

# Module 2: The Continental Empire

Talk	Title	Time Period	Date of Talk
8	The early Republic	1792-1800	October 30th
9	Jefferson's America	1800-1812	November 6th
10	War of 1812 and its impact	1812-1820	November 20th
11	The Era of Good Feelings	1820-1828	December 4th
12	Jacksonian 'democracy'	1828-1840	January 8th
13	New Spain, Mexico and the Texas Republic	1820-1836	January 22nd
14	Manifest Destiny and the Mexican War	1840 -1850	February 5th
14	California and the Gold Rush	1700-1850	February 19th

# American History

Talk 8: The early Republic (1792-1800)



# Overview

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- Washington's Second Term
  - The Presidency of John Adams 1796-1800
  - Thomas Jefferson
  - The 1800 election
  - American 1800 society



# Washington's Second Term (1792-96)

# 1792 Election

- Washington (now 63) wants to retire and return to Mt Vernon
- Jefferson has returned from France inspired by French Revolution, .....wants United States to join 'revolutionary crusade'
- Washington knows US must stay neutral, decides to run for 2<sup>nd</sup> term and keep Adams as Vice President
- Two simultaneous elections: President and Vice
- Jefferson conspires to remove Adams (secretly) sets up proxy (Clinton)
- Washington wins unanimously, Adams wins 70 electoral votes vs 50 Clinton.....Jefferson frustrated....but will try again

# The Regal Presidency

- Formality and Dignity of office
- Levees, dances, impartiality
- Concept of the “First Family”
- Martha Washington, the first “first lady” the model for future

# Martha Washington 1731-1803

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Martha Dandridge Curtis

Oldest of 8 children born to Virginia tobacco planter John Dandridge who had immigrated from England

Educated at home, accomplished equestrian, rode Horse downstairs, father too impressed to chastise her  
Married wealthiest planter in Virginia 20 years her senior, 4 children, 2 survive childhood.

Widowed at age 26, inherits 17,000 acres. 300 slaves



Marries George W in 1759,  
She manages estate while  
He joins British Army

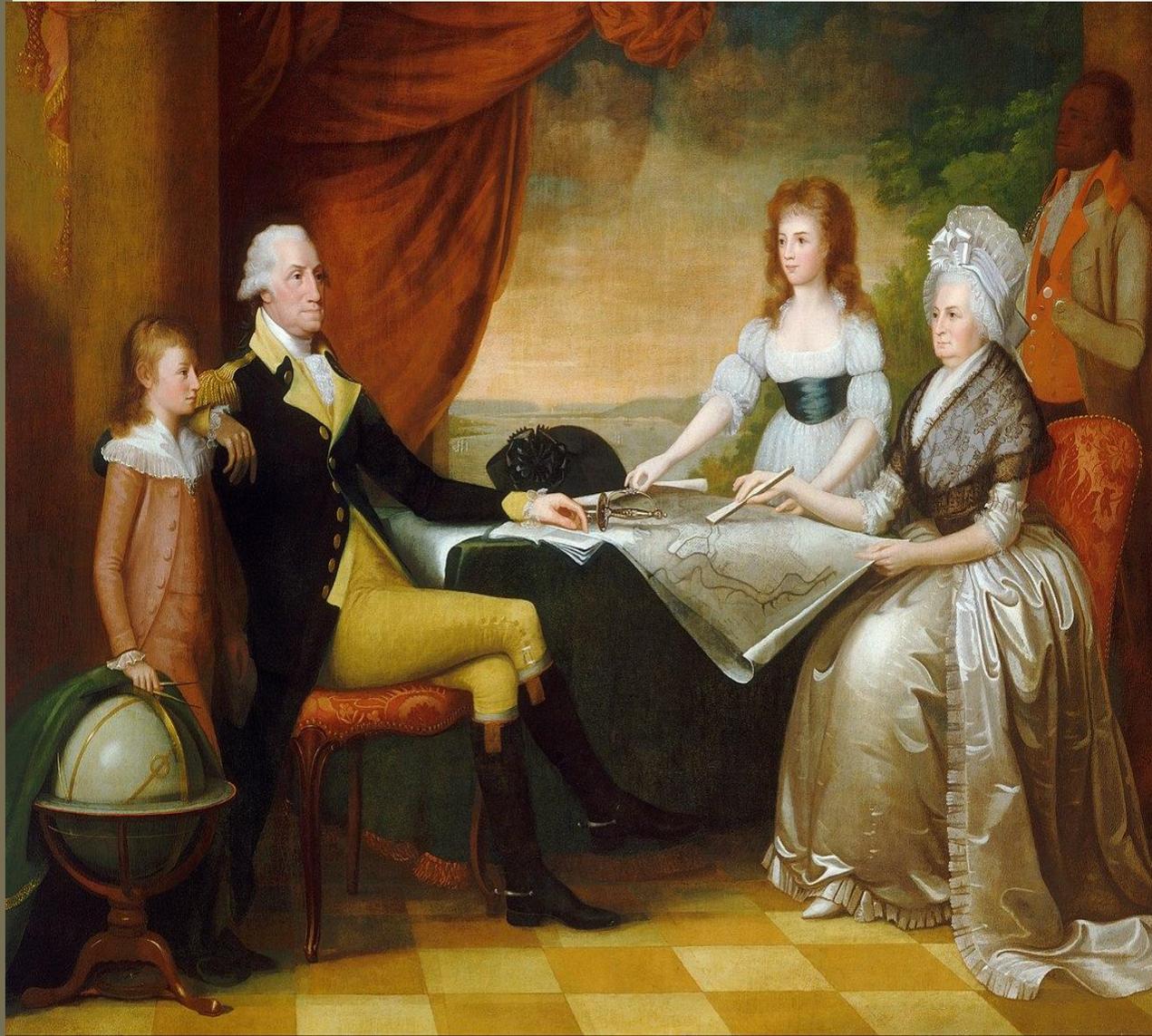
Happy marriage of 40 years.  
No children of their own Wash  
Treats children from Martha's  
first marriage as his own



# Martha Washington First Lady

7

Washingtons at home with grandchildren



Activity involved in running estate (expert at curing ham)

Spends most of war at various homes, joins GW Valley Forge. Creates “sewing circles”, dresses humbly, visits soldiers. ...seen as nation’s grandmother

Daughter dies of epilepsy at age 17 ,son fr “swamp fever” during siege of Yorktown. Washingtons adopt grand children.

