

HANDOUT

1800 ELECTION



THOMAS JEFFERSON
and Aaron Burr

ELECTORAL VOTE: 73

DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICAN



JOHN ADAMS
and Charles Pickney

ELECTORAL VOTE: 65

FEDERALIST

The hard fought election of 1796 between Jefferson and Adams and the newly created party organizations, which controlled the partisan newspapers, led to a bitter and mean-spirited election that was ultimately decided by the House of Representatives. The election was ultimately decided by the House of Representatives, which chose John Adams as President and Jefferson as Vice President. The election of 1800 was a rematch between Jefferson and Adams.

Jefferson was the **incumbent Vice President**.

The Federalist press called Jefferson an **"Atheist radical,"** accused him of fathering a child with slave Sally Hemmings, and predicted "Jacobin terror" if he won.

Pamphlets were used by the Republicans to condemn Adams' policy of **press censorship**.

Jefferson secretly wrote the Kentucky Resolution, which criticized the Alien and Sedition Acts as unconstitutional and a violation of **states rights**.

Jefferson **opposed a standing army** and navy in favor of supporting peace with all nations.

Republican newspaper editors were arrested for criticizing Adams under the **Sedition Act**.

The development of a strong and united **Republican Party** helped to give Jefferson and Burr the White House.

Adams was the **incumbent President**.

Republican newspapers called the portly Adams **"His rotundity,"** published the private letters of Federalist leader Alexander Hamilton, which were critical of Adams, and predicted war with Europe if Adams won.

"During these past months enough abuse and scandal has been unleashed to ruin and corrupt the minds and morals of the best people in the world."

- **Abigail Adams in a letter on May 4, 1800**

Federalists used **George Washington's name** to link Adams to the founding father.

The **Alien and Sedition Acts**, passed by Adams and the Federalists in 1798, discouraged immigration and citizenship and made it illegal to publish "false, scandalous and malicious" statements about the U.S. government, Congress, or the President.

Federalists used **anti-French sentiment** to build up the military and pass anti-foreign legislation.

The Federalist Party was divided with **Alexander Hamilton** critical of Adams.

DID YOU KNOW? Jefferson and Adams were the only two signers of the Declaration of Independence to later become Presidents. Adams' last words were, "Jefferson still survives." He did not know that Jefferson had died just a few hours earlier. Both men died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the date they had signed the Declaration of Independence.