



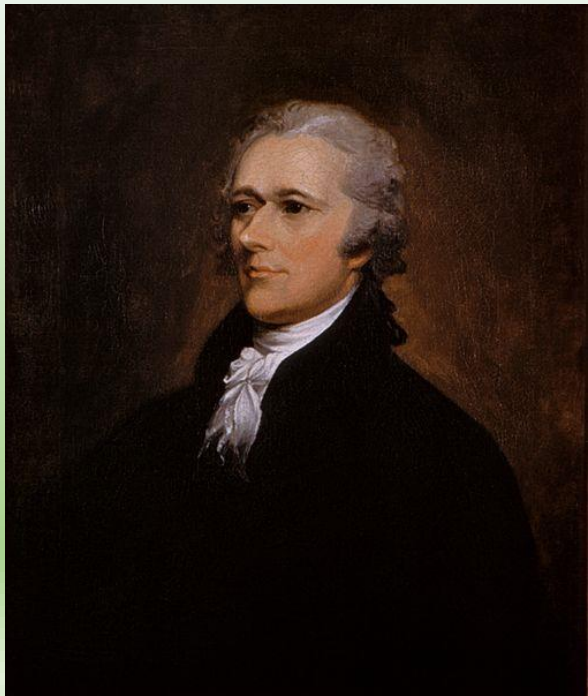
Jefferson  
Era

I bet you didn't know...

- John Adams & Thomas Jefferson were actually friends before they were opposing Presidential candidates.



# Election of 1796



- Alexander Hamilton tried to rig the election of 1796 to insure that Thomas Pinckney would win.
- He thought he would have more of an influence over Pinckney than Adams.
- He tried to get the electors who supported Pinckney to only cast 1 vote and to vote only for Pinckney so Adams would lose.
- Adams's supporters found out and didn't vote for Pinckney
- Because of Hamilton's actions, many Federalists voted for Jefferson instead.
- Jefferson only had 3 fewer votes than Adams – Jefferson almost won the Election of 1796

# Remember France?

- President Adams was eager to end conflict with France.
- In November 1799, Napoleon Bonaparte overthrew the new French government and planned on establishing an empire in Europe.
- In Sept. 1800 the US made a deal with Napoleon to end the dispute between the two nations.



# Election of 1800

- John Adams & Charles Pinckney vs Thomas Jefferson & Aaron Burr
- The political campaign got so ugly between the Federalists and the Republicans that Adams and Jefferson (who were friends) stopped talking to each other.
- All of a sudden, they each became villains in the other's eyes.

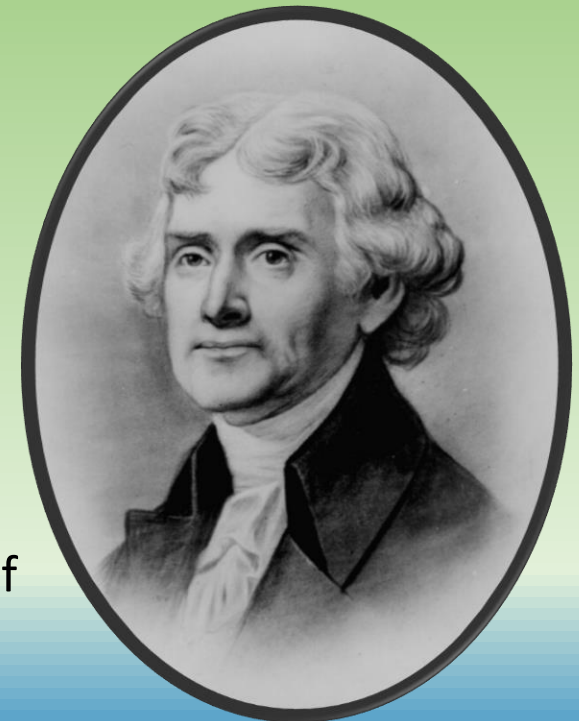


- Jefferson and Burr tied in the number of votes so the election was sent to the House of Representatives to be decided. Hamilton convinced people to vote for Jefferson over Burr

\* This election led to the passing of the 12<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution that calls for separate ballots for President and Vice President

- March 4, 1801 – Jefferson was the 1<sup>st</sup> President to be inaugurated in Washington DC
  - The city was unfinished
- Believed the people were the source of government power (rule by the majority)
- Believed in laissez-faire – “let the people do as they choose”
- Wanted to make the government more democratic (equal rights for all people)
- Encouraged harmony and citizens working together
- Promised to pay off the national debt
  - He cut spending on the military
  - Reduced the staff of the executive branch
  - Reduced the debt from \$83 million to \$45 million
- Encouraged Congress to repeal excise taxes & ended all internal taxes
- Let the Alien & Sedition Acts expire and did not renew them
  - Pardoned people who had been convicted under the acts and refunded many of the fines paid by others
  - Changed residency laws back to 5 years for citizenship

# Jefferson as President



# Interesting tidbits about Jefferson

- He hated crowds
- Avoided speeches when possible
- Disliked political fights
- Did not wear a wig – kept his appearance simple
- Refused to ride in a carriage – preferred to ride a horse



## Return of the Pirates:

- By 1800 – 1/5 of the federal budget was being set aside to pay for protection from pirates in the Mediterranean
- Jefferson decided to stop paying & to declare war on the Pirates.
- The US lost the “war” with the Pirates and ended up paying \$60,000 for the release of hostage sailors.



# Conflict in the Judicial Branch

- The Federalist controlled Congress passed the Judiciary Act of 1801 that increased the number of federal judges
- President Adams appointed a group of federal judges who were Federalists as he left office.
- These judges became known as the “Midnight Judges” because he supposedly signed appointments until midnight on his last day in office.
- The new Congress under Jefferson repealed the Judiciary Act, abolishing the midnight judges' jobs.

# Marbury vs Madison

- William Marbury was a “Midnight Judge”
- Marbury’s official commission was not delivered to him before Jefferson took office
- Jefferson ordered James Madison (the new Secretary of State) not to send Marbury his papers
- Marbury petitioned the Supreme Court to get his appointment
- The Supreme Court sided with Marbury but said they did not have the power to force Madison to hand the papers over
- The Supreme Court ruled that part of the law passed by Congress (The Judiciary Act of 1789) was unconstitutional