Much admired first lady, avoids politics, ma decorum, presides over events,

Worries over GW Health and does not wa to do second term but accepts necessity.

# French Revolution Part One 1789-92

8



France bankrupted by American wa  
King cannot collect tax. Summons  
Parliaments (not met Since 1614)

Parliament demands constitutional  
Government in exchange for taxes

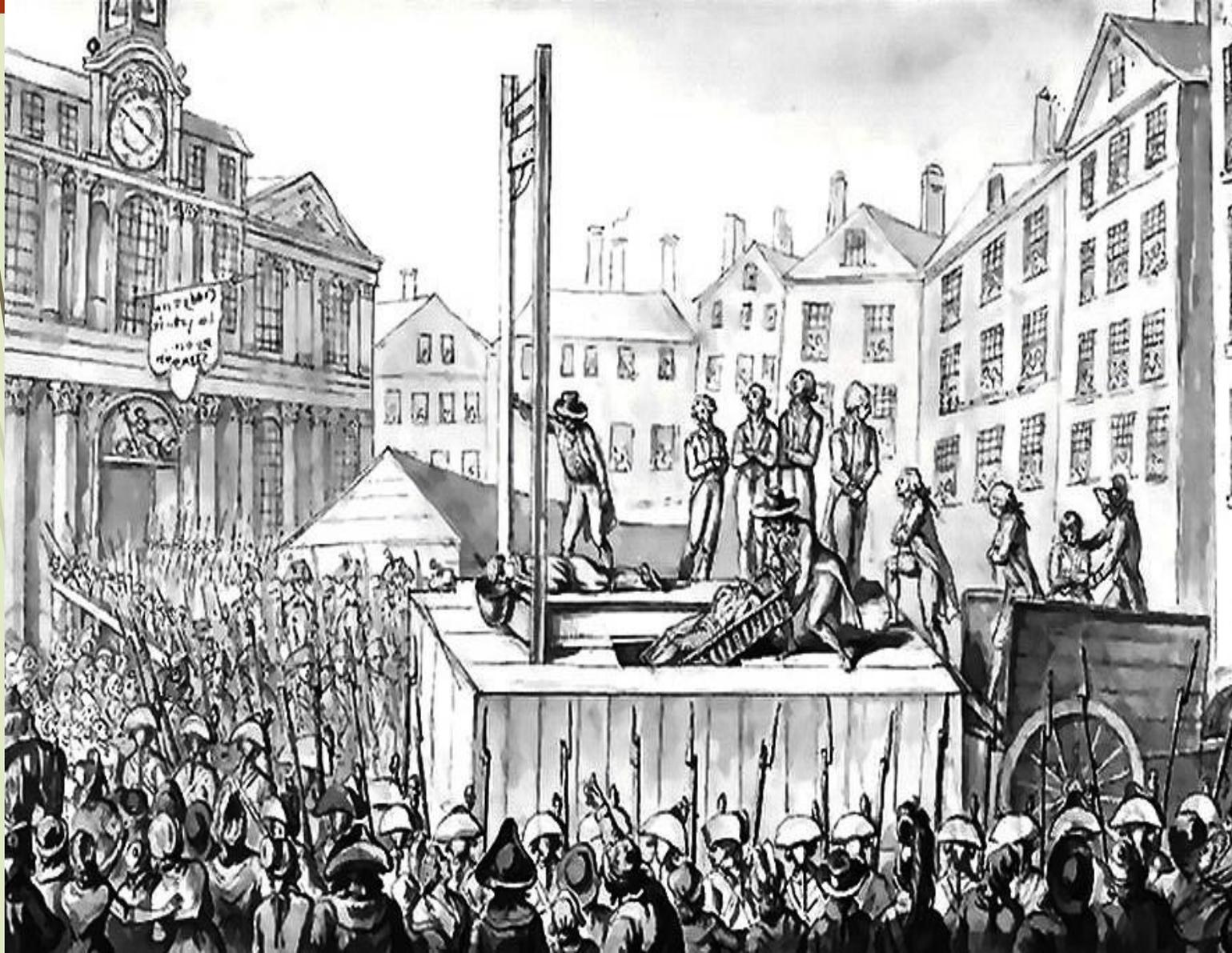
Aristocrats reject plan. Radical  
Assume King will use army regain  
power

Crowds storm Bastille, King forced  
from Palace...house arrest

Constitutional monarchy created  
....National and Europe wide  
rejoicing....

# French Revolution Part Two 1792-1793

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King conspires to regain power and escape but caught...and imprisoned

Austria invade to restore King  
Revolutionaries mobilise 'total Society', create "Committee of Public Safety"

