

President John Adams (1796 – 1801)

Biography: Read the biography about John Adams <https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/presidents/johnadams>

Provide 3 interesting facts about John Adams:

Election of 1796

Candidates: http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=2976

Who were the Federalist candidates?

Who were the Democratic-Republican candidates?

Winners:

What was the outcome of this election? What was the problem with the results?

Foreign Problems

XYZ Affair (1797): <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1784-1800/xyz>

WHAT: It was a French demand for a bribe as a prerequisite to opening negotiations with American delegates. It resulted in the Quasi-War, which was resolved by the Convention of 1800.

ISSUE: Jay's Treaty (1796) favored British trade over France. It prohibited the US from selling contraband to France. France was displeased with this alliance and retaliated. France seized U.S. merchant ships (over 300 merchant ships plundered by French when Adams was inaugurated in 1797).

XYZ: France refused to receive a US ambassador and hostility grew. Adams sent 3 men (Charles Pinkney, John Marshall, Elbridge Gerry) to negotiate peace and avoid war. The French foreign minister (Talleyrand) refused to meet with them. Instead, 3 French officials met with them and demanded that they pay a bribe of \$250,000 and a loan to the French government in exchange for a meeting. The US refused to give in to French demands. Talleyrand did eventually meet with them, but refused to end the seizure of American ships. The report demanded by Democratic-Republicans in Congress listed the 3 French officials as X, Y, and Z. Democratic-Republicans were suspicious of Federalist activities and wanted to avoid war with France.

Quasi War with France (1798 – 1800):

The XYZ Affair was a diplomatic incident between the US and France which led to an undeclared war. Adam's prepared for war: U.S. Navy began to fight the French in the Caribbean, where many American ships had been seized. Peace was negotiated with the **Convention of 1800**. It thawed the hostile American-French relations.

QUESTIONS:

What was the conflict and how did it almost lead to war?

Why were Federalists prepared to go to war, while Democratic-Republicans were hoping the "Quasi war" wouldn't lead to an official war?

Laws Passed

Alien & Sedition Act (1798): <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=16>

Why was it created?

Naturalization Act:

Alien Act:

Sedition Act: (What is it and who did it target?)

Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions

<http://billofrightsinstitute.org/founding-documents/primary-source-documents/virginia-and-kentucky-resolutions/>

- These were responses to the Alien and Sedition Acts

Virginia Resolution: (what/who)

Kentucky Resolution: (what/who)

Election of 1800

- Known as the **Revolution of 1800** because John Adams's accepted defeat in the election and set a precedent for a peaceful transfer of power in the U.S.
- Jefferson would have lost the election without the **3/5th Compromise**. It gave more votes to the South.
- **What was the outcome of this election?**
- **What was the problem with the results?**
<http://www.ushistory.org/us/20a.asp>

- **12 Amendment** – <http://archive.fairvote.org/?page=981>

Marbury v Madison – Supreme Court Case 1803

https://www.pbs.org/wnet/supremecourt/democracy/landmark_marbury.html

Judicial Review:

Background of case:

Importance of case:

- **Democratic-Republicans campaign** proved to mobilize large numbers of voters and be effective.