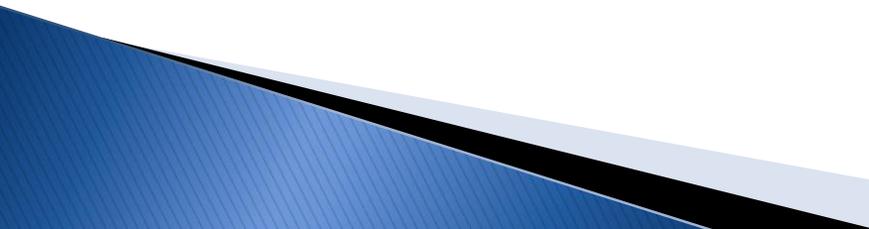




# Purpose

- ▶ Shortly after the government was established, to the Framers' dismay, political parties formed.
  - ▶ This lesson describes the Framers' views on political parties and how they first formed.
  - ▶ It also explains how parties became an essential component of the American political system by addressing challenges that the Constitution left unresolved.
- 

# Objectives

- ▶ *Explain why the Framers opposed the idea of political parties.*
  - ▶ *Describe the other ideas that helped political parties gain acceptance.*
  - ▶ *Explain the conflicting points of view that led to the development of parties and the roles they have played in history.*
  - ▶ *Evaluate, take, and defend positions on the importance of political parties today.*
- 

# Terms to Know

## ▶ **delegated powers**

- According to the natural rights philosophy, people always retain their basic rights, but provisionally entrust or assign certain powers to their government for certain, limited purposes. The powers of government are therefore "delegated powers" in that they are granted by the people, and the people can take them back if government fails to fulfill its purposes.

## ▶ **party system**

- A concept in political science that political parties control government.

## ▶ **platform**

- List of the policies and priorities of a political party; also known as a manifesto.
- 

## ▶ **political party**

- An organization seeking to achieve political power by electing members to public office so that its political philosophy is reflected in public policy.

## ▶ **sedition**

- Incitement to rebellion.

## ▶ **ticket**

- The choice of candidates of a political party for president and vice president.

# The Framers' Thoughts on Political Parties

- ▶ Madison argues that Constitution would control “evil” effects of factions
- ▶ Some (Burke) consider parties necessary to express open opposition to gov't policies
- ▶ Most American leaders oppose Burke, but many agree that they can “promote deliberation” and “check excesses in the majority”
- ▶ Delegates had no true experience with an established party system.

# The Development of Political Parties

- ▶ Ironically, Madison and Hamilton become opposing leaders of political parties w/in 10 yrs of ratification
- ▶ Issue that led to party division:
  - ▶ 1. Power of National Government
    - Hamilton – National Gov't should address any national issue, mentioned in Constitution or not
    - Jefferson – Feared vague national powers and “energetic” use of authority



## ▶ 2. Economic Vision

- Hamilton – National bank “necessary,” ex. Collect taxes, regulate trade
- Jefferson – Believed in agrarian society, congress should only act if absolutely and indispensably necessary

## ▶ 3. Foreign Policy

- Jefferson – supported France in Napoleonic wars, helped us during Rev. W/ Madison helps create Republican party.
- Hamilton – supported GB, more trade and cultural connection. Develops into Federalist party.
- Neither side accepted other as a long-term, durable “loyal opposition”



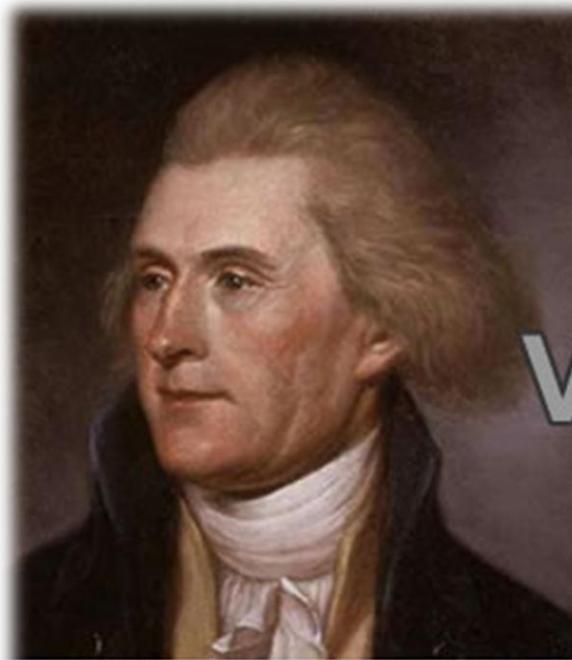
# 4. Alien & Sedition Acts

- ▶ Adams signs acts that gave him power to deport “dangerous” foreigners and criminalize “seditious” language
- ▶ Republicans (Jeff., Mad.) outraged at censorship, respond with KY and VA Resolutions (state need not comply w/ acts of Congress)
- ▶ Mobilized Republicans for election of 1800.