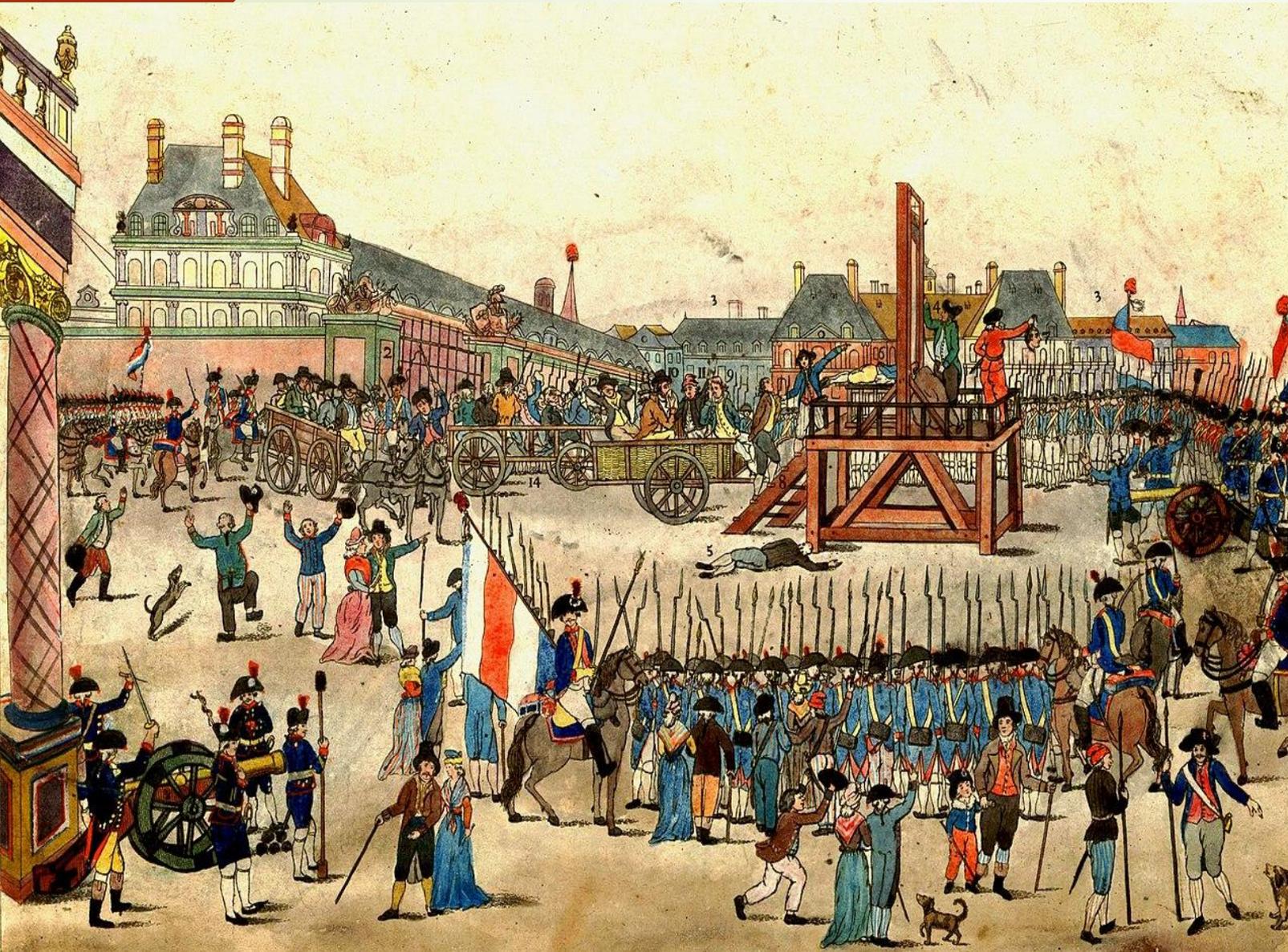
King and Queen executed

European monarchies, including Britain unite to crush Revolution

'Committee' launches "Terror"  
Mass executions of aristocrats  
Priests, anyone suspected of Disloyalty

# French Revolution Part Three 1794-1799

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‘Thermidorian Reaction’ overcomes  
Revolutionaries, executes Robespierre  
and radicals creates Directorate  
...retains most New laws’..

European monarchies,  
including Britain unite to  
crush France.

French invoke alliance from  
Revolutionary war and “demand”  
US join them in war vs British,  
send Ambassador Genet

Jefferson sees opportunity  
For war with Britain

# Citizen Genet (1763-1836)

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Son of a French civil servant, becomes translator for King, joins revolution, sent to America 1793

Meets Jefferson and Washington, 'demands' America join war with British. Washington walks out

Tours country giving mass rallies for France...encouraged by Jefferson. Genet. secures funds to build ships in America to attack British ships

Washington finds out, challenges Jefferson, "shocked". Washington deports Genet

Genet fears guillotine on return to France, begs Washington to stay in US. Washington agrees

G marries wife of NY Governor....and lives happily ever after in USA

# American Reaction to French Revolution

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- ▶ American elite divided
  - ▶ Revolutionaries/ Republicans... signers of Independence...led by Jefferson
    - ▶ French Revolution 'dawn of New Age of Reason', "Terror" necessary phase
    - ▶ USA duty bound to honour alliance with France during American Revolutionary war
    - ▶ America has duty to spread 'freedom', monarchy root of all evil, Britain at centre
  - ▶ Federalists... authors of Constitution...led by Hamilton and John Adams
    - ▶ Revolution chaotic mob rule leading to chaos and mass killing
    - ▶ American "alliance" was with King...not France
    - ▶ America success achieved by retaining British institutions, not social upheaval
    - ▶ French war none of our business,

Washington despatches John Jay to make a deal with Britain

# Jay Treaty 1793

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John Jay 1745-1829



Born to wealthy New York merchant family, devout Anglican. Lawyer, slave owner, maintains extended family (2 blind siblings, 1 mentally ill).

