

Thomas Jefferson's Presidency

1801-1809

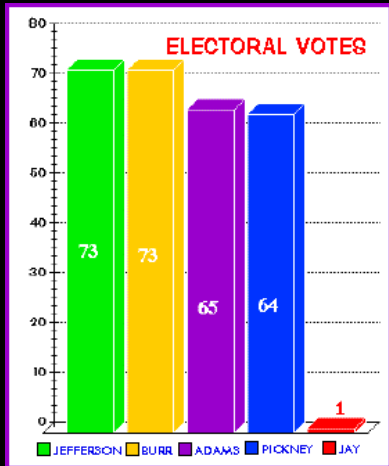


The Twelfth Amendment

- The Election of 1800 was a repeat of the Election of 1796.
- Democratic-Republican candidates – Thomas Jefferson (President)
Aaron Burr (Vice President)
- Federalist candidates – John Adams (President)
Charles Pinckney (Vice President)



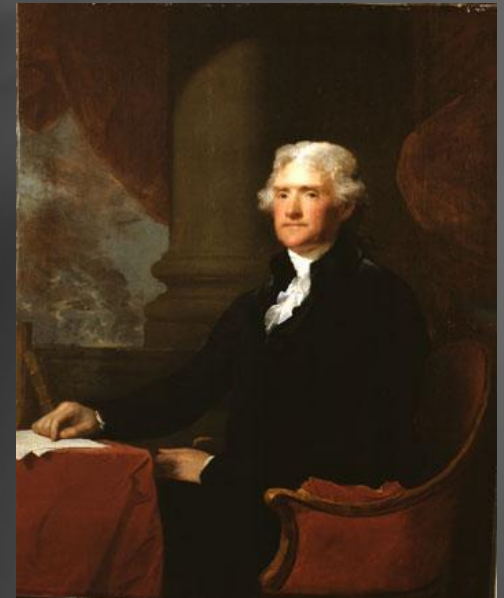
- After voting the Electoral College had a tie - 73 votes for Jefferson and 73 votes for Burr. In case of a tie the Constitution stated the tie would be broken by a vote of the House of Representatives.

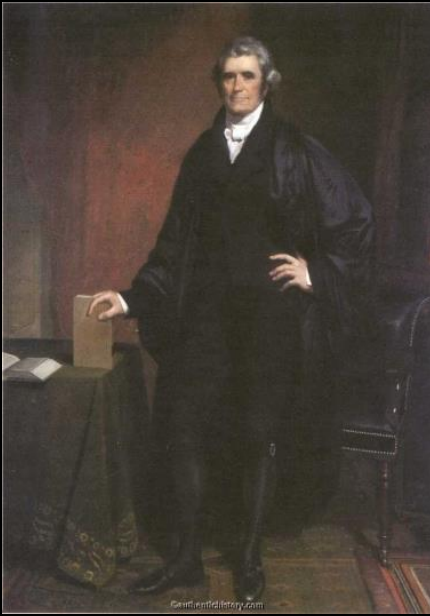


- The congressmen voted 35 times before the tie was broken and Jefferson was chosen as President and Burr as Vice President.
- These voting problems had to stop so the 12th Amendment was proposed and ratified.
- From now on the electors were to specifically state if they were voting for a candidate for President or for Vice President.

Philosophy of Government

- Thomas Jefferson was the founder of the Democratic-Republican Party.
 - He believed in a Laissez-faire or “hands-off” government.
 - Jefferson believed that government should be smaller and less intrusive so he:
 - repealed the Whiskey Tax and fired federal tax collectors
 - stopped enforcing the Sedition Act and issued pardons
 - changed the Alien Act to allow citizenship in 5 years
 - reduced government spending
 - reduced size of Army & Navy
- But he kept the U.S. Bank and continued paying off state debts





Supreme Court

At the time Jefferson took office the federal courts were controlled by Federalist judges that had been appointed by John Adams in the last month of his presidency.

John Marshall was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and he believed the courts were too weak.

