

NATION: The Thomas Jefferson Era

Jefferson Is Third U.S. President—Wins Tie

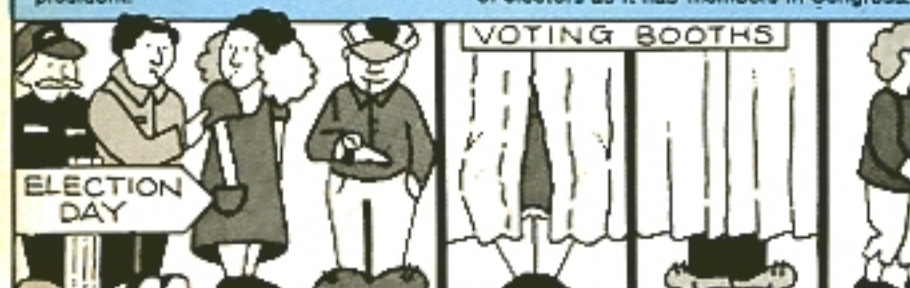
The Electing of a President

The writers of the Constitution did not want the people of the U.S. to vote directly for the president. The people are to choose **electors** [qualified people from each state]. The electors vote for president and vice-president.



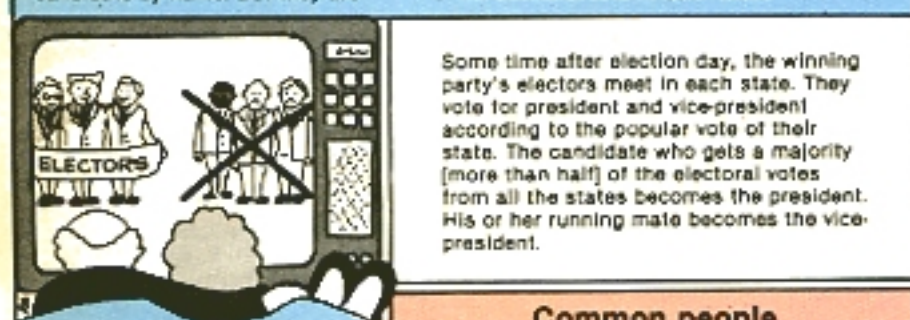
Each political party chooses people to run for president and for vice-president.

Each political party then chooses its electors. Each state gets the same number of electors as it has members in Congress.



On election day, voters cast their ballots [votes]. They vote for the candidate by name. But they are

really voting for the candidate's electors. The popular vote [people's vote] decides the electoral vote in each state.



Some time after election day, the winning party's electors meet in each state. They vote for president and vice-president according to the popular vote of their state. The candidate who gets a majority [more than half] of the electoral votes from all the states becomes the president. His or her running mate becomes the vice-president.

If Candidate #1 gets the most popular votes in a state, then Candidate #1 wins all of that state's electoral votes. The idea is "winner take all."

Common people
 ↓
 Electors
 ↓
 President

Washington, D.C., 1800

Former Vice-President **Thomas Jefferson** is the new U.S. president—the U.S. government may be in for change.

Unlike Presidents Washington and Adams, Jefferson wants to cut government's power. Jefferson thinks the federal government:

- Should do only a few things—like set up an army.
- Should be run by all the people, not just the rich.
- Should follow the Constitution closely.

Because of what the Constitution says, Jefferson almost did not become president. The Constitution says the person getting the most electoral votes will be president.

But in the election of 1800, Jefferson and Aaron Burr got the same number of votes. For the first time, the House of Representatives had to choose who would be president. On the 36th vote, the House picked Jefferson.

Congress [the House and Senate together] does not want ties like this to happen again. So Congress is writing a 12th amendment to the Constitution.

This amendment says electors must vote separately for president and for vice-president.

Four-Year War With Barbary Pirates Ends—U.S. Navy Wins



Washington, D.C., 1805

A small American navy has done what the big countries of England, France, and Spain did not dare do. The navy stopped the Barbary pirates.

Barbary pirates live in North Africa along the Mediterranean Sea. For years, they have boarded ships belonging to France, England, Spain, and America.

The pirates would then hold the people on the ships for ransom [sale]. A country could buy its people back—sometimes paying as much as \$4,000 for each person.

By 1801, America had had enough. President Jefferson told his navy to stop the pirates. Americans are taking great pride in their new country.

NATION: The Louisiana Purchase**Louisiana Purchase Doubles Size of U.S.**

Washington, D.C., 1803

President Thomas Jefferson doubled the size of the U.S.—by buying the Louisiana Territory from France for only \$15 million.

The Louisiana Territory is a large piece of land in the middle of America—with the city of New Orleans sitting at the bottom.

This year, President Jefferson made an offer for the city of New Orleans. But Napoleon [the ruler of France] surprised them. He wanted to sell all of the Louisiana Territory.

Americans think Napoleon sold the land because he needs money to make war with England.

Like many Americans, settlers are moving west to live. The goods these people sell must be sent down the Mississippi River through the city of New Orleans.

France owned New Orleans. It could stop these goods.

But not all Americans like the purchase. They feel Jefferson had no right to buy Louisiana. They say Jefferson promised:

- To follow the Constitution closely—But the Constitution does not say the government can buy land.

- Pay off the government's bills—But Jefferson has now added \$15 million to those bills.

- To stop the government from owning land—But now the government owns the biggest piece of land ever. (See map.)

Western settlers like the Louisiana Purchase. Settlers now:

- Have new land to settle.
- Can send goods by boat to New Orleans—without trouble from France.