Member Continental Congress.....  
despite brother being Loyalist,

Lead negotiator Treaty of Paris 1783

Negotiates border issues, payment of debts, return of loyalist property...fails to get compensate for slaves freed by British army

Treaty approved. America remains neutral ...risk of war with France

Hamilton raises excise taxes to fund Defence ..... another tax revolt

# Whisky Rebellion 1794

14



Resentment on frontier against Hamilton's taxes on whisky

Many local distillers, refuse to pay Taxes, Hamilton sends collectors

Riots and revolts, collectors "tarred and feathered" : "No taxation Without representation"

Washington gathers army of 15,000 from state militia and Rebels scatter...2 killed, rest pardoned

Public approve use of strong government...no appetite for chaos

# Washington's retirement

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Martha insists Washington retires at end of Second Term

Farewell Address: warns of 'entangling alliances', support for Union, federal government above states  
Risks of party politics

Returns to Mount Vernon estate

Dies 1799, frees all 123 slaves in his Will. Supports gradual abolition by 'legislative authority'



# The Presidency of John Adams (1796-1800)

# 1796 Presidential Election Rules

- First Contested Election: Federalists vs Anti Federalists (rebranded as “Republicans” or “Democrat Republicans”)
- Property owners elect State Assemblies (Councils)
- State Assemblies select “Electors”, each elector has 2 votes
- Electors select President and Vice President
  - Most votes = President
  - Second highest = Vice President

# The Contenders

- ▶ Federalists Candidate John Adams
  - ▶ Strong central government, financial system, standing army
  - ▶ Support for merchants, manufacturers, and banks, high tariffs
  - ▶ Rule by elite
  - ▶ Neutrality
- ▶ Democratic Republican Candidate Thomas Jefferson
  - ▶ State sovereignty, minimal central government
  - ▶ Support for “Yeoman Farmers”, cheap imports
  - ▶ Rule by all white tax payers...not just property owners
  - ▶ Alliance with France against Britain

# John Adams (1735-1826)

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Son of Congregational Deacon, educated At Harvard, prominent Boston lawyer, defended British troops at 'Boston Massacre', ferocious critic of Stamp Act,

Member Continental Congress,, master of Detail, argumentative, unpopular, respected

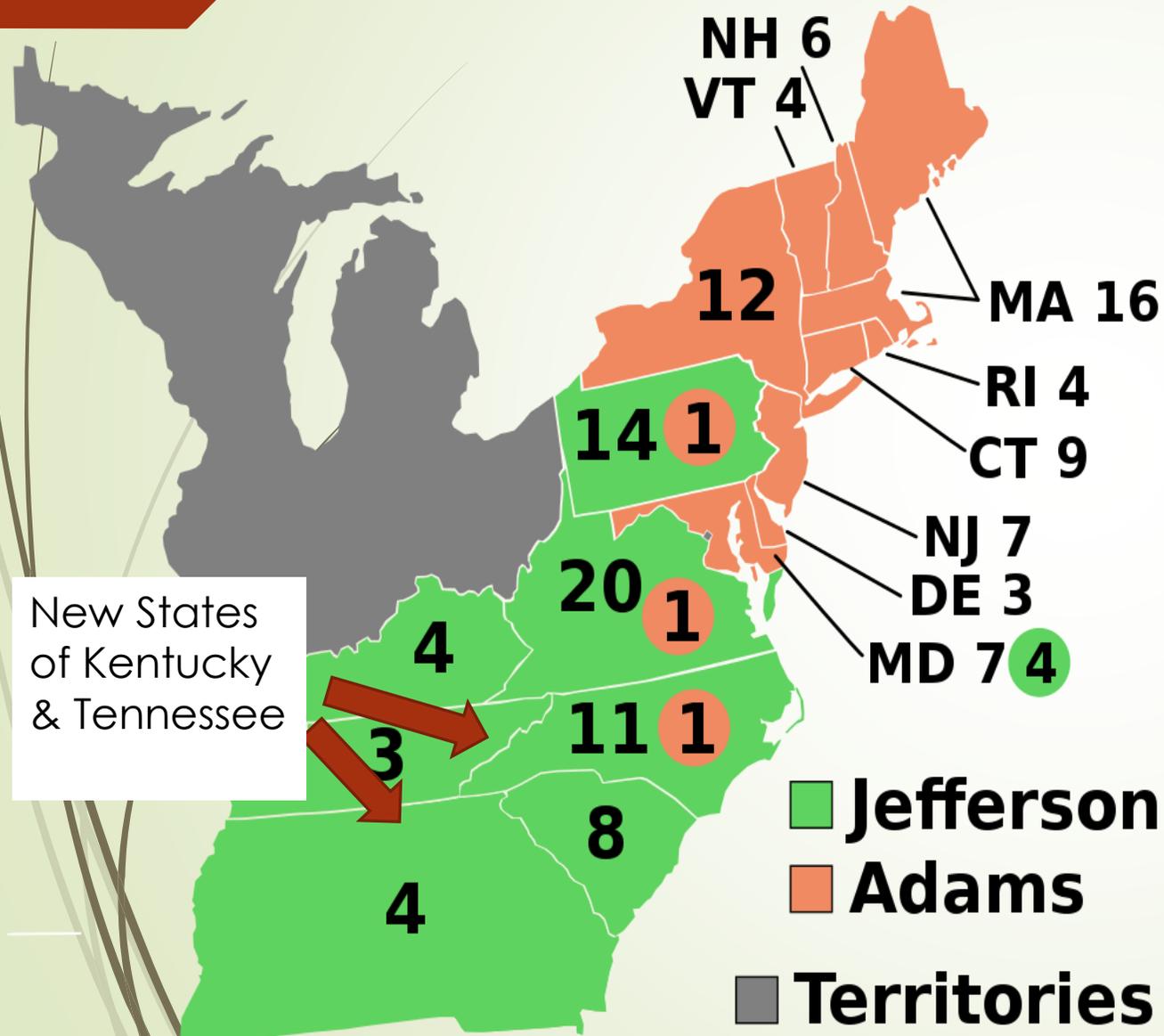
Ambassador to France during war, later to Britain, secures loans fro Dutch, former VP Elected Vice President, secures loans from Duto

Obsessed with need for 'dignity and splendour' of Office (known as "his rotundity")

Opposed to slavery, owns none and tries to end slave trade

Appalled by French revolution

# 1796 Election : Adams 71 votes, Jefferson 68<sup>20</sup>



Regional Split. Every Southern State for Jefferson every Northern State for Adams

John Adams becomes 2nd President  
Jefferson Vice President

Conflict: Federalist President,  
Anti Federalist Vice President

Jefferson has nothing to do  
.....except conspire...

