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JOHN ADAMS

-Terms in Office:

John Adams was in office for one term (March 4, 1797-March 4, 1801).

-Election Results:

As Vice-President, Adams was the Federalist party's heir apparent when Washington retired in 1796, but in the Electoral College he won only a narrow 71 to 68 victory over Republican Thomas Jefferson.

-Four ideas or acts passed during:

1. Built up the US Navy
2. Alien and Sedition Acts (1798)
 - Alien Act [June 25th]
 - Sedition Act [July 14th]
 - Naturalization Act [June 18th]
 - Alien Enemies Act [July 6th]
3. The XYZ Affair
4. Fought the Quasi War with France and ended the war through diplomacy

-Administration: Vice President = Thomas Jefferson (1797-1801)

Secretaries of State = Timothy Pickering (1797-1800)
John Marshall (1800-1801)

Secretaries of the Treasury = Oliver Wolcott, Jr. (1797-1800)
Samuel Dexter (1800-1801)

Secretaries of War = James McHenry (1797-1800)
Samuel Dexter [how convenient?] (1800-1801)

Attorney General = Charles Lee (1797-1801)

Postmaster General = Joseph Habersham (1797-1801)

Secretary of the Navy = Benjamin Stoddert (1798-1801)

-Two problems encountered:

1. The XYZ Affair:

John Marshall, Elbridge Gerry, and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney are our representatives that went to France to see their Prime Minister. While waiting, a French guard told them to give him \$250,000 to see the Prime Minister. Our agents tell Adams what France has asked of them and because we were a new government we thought this was a horrible thing, bribing that is. So Adams tells Congress and the entire public found out because nothing stays in Congress for long and everyone got mad at

Adams. Therefore, we did what we Americans always do best and burn effigies of John Adams. Anti-federalist get going and make Adams look even more like an idiot. The reason Adams is taking all the blame is because he does not want anything to happen to Marshal, Gerry, and Pinckney, hence the X-Y-Z, that stands for each of the men. But it was not as if people could not figure it out I mean just think who were the last people from our government to go to France? Hmm... and this became known as the XYZ Affair and would stick to John Adams name for all of history.

2. Alien and Sedition Acts (1798):

The *Alien Act* (official title: An Act Concerning Aliens) authorized the president to deport any resident alien considered "dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States." Enacted June 25, 1798, with a two year expiration date.

The *Sedition Act* made it a crime to publish "false, scandalous, and malicious writing" against the government or its officials. Enacted July 14, 1798, with an expiration date of March 3, 1801.

The *Naturalization Act* extended the duration of residence required for aliens to become citizens, from five years to 14. Enacted June 18, 1798, with no expiration date, it was repealed in 1802.

The *Alien Enemies Act* (official title: An Act Respecting Alien Enemies) authorized the president to apprehend and deport resident aliens if their home countries were at war with the United States. Enacted July 6, 1798, with no expiration date, it remains in effect today as 50 USC Sections 21-24.

-Four trivia facts:

1. Most of John Adams teeth had fallen out but he refused to wear dentures, therefore he talked with a lisp.
2. Until his record was broken by Ronald Reagan on October 10, 2001, he was the nation's longest-living President (90 years, 247 days).
3. When Adams and his family moved to Washington to live in the White House, they got lost in the woods north of the city for several hours.
4. John Adams was a second cousin to Samuel Adams, and a third cousin to his own wife, Abigail Smith Adams.