The Louisiana Purchase: How it Happened

1804, St. Louis

WHO:

President Jefferson hires Lewis and Clark to explore the Louisiana Territory. They start at St. Louis and go to the Pacific Ocean.

WHY:

Goods from the West were sent to France's New Orleans. From here the goods were shipped to Europe or other parts of the U.S. The U.S. bought New Orleans so France couldn't control U.S. shipping.

WHAT & WHERE:

The Louisiana Territory:

- 15 million square miles of land between Canada and the Rocky Mountains.
- Also includes the city of New Orleans.

**People in the News****Meriwether Lewis and William Clark: (1804-1806)**

- Told by President Jefferson to find a water route to the Pacific Ocean.
- Led group from St. Louis to explore Louisiana Territory.
- Made friends with Western Indians.
- Found Columbia River and followed to Pacific Ocean.
- Claimed land around Columbia River for U.S.



Meriwether Lewis



William Clark

Sacagawea

- Shoshoni Indian woman who guided Lewis and Clark through Indian country.
- Met Lewis and Clark in North Dakota and went with them on part of their journey.
- Knew language of many Indian tribes.
- Found Shoshoni Indians who usually hid from other people.
- Got Shoshoni to give horses and guides to Lewis and Clark.

Zebulon Pike:

- Led a party to explore the Southern part of the Louisiana Territory.
- Tried to find start of Mississippi
- Explored the Rocky Mountains (1806).
- Found Pike's Peak—a mountain top in Colorado named after him.



Zebulon Pike

NATION: The War of 1812

English Burn Washington, D.C.—President Madison Safe



President and Mrs. Madison flee the burning White House.

Washington, D.C., 1814

English soldiers wanting to get even with Americans for burning buildings in Canada—have set fire to all government buildings in Washington. One of the buildings is the White House, where the president lives. The president and his wife escaped by only a few hours.

The War of 1812 is being

fought to stop England from kidnapping American sailors. After two years, both sides are growing tired of the war. Most Americans did not want it. That is why they call it, "Mr. Madison's War."

President Madison did not want war either. But England kept taking American ships and sailors. So war, for him, became the only way out.

Why Americans are Fighting the English—Again

Below, a look at the steps leading to the War of 1812.



- 1** 1800
Impressment of Sailors
England is impressing (kidnapping) American sailors. England needs sailors because it is at war with France. Also, England is losing its own sailors. They are going to work on American ships because sailors are treated better on American ships.

- 2** 1807
Embargo Act Passes
America does not want war with England again. Congress passes the Embargo Act to keep ships at home. The Embargo Act stops ships from coming into America. It also stops American ships from leaving. Congress hopes this will end the kidnapping of U.S. sailors.



- 4** 1807
Embargo Act Repealed
Congress repeals (takes back) the Embargo Act. America will again trade with all countries except France and England.

- 3** 1807
Kidnapping Goes On
The Embargo Act does not stop the kidnapping. Also, no goods are being shipped out of America. No money is coming into America. Factories are closing down. People are losing jobs.



- 5** 1811
Trouble with the Indians
Indian Chief Tecumseh leads the Indians in their fight against William Henry Harrison and the settlers at Tippecanoe. Harrison's fighters win. This weakens the Indians. America thinks England is pushing the Indians into fighting the Americans.

- 6** 1811
War Hawks Want War
In Congress, men called War Hawks say it is time to fight a war with England. Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun are two top War Hawks. They say we must punish England for kidnapping our sailors. Also, they want to show the world that America is a strong nation. America cannot be bullied by other countries.



- 8** June, 1812
President Declares War
President Madison declares war against England. The American people are not happy about the war. The country is not ready to fight another war. America has a weak army, poor leaders, and no money to pay for a war.

- 7** 1812
Plans to Take Canada
America thinks the best way to win the war against England is to take over Canada—England's colony.



NATION: Fighting England Again**How the War Was Fought and Won****War Declared on England****June 1812**

President Madison declares war on England. Madison says we must fight a war because England is:

- Impressing [kidnapping] American sailors.
- Keeping American ships from using the seas freely.
- Stirring up the Indians to fight with the Americans.

Below find a step-by-step look at the War of 1812.

1 War is On June, 1812
Madison declares war on England to stop kidnapping of U.S. sailors.

2 America Wins at Sea 1812
Even though England has a strong navy—America wins many fights at sea. Privateers [sailors not in the U.S. navy] help the small American navy.

3 Americans Fail to Capture Canada 1812
Americans try to take Canada [the English colony] but are beaten back.

4 Capitol on Fire! August 1814
English attack Washington, D.C., and set the Capitol on fire. Dolley Madison, wife of the president, saves the portrait of George Washington from the fire.

5 English Attack Baltimore, Maryland Fall 1814
England bombs (from cannons on ships) Baltimore's Fort McHenry. Lawyer Francis Scott Key watches the bombs and then writes "The Star Spangled Banner."

6 Treaty of Ghent Ends War of 1812 Christmas Eve 1814
Both England and America tire of the war and want an end. A treaty is signed. In the treaty, no one wins or loses. Prisoners and land are given back.
There is no mention of the real cause of the war—impressment or keeping the seas neutral [under no one country's control].

7 Battle of New Orleans Early 1815
The largest battle of the war is fought here 15 days after the Treaty of Ghent is signed. The news that the war is over does not reach America in time to stop this battle.
Over 8,000 English troops attack the Americans at New Orleans. Andrew Jackson and his American soldiers defend the city successfully. More than 700 English soldiers are killed. Only eight Americans are killed.