# Adams First Year

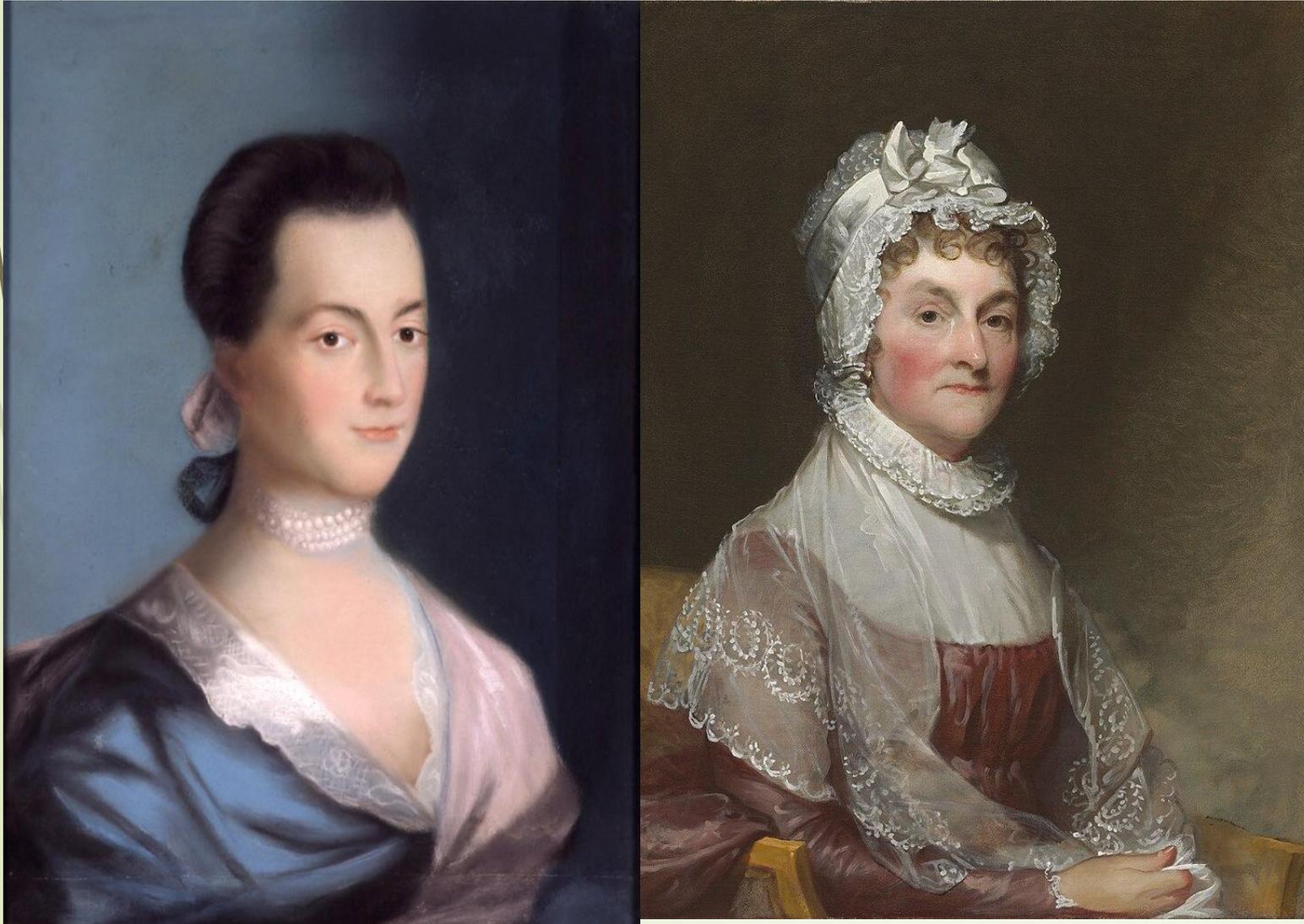
21

- Continue as if Washington
  - Lacks charisma, military record
  - Abrasive,
- Continue Federalist policies of strong government
  - Financial solvency
  - Strong Government
  - Resist Jefferson
- Retain American Neutrality

His presidency...and success in life due to long tumultuous and loving partnership with Abigail Adams

# Abigail Adams

Abigail Adams 1745-1819)



Father long established Deacon  
land and slave owner

Home tutored, arrives 'upstart  
lawyer'..John..6 children.  
Long happy marriage

Follows John across Europe  
shunned by aristos, adopts  
Jefferson daughter ...despite  
politics

(Privately) advocates freeing  
of slaves and women's  
rights, admonishes John to  
'remember the ladies'

Does not live to see her son  
John Quincy become President  
but never doubts he will be

# XYZ Affair 1797

23

- French use privateers to seize US ships to force them to join war vs British....Adams sends ambassadors to negotiate solution
- French agree to stop attacks .....but demand bribes first
- Adams outraged and publicizes French demands in newspapers
- France threatens war... Adams and Federalists build fleet and army of 25,000....more tax increases
- Jefferson (Vice President!) supports France privately but stays silent publicly

# America 'violated'

24



Adams leaks French Demand for cash to newspapers

Press says America 'violated'..

Adams commissions Expansion of army & navy

France decides To 'punish' USA

# Quasi War 1798-1800

25



Occasional Ship to ship  
Fights France vs USA  
(less than 100 dead)

USS Enterprise captures  
French frigate L'Insurgente

French privateers seize  
400 American ships

Adams fears French  
invasion...and treachery  
from French immigrants

“Alien and Sedition Acts

# Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798

- ▶ Federalist controlled Congress pass “Alien and Sedition’ Acts
- ▶ ‘Aliens’ opposed to government must leave in 90 days or be deported by force
- ▶ illegal to make false or malicious statements about the federal government...”Republican’ newspapers closed, 10 arrests
- ▶ 1000’s of mostly French immigrants leave country
- ▶ Opponents of government go in hiding in fear of arrest

...including the Vice President....Thomas Jefferson

# 'Politics gets rough....

27



Mass demonstrations by Democrat Republicans  
In major cities

Fighting breaks out in  
Congress between  
Federalist Griswold and  
Lyon 1798

Vice President Jefferson  
'retires' to Virginia

# Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions 1798

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- Jefferson believes Adams acting as a King and against 'spirit of revolution'
- Conspires with Kentucky (admitted to Union 1792) and Virginia to pass resolutions:
  - States can ignore federal law if they believe laws unconstitutional
  - "United States" is a voluntary compact between independent states
- No other states joins "resolution", No judge will enforce (all Federalists)

Jefferson decides to run for President in order to defeat Adams in 1800

# Fries Rebellion 1799-1800

29

## Raising the 'Liberty Pole'



'RAISING THE LIBERTY POLE'

1776.

