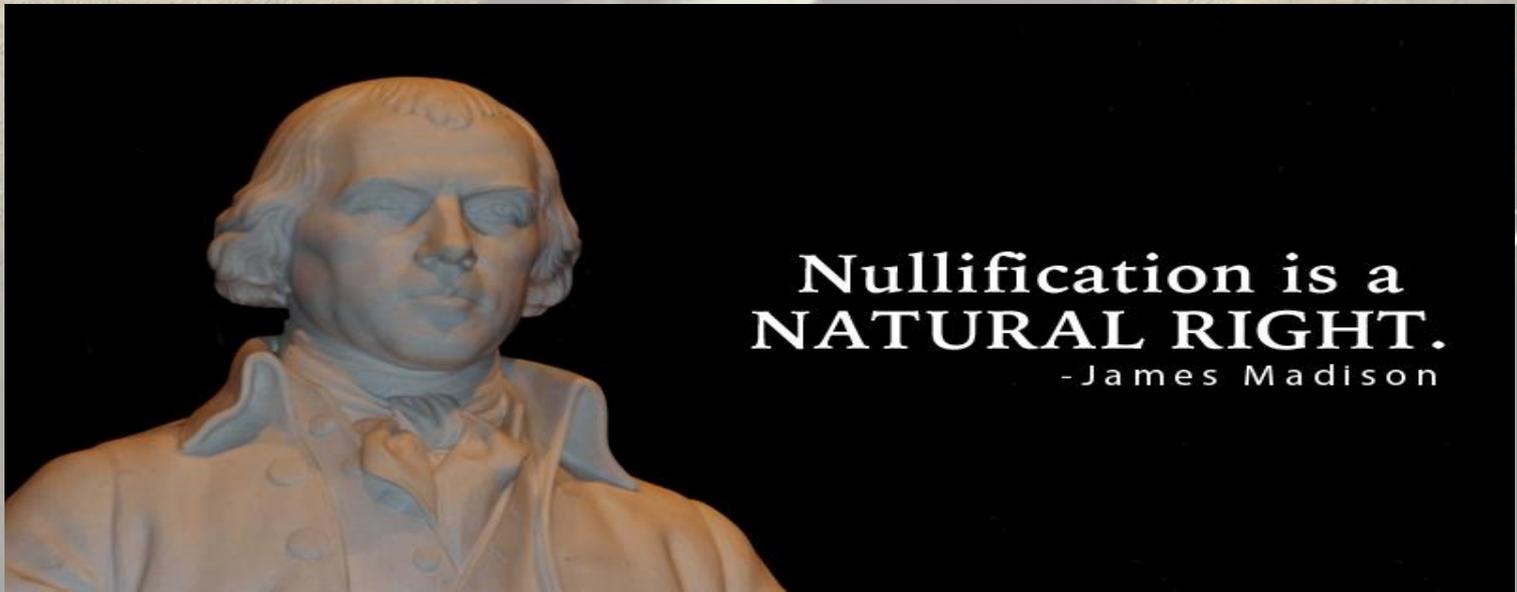
Felt they violated the 1st Amendment and infringed on “states’ rights”

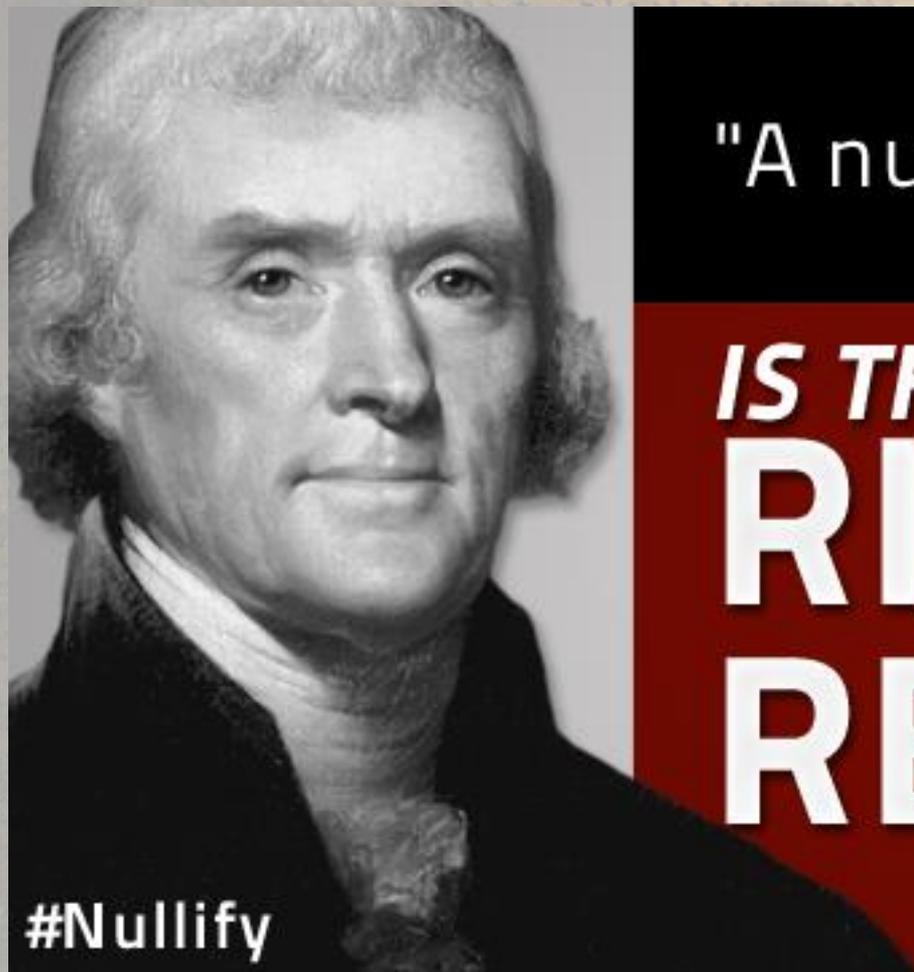


The Virginia and Kentucky Resolves/Resolutions

Drafted by Jefferson (KY) and Madison (VA) in 1798 and 1799 making several points:

1. The *compact theory* states that the 13 sovereign states entered into a contract with the federal govt (through the USC) to act as the agent of the states
2. Each state had "an equal right to judge for itself" when their rights given by the U.S. Constitution had been violated
3. Proposed that therefore, a state can take action by declaring a law of Congress unconstitutional through **nullification**





#Nullify

"A nullification of the act...

IS THE
**RIGHTFUL
REMEDY."**



John Adams

Had little *immediate* impact, however:

1. Set the stage for increased sectionalism and the “states’ rights” debate that will continue on
2. Federalists lack of response to the VA&KY Resolves calls their authority into question

The Election of 1800

JOHN ADAMS

**THOMAS
JEFFERSON
(ROUND II)**



Federalist Candidate



Democratic-Republican
Candidate

Americans were upset at
the Adams
administration over the
A&S Acts

Abigail Adams

- First woman to be both the wife and the mother of a U.S. president
- First lady to *live in* the White House
- Known for her strength and intelligence
- Letters to her husband offered strong opinions, especially her wishes for a stronger woman's role in their new country & anti-slavery views

