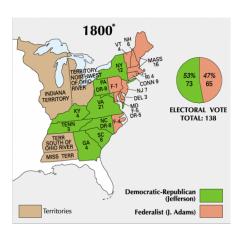
FEDERALISTS LOSE POWER



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In the U.S. presidential election of 1800, the Federalists (with John Adams, the sitting president, as the nominee) lost to the Democratic-Republicans (represented by Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr). This election was the first time in American history that power passed from one political party to another. Election-results map based on an image from the 1970 *National Atlas of the United States*.

Jefferson <u>viewed</u> the <u>election of 1800</u> (one of the most <u>divisive</u> in American history) as a <u>second revolution</u>. Federalists (including the sitting President, John Adams, the first chief executive to <u>live in the White House</u>) wanted the country to have a strong central government while <u>Democratic-Republicans</u> (led by their candidate, Thomas Jefferson) believed that a too-strong <u>federal government</u> was dangerous.

Previously <u>close collaborators</u>, Adams and Jefferson had become partisan disagreers by the late 1790s. (Their friendship, through effort, was later restored and they died, within hours of each other, on July 4, 1826 - fifty years to the day after they both signed the Declaration of Independence.)

The Democratic-Republicans <u>won</u> the 1800 presidential vote. But the country's first constitutional crisis developed when the 73 Democratic-Republican electors (voting in <u>the Electoral College</u>) each cast one ballot for Jefferson (who had run for President) and one ballot for <u>Aaron Burr</u> (the presumptive Vice-Presidential candidate).

Today, the results of such a process in the <u>Electoral College</u> (this is a PDF link) would be straightforward because electors have separate ballots for president and vice president. Such, however, was not the case <u>in 1800</u> when ballots did not distinguish between the separate offices. As a result, there was a 73-73 tie *for president* between Jefferson and Burr.

If the Electoral College is deadlocked, the <u>Constitution requires</u> that a presidential election must be decided by the House of Representatives. There, it took $\underline{36}$ <u>ballots</u>, over the course of a week, before Jefferson was finally declared <u>the winner</u>. He would soon take office as the country's third president, and the issue of separate ballots was thereafter repaired by the $\underline{12th}$ <u>Amendment</u>.

John Adams, wishing like-minded Federalists to maintain positions of importance even when he was out of office, issued many last-minute appointments. Many of those appointments - literally at the "midnight hour" - created new judgeships.

When the newly elected president heard about those appointments, he was not amused.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/FEDERALISTS-LOSE-POWER-Marbury-vs-Madison

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/FEDERALISTS-LOSE-POWER-Marbury-vs-Madison

Media Stream



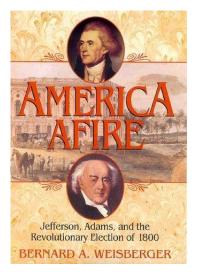
Thomas Jefferson's Views on the Constitution

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress. PD

<u>Transcription online</u>, courtesy University of Chicago Press.

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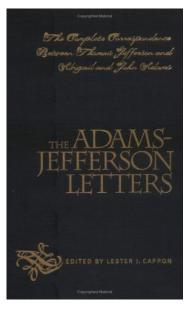


America Afire - Hotly Contested Election of 1800

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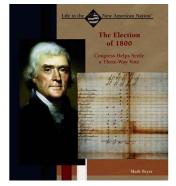


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