NEW 807

Congress increases taxes on land, property and slaves for army and navy

Pennsylvania taxes highest since few slaves (property) in state

John Fries, Tax Collector leads revolt, raise 'Liberty Poles' Tax collectors intimidated, 100 armed Men march to state capital . Adams sends army. Mob Disperses....no shots fired

Fries caught and sentenced to hang,

Adams pardons Fries & leaders: "obscure, miserable Germans as ignorant of our language as they were of our laws".....blames Jefferson

# Moving Government to Washington

30



Agreement to move capital south from New York to placate South ... in exchange for end of Slave Trade

Agreed to move capital to Washington with 10 year stay in Philadelphia

Adams moves government to Washington in November 1800 ...built by slaves In a swamp...

Washington a building site But occupied just in time for 1800 election



# Intermission



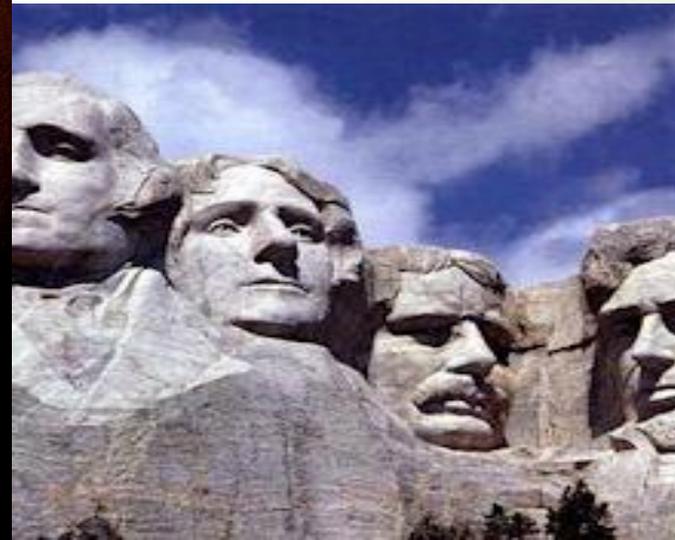
# Thomas Jefferson

# Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

32

The view 1960....John Kennedy at dinner for Nobel Laureates White House 1962

I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever been gathered together at the White House, with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone. Someone once said that Thomas Jefferson was a gentleman of 32 who could calculate an eclipse, survey an estate, tie an artery, plan an edifice, try a cause, break a horse, and dance the minuet.



Mt Rushmore

The view now...  
a man of his times  
Both brilliant and  
deeply

# Thomas Jefferson key facts

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- ▶ Born 1743 Virginia. 3<sup>rd</sup> of 10 children, Father wealthy planter. Sent to local school and private tutor, brilliant student, lover of nature and science.
- ▶ Qualifies as lawyer specializing in divorce, elected to Virginia “House of Burgess” joins Patriots 1775, works for Governor,
- ▶ Marries Martha Skelton, 6 children 2 survive past 3
- ▶ Primary author “Declaration of Independence 1776
- ▶ Governor of Virginia, member of Continental Congress 1778-80
- ▶ Martha dies 1780 (Jefferson grief stricken, never remarries, ambassador to France)
- ▶ Returns to US 1789, become Secretary of State, the Vice President to Adams

**Leads Anti Federalists, founds Democratic Republican Party**

# Jefferson Beliefs

## ➤ Government & Economics

- Central government should be small, power to remain with states
- No standing army or navy
- Agriculture the only real wealth, manufacturing and trade 'parasitic' and un American
- Banks 'evil' trade by gold, barter, local paper
- All white males should vote
- Education should be free for all

## ➤ Religion

- God a mathematician, "Providence"
- Organised religion will fade away
- Everyone should be free to worship as they wish

## ➤ Race

- Indigenous Indians equal to whites but must assimilate
- Blacks inferior and incompatible with whites. Should be repatriated or dispersed
- Slavery a necessary but temporary evil

# Sally Jennings (1773-1835)

35

Imagined painting  
no portrait exists



Born a slave to white master...half sister to Jefferson's wife Martha and inherited by Jefferson when Martha dies

Sent to join Jefferson (45 year old widower) in Paris 1784 at aged 15 as maid to Jefferson's daughter Polly. Become Jefferson's mistress and pregnant

Agrees to return to America with Jefferson (and return To slavery) if children freed at age 21

Has 6 children (DNA test 1998 'substantially proven') TJ does not recognise children as his in public but teaches them Violin. And gives them 'grant of passage' at 21

'Freed by Polly when TJ dies Given 'own home, allowance and 'her time;

# Monticello Virginia

36



Designed and built  
By Jefferson

Jefferson died bankrupt  
Daughters sold house for  
\$7,500 In 1834. Kept  
Slaves....except Sally

Dedicated to nation and  
Now Tourist attraction  
outside Charlottesville  
Virginia



