

Objectives

- Discuss the reasons for tension between the United States and France.
- Describe the main provisions of the Alien and Sedition acts.
- Explain how controversy arose over states' rights.



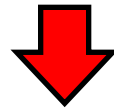
Terms and People

- **alien** – an outsider or someone from another country
- **sedition** – activity designed to overthrow a government
- **nullify** – to deprive of legal force
- **states' rights** – the idea that the union binding “these United States” is an agreement between the states and that they therefore can overrule federal law



How did problems with France intensify the split between the Federalists and the Republicans?

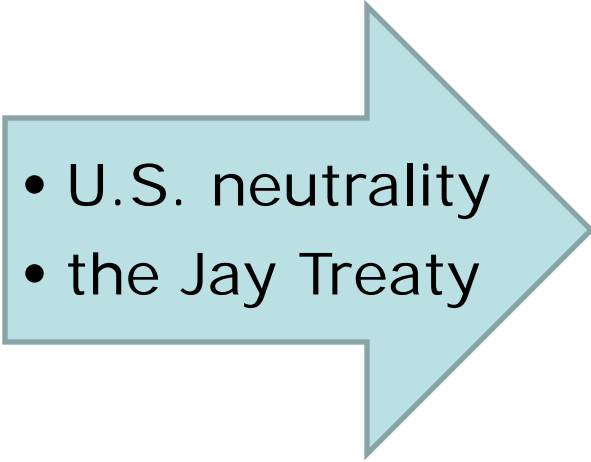
John Adams succeeded Washington as President in 1796.




Adams immediately faced a **crisis over relations with France.**



Recent actions by American leaders provoked angry responses from the French people.

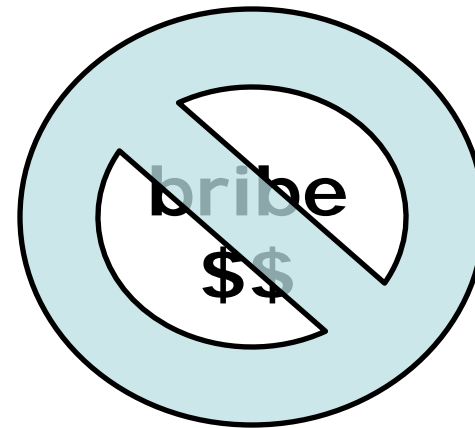
- 
- U.S. neutrality
 - the Jay Treaty



The French snubbed a U.S. diplomat and attacked U.S. ships.

In 1797, Adams sent a mission to France. This led to a scandal known as the XYZ Affair.

French agents demanded that the U.S. pay them a large bribe.



The Americans refused. The French agents were anonymously known as X, Y, and Z.

The XYZ Affair caused war fever in America.

Adams asked Congress to increase the size of the army and rebuild the navy.

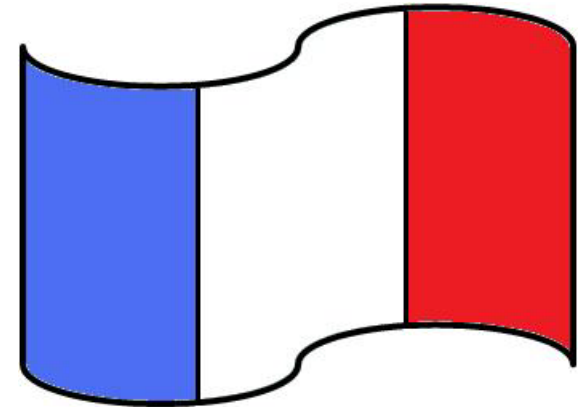


From 1798–1800, the United States fought an undeclared naval war with France.



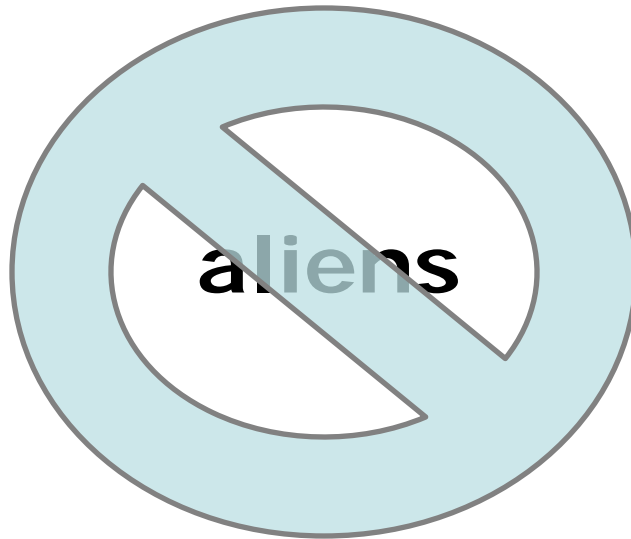
Adams opposed a full-scale war with France.