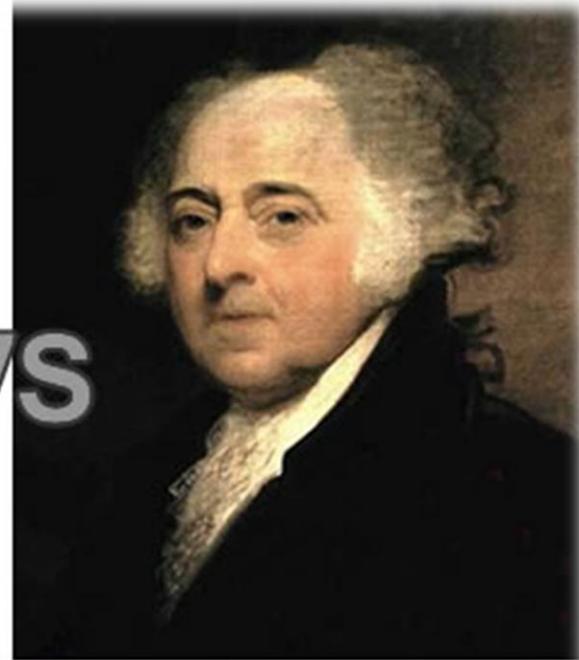


# The Revolution of 1800 and its Aftermath

- ▶ First election to feature candidates from political parties (Fed.–Adams, Repub.–Jeff)
- ▶ Repub. victory symbolized first transfer of power through election rather than heredity / violence



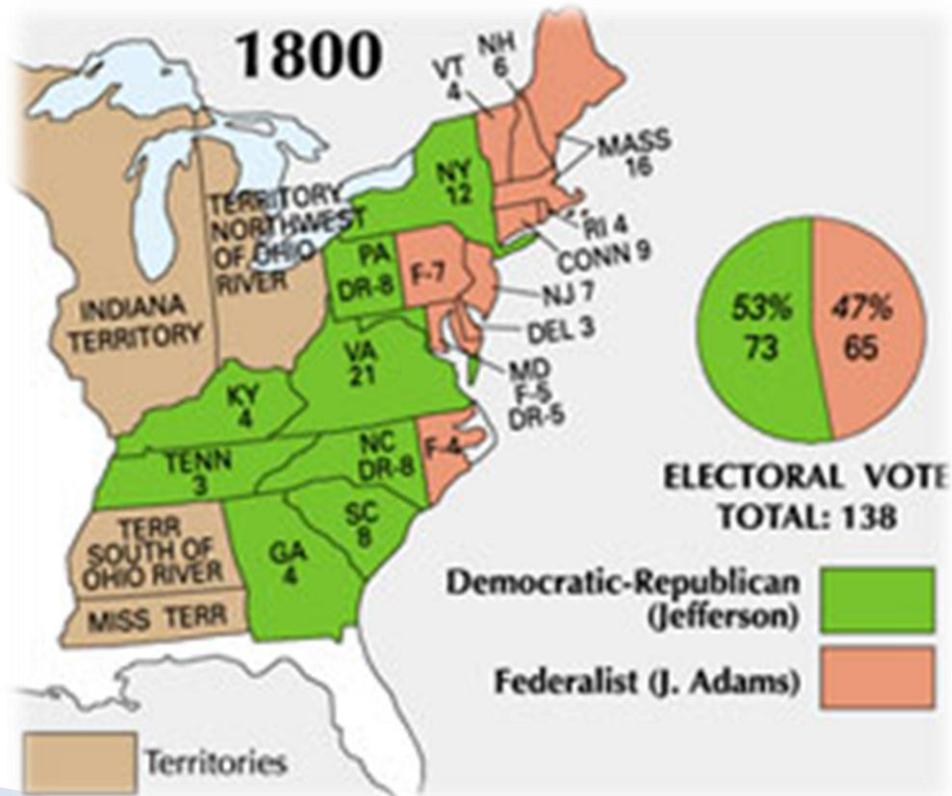
Thomas Jefferson



John Adams

VS

- ▶ However, exposed problem in Constitution
  - Jeff & Burr tie, electors could not specify which would be president. House had to decide.
- ▶ 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment
  - Vote for Pres. & VP on same ballot
- ▶ Jefferson opposed permanent political parties and thought Federalists ideals would fade away



# Political Party Growth and Functions

- ▶ By 1820s, positive vision of parties emerged
- ▶ Van Buren touts parties with clear principles and offer a clear choice
  - Parties are “glue” that holds federal system / checks and balances together.
  - Helped president work w/ Congress
  - Bridged great distances between Washington & people



- ▶ Patronage enabled president to build connections across levels of gov't
- ▶ Elaborate entertainments boost support and give members sense of belonging.
- ▶ Unlike Jeff / Hamilton, Van Buren felt competing notions of common good could coexist.
  - Those out of power would hold them accountable / additional check and balance



# Political Parties Today

- ▶ Democrats and Republicans have dominated since 1860s
- ▶ Purposes of political parties today
  - Mobilize participation
  - Connect Executive and Legislative branches
  - Connect national & state governments
  - Creation and promotion of party **platforms**
  - Provide forums to deliberate about public policies / help organize & channel passions & interests
  - Provides stability
  - Ensures change in gov't, not Constitution



# Less Favorable Aspects...

- ▶ Mutes truly alternative views
- ▶ Minor parties generally small, narrow interests. Little to no chance of competing nationally.
- ▶ If single set of interest gains dominant power w/in a party, threat of majority tyranny.