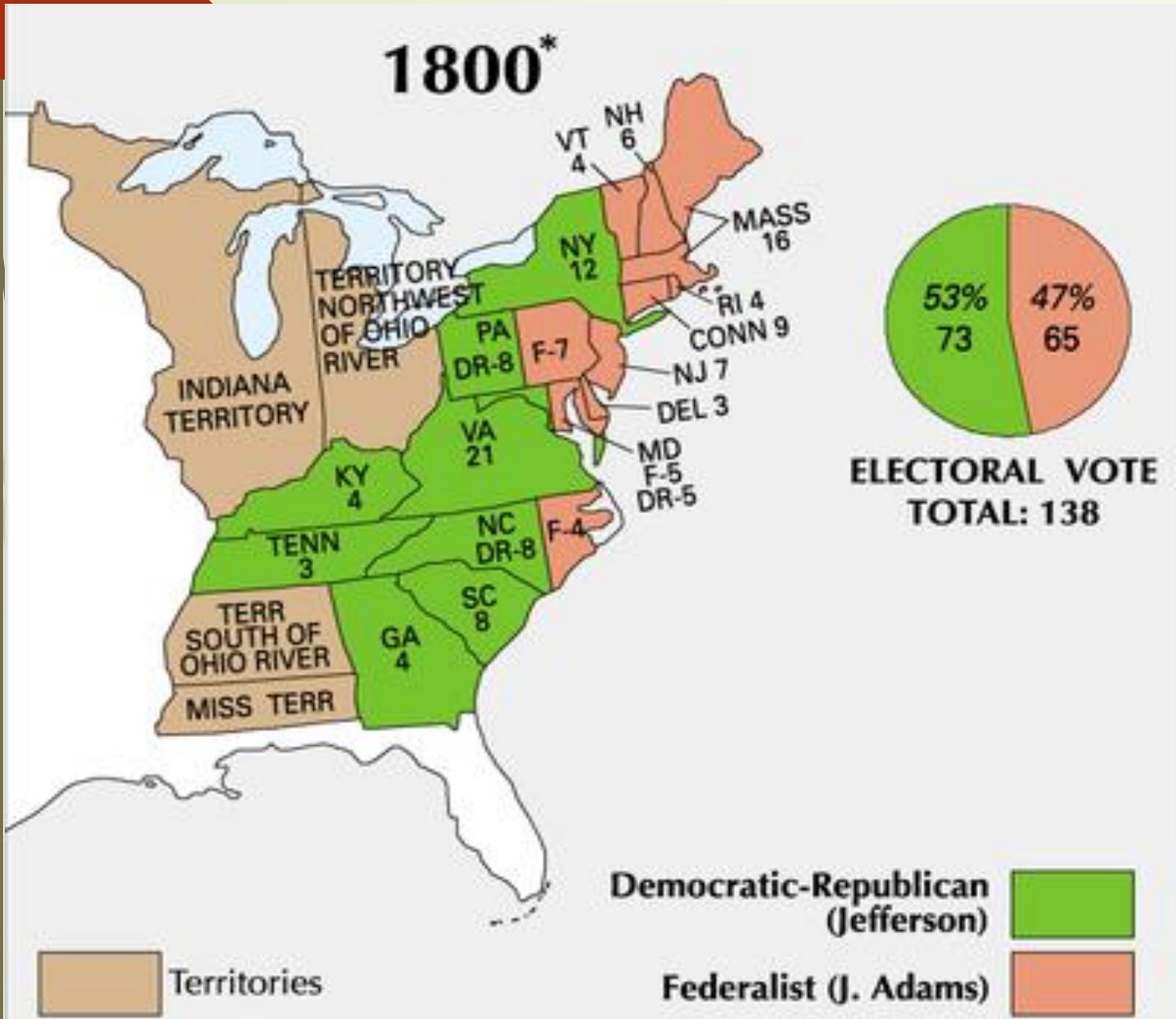
# Election of 1800

# Political situation

49

- Quasi war with France on going
- Election will be first between two 'parties'
  - John Adams seeks re-election as head of Federalists
  - Jefferson leads 'Democratic Republicans, chooses NY banker Aaron Burr as Vice President
- Bitterly contested
  - Democrats label Federalists "Monarchists", Party of the Rich, and ...British
  - Federalist label Democrats ... "Atheists, Anarchists, and Radicals."

# 1800 Election Result: A Tie !



Electors chosen by 'property owners in 6 states, appointed by 10 state Assemblies

Democratic Republican 'ticket' beats Federalists 73 votes vs Federalists 68 ...

But...Jefferson and Burr each have 73 votes .... "who will be President?"

Result to be decided by Congress 'Contingent election

# Jefferson versus Burr

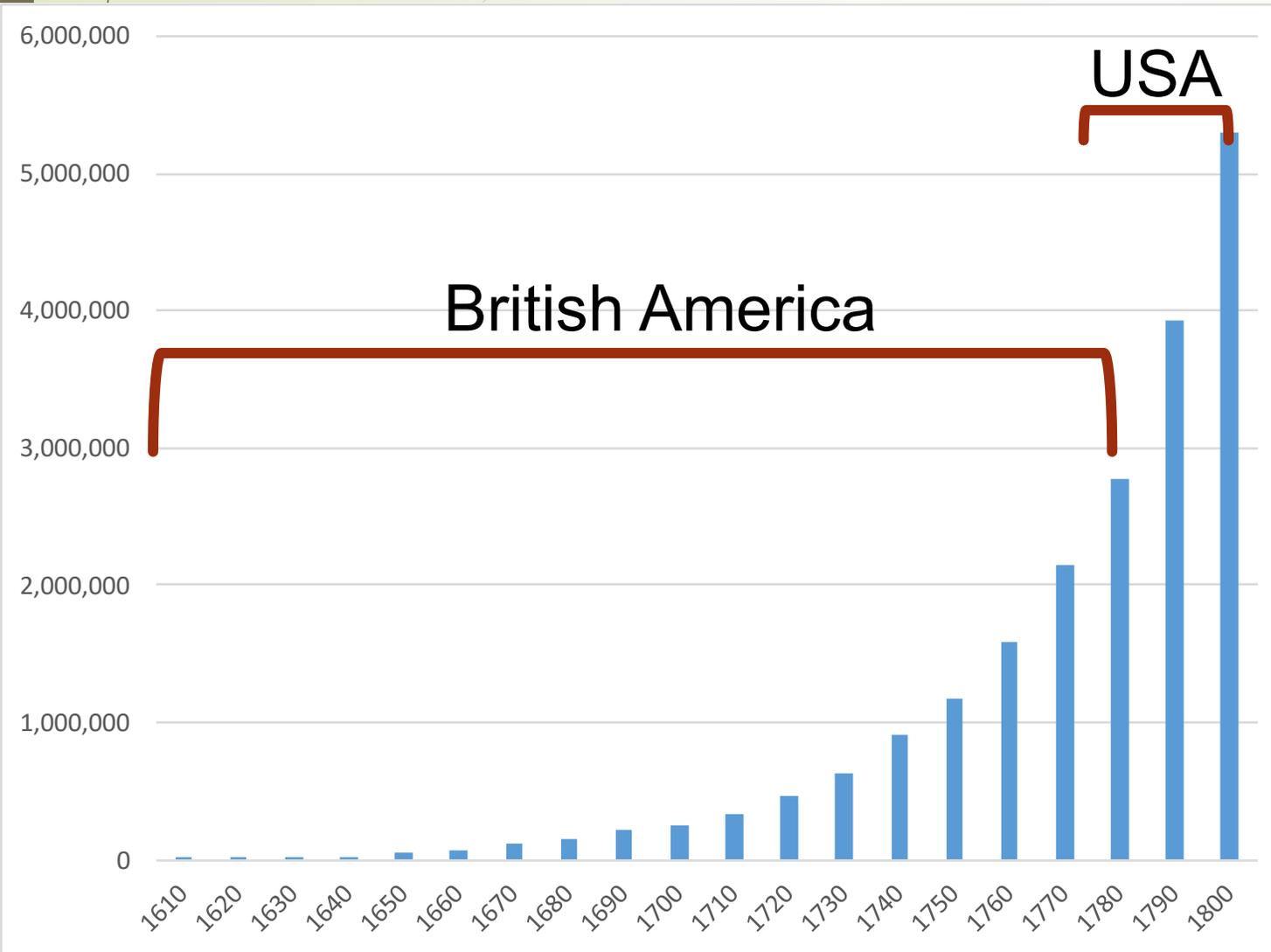
- ▶ Tied result ...Alien and Sedition Acts,, some Democrat Republicans imprisoned
- ▶ Most influential man of the time ....Alexander Hamilton....banker, financial...against everything Jefferson is for
- ▶ Burr, founder of Chase Manhattan Bank, anti slavery, for neutrality
- ▶ Hamilton does not trust Burr. Despises Jefferson's beliefs, but respects the man...bribes elector to switch votes
- ▶ Jefferson set to become third American President and first Democrat Republican.....and Hamilton... Burr's mortal enemy



# America of 1800

# United States 1800

## US Population Growth 1600- 1800



Population doubled since revolution now 5.3 million, including 890,000 slaves

Immigration 1780-1800 reduced to 50,000 a year (including slaves) ...due to wars, disruption to shipping

Very high birth-rate Childbirth (average 7 children per woman) higher survival rate than Europe ....Americans longer lived and healthier than those in an Industrial Britain

# Places and People 1800

39

- ➔ 75% Population white British
- ➔ 25% African slaves, 75% of whom born in America
- ➔ 99% Population one of many protestant denominations
- ➔ 95% population live in communities less than 500 people but major cities emerging New York (61,000) largest city next Philadelphia (40,000)...Boston (25,000).

# Economy

- ➔ 95% population involved in agriculture
- ➔ New England and North East, small farms, high literacy, multiple occupations ( fishing, whaling, multiple crops, home manufacturing), less than 1% population slaves
- ➔ South: plantations...mix of cash crops: tobacco, indigo, cotton, low literacy, slaves up to 60% of population in some districts
- ➔ Appalachians and North West... subsistence farming, small holdings, basic literacy. Lawless culture, substantial (500,000 Indigenous population)

# Slavery seen as a dying institution in 1800

47

- “Gradual abolition” in all northern state by 1805. Free after certain age)
- Considered uneconomic way of working
  - Tobacco and early cotton variety exhausting land
  - Plantations unprofitable, slavery more a burden than benefit
- Blacks thought incompatible with whites, incapable of organisation but threat
  - Repatriation to Africa
  - Redistributing slaves across new Western territories
  - Ending importation of new slaves after 1807 (as per Constitution)

# America Society 1800

- Optimistic
- Healthy
- Deferential

# The Americans of 1800



Most clothes home  
Made from wool,  
Hemp & leather.  
Cotton expensive due  
to effort to remove  
seeds

Clothes reused.  
Patched flea ridden  
and smelly

Urban and prosperous  
mimic European  
fashions



Ladies' Museum

Neo classical style....less flamboyant than 18th century...French revolutionary look

High-waisted silhouette was the prev across the Western world

Fashionable women consciously sou the supposed fashions of Ancient Greece or Rome. Everything from the hairstyles to the draping shawls evoked antiquity;

# And their hats 1800

41



LONDON HEAD DRESSES.

Hairdressing further underscored the classical inspiration of the era; styles were frequently given names from antiquity such à l'Agrippine and à la Phèdre

Variety of millinery. Jockey caps, lavish evening turbans, wide-brimmed bonnets, face-shielding poke bonnets, and veiled caps were all modish choices

# Look of the 'Middling People'



# Men's fashion 1800

43



Whigs, elaborate  
Coats replaced by  
Waistcoats, tall hats

Hats become  
taller as century  
progresses

First  
manufactured  
Clothing appears  
... mostly  
imported from  
Britain

# Children 1800



# Middle Class 1800 children

45



# A 'respectable' 1800 family

46





New century, New President, 1800 America still  
recognisable as vibrant but fragile offshoot of the old  
world



It will be soon become a place almost  
unrecognisable in terms of population, beliefs,  
and power