He sent a new mission to France to meet with dictator Napoleon Bonaparte.

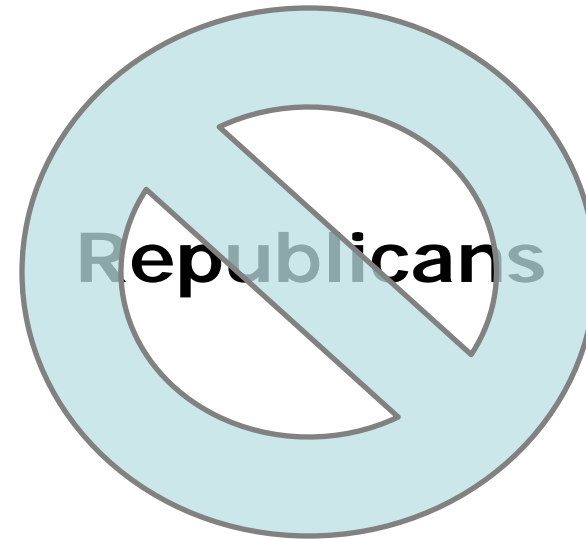


In 1800, Napoleon agreed to stop seizing American ships. **Adams had avoided war.**

In 1798, war fever drove Federalists to pass laws to destroy their political opponents.



The **Alien** Act was directed at aliens, such as immigrants.



The **Sedition** Act targeted Republicans.

Alien Act

- Increased the duration, from 5 to 14 years, that a person had to live in the U.S. to become a citizen.
- Gave the President power to deport or imprison any alien considered dangerous.

Sedition Act

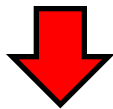
- The harshest law limiting free speech ever passed in the U.S.
- Made it a crime for anyone to write or say anything insulting or false about the President, Congress, or the government.

Passage of the Alien and Sedition acts renewed the debate over **federal versus state power**.

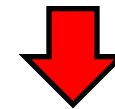
Arguments for State's Rights	Arguments for Federal Power
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The federal government derives its power from rights given to it by the states.• Because the states created the United States, individual states have the power to nullify a federal law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The federal government derives its power from rights given to it by the American people.• States have no power to nullify federal laws.• States cannot revoke federal powers set forth in the Constitution.

Republicans fought the Alien and Sedition acts.

Kentucky and Virginia passed resolutions that **declared the acts unconstitutional**. These state resolutions had little immediate impact, but the Alien and Sedition acts did not last long.



The Sedition Act expired in 1801.

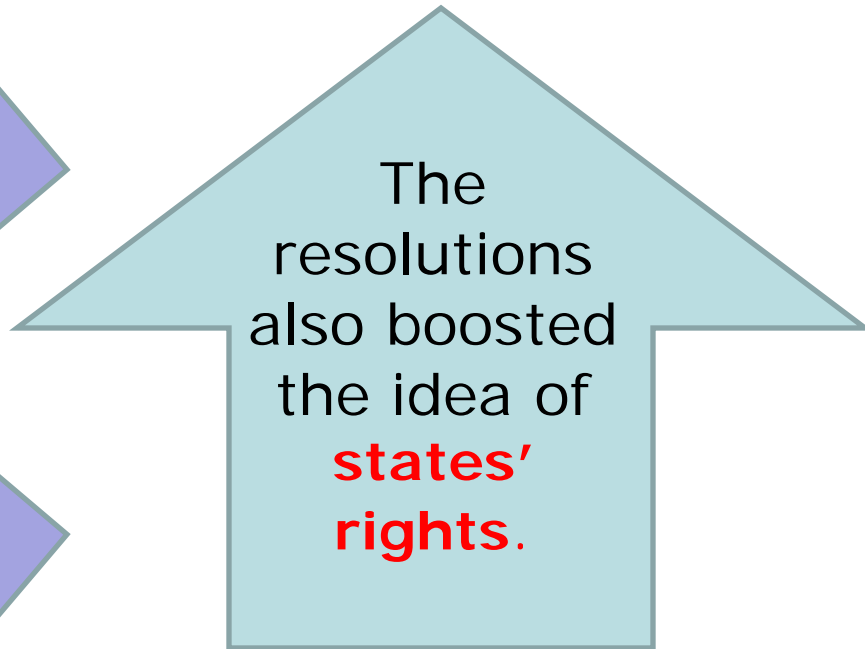


The waiting period to become a citizen was restored to 5 years in 1802.

The Virginia and Kentucky resolutions were far more important than the laws that provoked them.



They claimed that states could **nullify** a law passed by Congress.



The resolutions also boosted the idea of **states' rights.**

Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz

