

John Adams

# John Adams - Election of 1796

## Electoral College Results

- Aaron Burr - 30
- Thomas Pickney - 59
- Thomas Jefferson - 68
- John Adams – 71
- 157 to 71

**This is a good summary if you were absent.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyJGzAlGcPk>

# XYZ Affair

Adams sends 3 delegates to France

- Pinckney / Marshall / Gerry
- Want to negotiate and stop attacks on US Ships
- Three French agents referred to as X, Y, and Z

Demand a bribe of \$250,000

Want US to lend France 7 million dollars

*“Millions for defense but not a sixpence  
(6 pennies) for tribute.”*

# War Fever

**XYZ Affair** causes an uproar

People want WAR with France

Federalist demanded Adams act.

## **Adams Acts**

Increases size of Army (Congress)

Creates the Navy (Father of the Navy)

Negotiates with France to stop attacks on US merchant ships without war.

# Alien and Sedition Acts

## Federalists' fear France

- Mistrust French immigrants
- They might bring dangerous ideas & will back those who support French (Democratic Republicans)
- Adams decides need to control situation and those (immigrants) who support DR who sympathize with France

# Alien Acts

- Changed the duration to become a citizen from 5 years to 14 years.  
(Naturalization Act)
- This will prevent French immigrants from becoming voting citizens.
- President can deport or imprison any alien he thinks is dangerous.

# Sedition Acts

Sedition is any activity designed to overthrow a government.

## **Limited Free Speech**

Made it a crime to write or say anything against or insulting about the President, Congress or the government in general

1798-99 - Ten people were convicted under the act. (Republicans - newspaper people)

# States Exercise Their Rights

**States decide Alien & Sedition Acts are unconstitutional.**

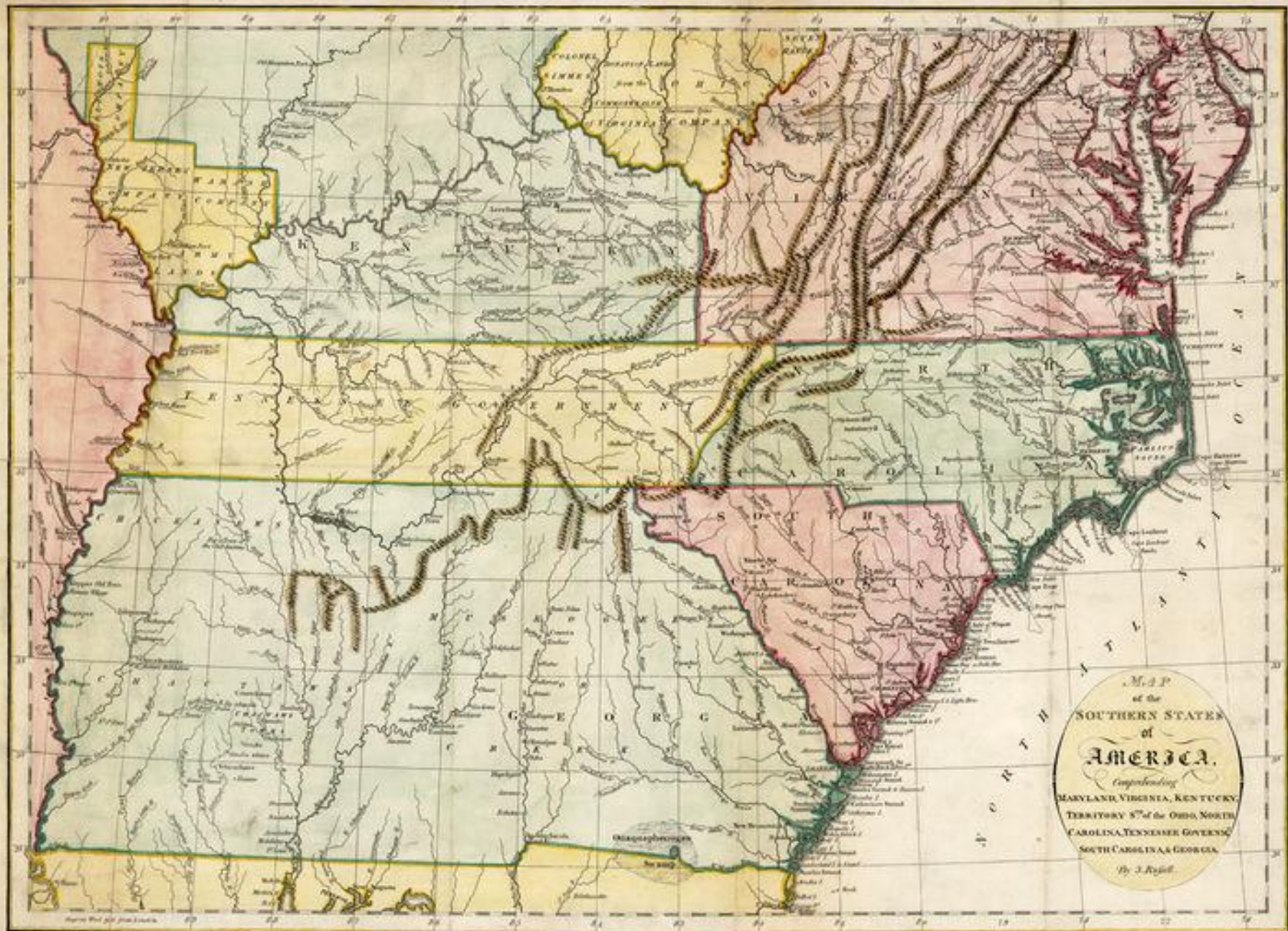
Violates the first amendment

**Supreme Court really isn't established.**

**James Madison & Thomas Jefferson**

- **Kentucky & Virginia Resolutions**
- Write resolutions attacking the laws
- Stated they were unconstitutional and that they “nullified” them in the two states.





M. S. P.  
 of the  
 SOUTHERN STATES  
 of  
 AMERICA.  
 Comprehending  
 MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, KENTUCKY,  
 TERRITORY S<sup>W</sup> of the OHIO, NORTH  
 CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, GEORGIA,  
 SOUTH CAROLINA & GEORGIA.  
 By J. R. Hill.

London: Published by the Author, No. 41, in the Strand, 1810. Price 1s. 6d.

# 1801 Judiciary Act: Midnight Judges

The Midnight Judges were last-minute appointments made by United States President John Adams

The judges were referred to in this term because President Adams is said to have been signing appointments up until the midnight of his last day in office.

President Adams made 58 Federalist judicial appointments. The goal of the appointments was to ensure that the Federalists would still have people in power, even after President Adams left office.

President Jefferson refused to appoint the Midnight Judges. Instead he instructed his Secretary of State, James Madison to lose the list (Marbury vs. Madison)