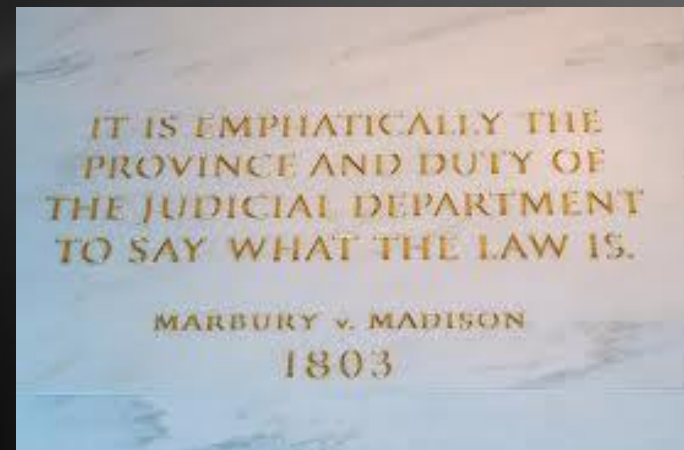
Once Jefferson became president he selected James Madison as Secretary of State.

- Madison was to deliver the remaining judicial appointments made by Adams but he refused to turn over the appointment papers to the judges.
- William Marbury was one of these judges and he decided to sue James Madison.
- As required under the Judiciary Act of 1789 cases against federal officials must be tried in the Supreme Court.
- The case was called Marbury v Madison (1803)



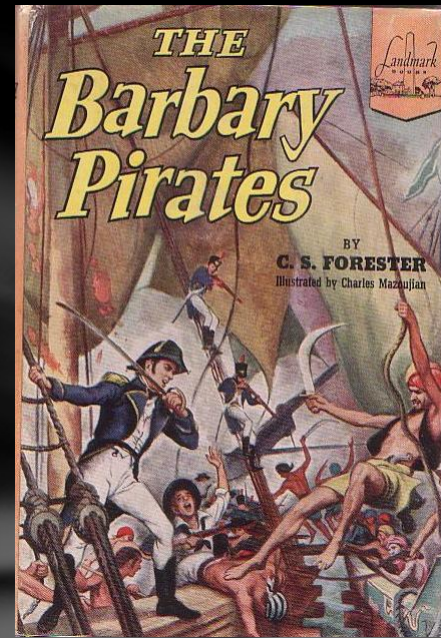
Marbury v Madison (1803)

- The court ruled:
 - The Judiciary Act was unconstitutional.
 - The court argued that the Constitution did not say Congress had the power to determine where cases against officials could be heard.
 - Therefore, the Constitution did not give Congress the power to pass the judiciary Act.
- Marbury v Madison established the power of Judicial Review.
- Judicial review is a court's power to review, laws and governmental acts to determine if they violate the constitution.
- Judicial Review increased the power of the supreme court



Barbary Pirates

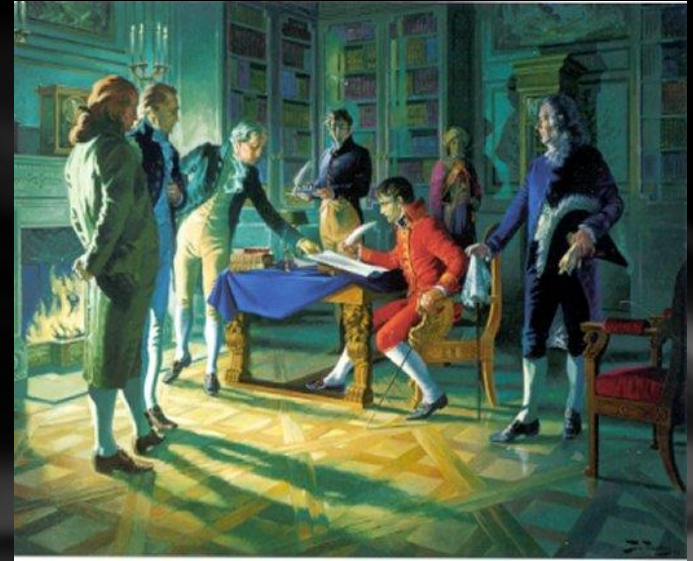
- Trading was a large and profitable part of the American economy.
- Pirates along the northern coast of Africa (the Barbary States) had made a business of attacking European and U.S. ships trying to trade in Africa
- A yearly tribute was paid to the pirates for safe passage along the Barbary Coast.
- The ruler of Tripoli decided to increase the amount of tribute the U.S. would have to pay to trade.
- Thomas Jefferson decided not to pay the tribute. Instead he went on the attack and ordered a blockade of Tripoli's ports.



