

The Presidency of John Adams

1796-1800

Peace With the French

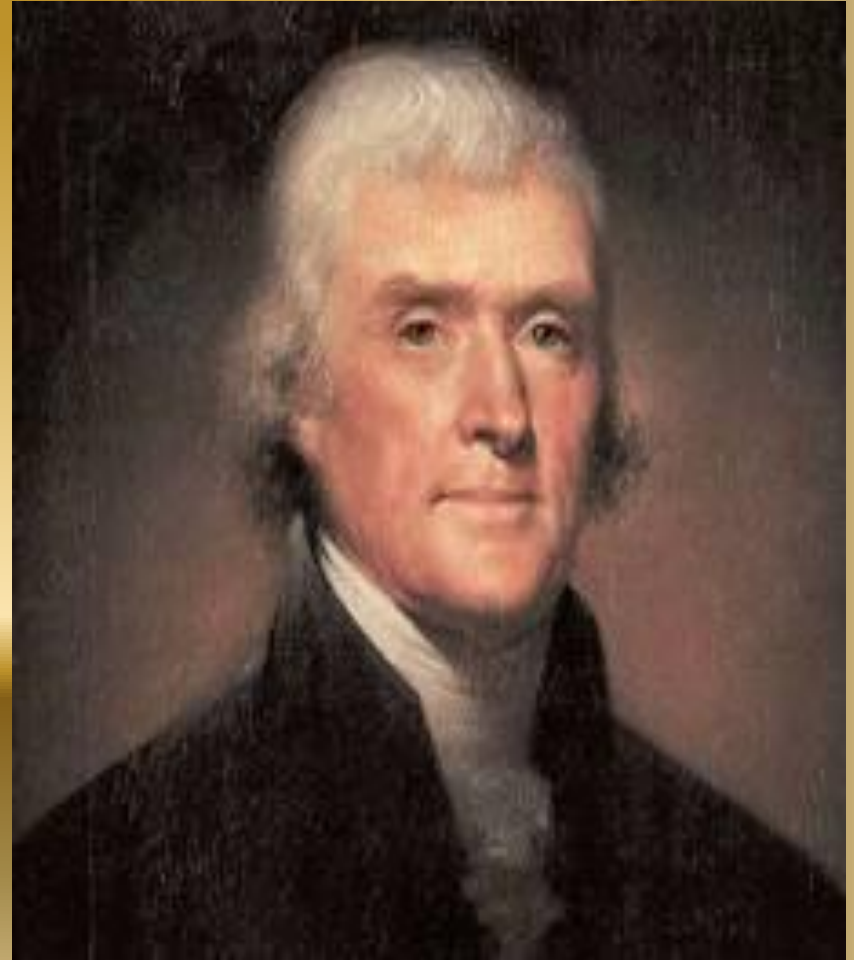
- Napoleon gained dictatorial powers in France
- Wanted problems with America to go away, more concerned with taking territory in Europe
- Convention of 1800 signed-brings peace with France
- Paves the way for Louisiana Purchase in 1803
- Napoleon would not have sold had there not been peace.

Alien & Sedition Acts

- Alien Acts-raised requirements to become a citizen from 5 years to 14 years
- The President could deport anyone deemed “dangerous”
- Sedition Acts-it is a crime for anyone to say or write anything insulting or false about the President, Congress, or Government in general
- 10 people convicted, most were Dem-Rep editors or writers

Dem-Rep Opposition

- Jefferson fearing prosecution secretly created resolutions
- Kentucky and Virginia legislature approved these and thus became known as Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions.
- Compact Theory-The federal gov. was a creation of the states, therefore the states should have more power.



Results of Resolutions

- No other states adopted the resolutions
- By 1802 The Alien and Sedition Acts expired
- The biggest impact is Jefferson's questioning of Federal vs. State power
- States' Rights will be a cause of controversy for the next century and ultimately lead to the Civil War.