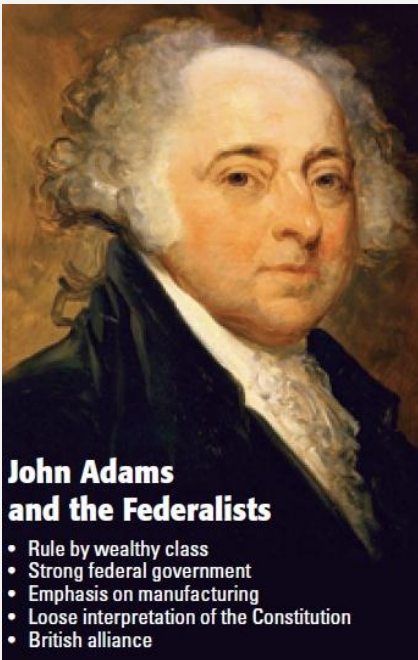


1800 Presidential Election



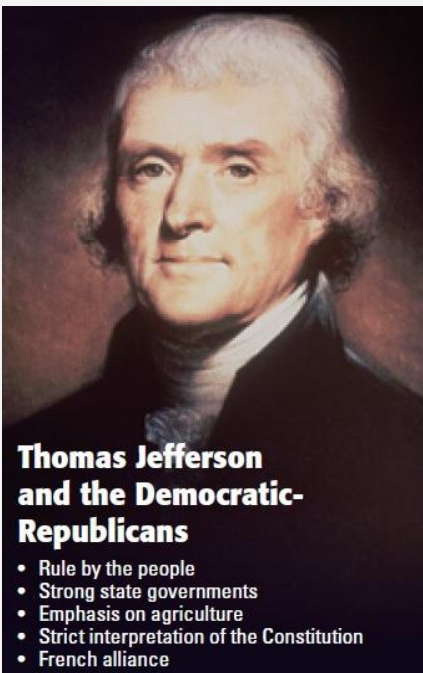
(John Adams vs. Thomas Jefferson)



John Adams and the Federalists

- Rule by wealthy class
- Strong federal government
- Emphasis on manufacturing
- Loose interpretation of the Constitution
- British alliance

Vs.



Thomas Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans

- Rule by the people
- Strong state governments
- Emphasis on agriculture
- Strict interpretation of the Constitution
- French alliance

Running Mates

Federalist: Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (former U.S. Minister to France from South Carolina)

Democratic-Republican: Aaron Burr (former U.S. Senator from New York)

Context

Political Uncertainty

- The national government was a work-in-progress
 - Political crises raised fears of disunion and civil war
- United State Constitution adopted on September 17, 1787
- Washington's departure in 1796 prompted many to fear the nation's imminent collapse
- The 1796 election was a precursor to the 1800 election with Adams defeating Jefferson who would become the vice-president
 - First contested American presidential election and the only one in which a president and vice president were elected from opposing tickets

Major Political and Public Controversy

- 1797–1798 XYZ Affair prompted by a French attempt to get bribe money from American diplomats
 - Quasi-War of 1798 with France stemming from French seizure of American ships and the XYZ Affair
- The war encouraged the passing of the 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts. A wartime measure to deport threatening aliens and silence attacks on the government
 - The costly war resulted in the Fries's Rebellion of 1799. An armed tax revolt among Pennsylvania Dutch farmers.

The Candidates

The 1800 election was a re-match of the 1796 election. The campaign was vicious and characterized by rhetoric, slander, rumors and personal attacks.

Rather than intense party unity, there was a jumble of suspicions and conflicting loyalties—personal, ideological, and regional, as well as partisan.

Federalist

(John Adams)

Accused: Republicans as radicals who would ruin the country based on their support for the French Revolution.

Feared: The return power to the states, dismantling the army, navy, and Hamilton's financial system.

Attacked: Within Adams own party particularly on behalf of Hamilton who though Adams was to moderate and aligned his support with Pinckney.

Democratic-Republicans

(Thomas Jefferson)

Accused: Federalists of destroying republican values since Adams foreign policy was favorable toward Britain.

Vs. Feared: The new army called up for the Quasi-War would oppress the people.

Attacked: The Alien and Sedition Acts as violations of states' rights and the Constitution. Also attacked new taxes to pay for war as demonstrated by Frie's Rebellion.