- During the blockade, an American ship called the USS Philadelphia ran aground and her crew was captured.
- Word got out that Tripoli was planning to use the Philadelphia against the U.S.
- Lieutenant Stephen Decatur and 70 volunteers boarded the captured Intrepid and destroyed the Philadelphia by fire. They escaped without losing a single man.
- U.S. Soldiers landed in North Africa and attacked Tripoli until its ruler signed an agreement promising to leave American ships alone.

Louisiana Purchase 1803

- In 1795 Thomas Pinckney negotiated a treaty that allowed farmers to ship and store their goods in New Orleans.
- It also settled land disputes with Spain about the northern border of Florida.
- In 1800 France negotiated to get the Louisiana Territory back from Spain.
- Jefferson worried that France would turn its sights on America.



- After the Haitians rebelled and declared their independence from France, Jefferson decided to send ambassadors to France to buy New Orleans.
- James Monroe and Robert Livingston were authorized to spend up to \$10 million.
- Foreign Minister Talleyrand showed no interest in selling New Orleans but Napoleon need money for his war in Europe.
- He authorized Talleyrand to offer all of the Louisiana Territory for sale.

Louisiana Purchase

- Monroe and Livingston offered \$4 million for the Louisiana Territory but Talleyrand said that was too low.
- So they offered \$15 million and Talleyrand accepted their offer.
- Jefferson was thrilled with the news despite the fact they had spent more than the \$10 million authorized.



- However, many in Congress questioned whether the Constitution gave Jefferson the power to purchase the Louisiana Territory.
- Jefferson believed in a strict interpretation of the Constitution but finally concluded that the Constitution gave him the power to make treaties. Therefore, he would consider the Louisiana Purchase a treaty.
- The Senate quickly approved the “treaty”.
- Jefferson then selected Meriwether Lewis to lead an expedition to explore this new territory.

Impressment of Sailors

In 1803 the British and French were at war and both were attacking American ships trying to conduct trade.

The French seized American ships trying to trade with Britain

Britain seized American ship trying to trade with France.

Britain also began impressing (forcing a person to serve) British and American sailors into the British Navy.



In 1807, Three impressed American sailors escaped and joined the crew of the USS Chesapeake.

The British demanded the Captain of the Chesapeake return the American officers. He refused when he discovered they were American citizens.

When the USS Chesapeake went out to sea, the British attacked and boarded the ship and took the three sailors.

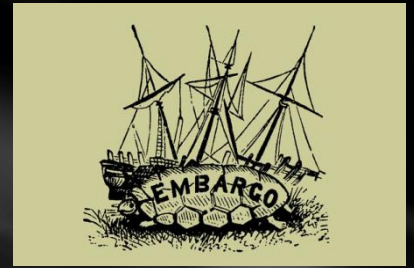
This was called the Chesapeake Affair.

Many Americans were calling for war but Jefferson hoped to retain the peace.



The Embargo Act

- In 1807 Congress passed the Embargo Act forbidding the export of any goods to any nation.
- Jefferson hoped the embargo would hurt the British and French and force them to respect America's neutrality. Then he would lift the embargo.



- Unfortunately, the greatest damage caused by the embargo was to Americans.
 - America's exports dropped so merchants and farmers lost money.
 - Sailors were out of work as fewer ships were needed for trade.
 - Merchants in America had less goods to sell as they were not getting the imports from other countries.
- It took a year before Jefferson admitted the Embargo Act was a failure.

- In 1809 the Embargo Act was replaced with the Non-intercourse Act that limited the embargo to France and Britain.
- This was the most hated measure of Jefferson's presidency. But his popularity with the people was still high.
- In 1808 he followed Washington's precedent and refused to run for a 3rd term as President.

