



**AP<sup>®</sup> US History  
2004 Sample Student Responses  
Form B**

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With the election of Thomas Jefferson in 1800, historians often see the period as a "revolution," ~~however~~ however, government changes at that time did not prove to be significantly altered. When viewed in progress 1800 was a turning point in American government, but in detail, specific changes did not constitute an immense change ~~to~~ <sup>for</sup> the people of that time. While Jeffersonian ideals in foreign policy and politics would not ~~not~~ largely ~~to~~ affect the American public, in the long term, these changes would cause a series of repercussions that could justify the terming of the election as a "revolution."

Jefferson, <sup>an ardent supporter of the French</sup> ~~an ardent supporter of the French~~ ~~Frenchophile~~, shifted American ~~favor~~ <sup>SUPPORT</sup> to the French, from the English, who were previously favored by the previous president, John Adams. ~~The~~ The failure and unpopularity of relations with the French, indicated by Jay's Treaty and the XYZ affair, where ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> French <sup>envoy</sup> attempted to bribe U.S. diplomats in order to meet with French officials, lowered support of the French. The Embargo act of 1803, <sup>that</sup> cut off trade with both the English and the French, effectively favoring neither country, was in line with Washington's call to avoid "entangling alliances" as stated in his Farewell address. Although Jefferson's intentions in favoring the French represented a massive departure from ~~former~~ <sup>former</sup> foreign policy, various occurrences compromised U.S. ~~favor~~ <sup>SUPPORT</sup> for the French, thereby presenting little change to the American public of the time.

Long term results of this ~~favor~~ <sup>support of</sup> for the French would justify changes made in the election of 1800 as a "revolution" Growing

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animosity towards the English, ~~was~~ encouraged by the government, would ultimately lead the U.S. into the war of 1812. The non-intercourse Acts and Embargo Acts would eventually build tension which would be manifested in the war of 1812. Often termed "the 2<sup>nd</sup> War for Independence," the war would effectively separate the United States from Great Britain and establish the U.S. as an independent nation. These animosities towards the British were largely drummed up with Jefferson's opposition to the English.

Politics enacted by Jefferson following his election in 1800 would prove to be a ~~small~~ relatively small change from previous presidents. The largest difference between Jefferson and his predecessors would ~~not~~ be their varying interpretations of the Constitution. Jefferson favored a "strict" view of the Constitution as opposed to John Adams and Alexander Hamilton's FAVOR FOR a ~~"strict"~~ <sup>"broad"</sup> view. These views were put into question, however, with Jefferson's <sup>negotiations</sup> ~~dealings~~ in acquiring the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Jefferson's ~~views of a~~ "strict" interpretation of the Constitution would not have vested in him the power to purchase the tract of land included in the LA purchase, however, Jefferson continued in the purchase. This act ~~was~~ compromised Jefferson's interpretation of the Constitution, calling into question his adherence to his interpretation in other situations, thereby ~~not~~ minimizing ~~the~~ the scope of changes presented by Jefferson's opposing view of the Constitution.

Government in ~~the~~ 1800 was still heavily immersed in its developmental stage, and Americans at the time were likely to have been accustomed to the often changes and alterations in the

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government. Therefore, with the 1<sup>st</sup> change, <sup>in US history</sup> ~~of~~ political parties, with Jefferson's election, changes experienced by the Americans may not have been as momentous as often thought. The legacy, however, of Jefferson's presidency would greatly alter American politics in the ~~following~~ following years. Jefferson's belief in an agrarian society would limit industrialization, and his faith in an educated public with "rule by the masses" would lead to the establishment of <sup>public</sup> education for Americans, a fundamental aspect of American society which is highly valued even now. His belief that <sup>white, male</sup> citizens should have the right to vote was a large step in the direction on the path to universal suffrage in the U.S. With the peaceful change in power between 2 ~~part~~ political parties with the election of 1800, the viability of a two-party system was thereby established, creating a tradition completely contrary to the wishes of President Washington in his farewell address. Jefferson's efforts to serve the people and cut the <sup>in government</sup> bureaucracy would define and shape the presidencies to come. The long term implications of the election of 1800 are limitless.

In a narrow view of the time period around the election of 1800, changes in government were not sufficiently substantial to warrant the naming of the "Revolution of 1800"; however, if this period is viewed in the context of the progress of American government, Jefferson's election in 1800 is by all means the "Revolution of 1800." While citizens of the time may not have realized it, the election of 1800 would effectively <sup>reshape</sup> shape the American democracy in countless ways in the years to come.

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The election of 1800 resulted in the first peaceful transfer of political power from one party, ~~to~~ the Federalists, to another, the Republicans, under Jefferson, ~~was~~ in history. Although it may be said that due to Jefferson's reaction to ~~the~~ Adams's late appointment of several "midnight justices" in an effort to preserve Federalist influence, the transfer of power was in fact a revolution, it is more significant that politically, the changeover of power, with Jefferson's acceptance of Federalist ~~of~~ political action and his ~~of~~ refusal to overturn ~~any~~ important legislation signified that the "Revolution of 1800" was not as revolutionary as its name suggests.

In the final days of his presidency, John Adams through the Judiciary Act of 1801 created many new judicial positions to which he appointed many ~~Federalist~~ Federalist supporters and sympathizers. Jefferson was appalled by such an action, and he declared that he would not tolerate the appointment of the new justices to materialize. One justice, William Marbury, was especially frustrated by ~~the~~ the fact that he could not become the justice he had been appointed to become under Adams, and he thus appealed to the Supreme Court, asking for it to ~~the~~ force James Madison, Jefferson's secretary of state, to issue a writ of mandamus. The subsequent court case, ~~Marbury vs. Madison~~ Marbury vs. Madison resulted in the

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Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Marshall, declaring that the Supreme Court did not have the constitutional right to issue writs of mandamus. Such a declaration encouraged Jefferson to launch an attack on many justices whom he believed to be either insane or incompetent. Although his efforts resulted in the dismissal of one justice, who was indeed found to be insane, this crusade was largely a failure. Thus, in respect to the judiciary, the "Revolution of 1800" may be said to be a somewhat accurate name due to Jefferson's ~~response~~ response to John Adams's appointment of several midnight justices.

However, with respect to politics, the term "the Revolution of 1800" is less aptly named. When Jefferson entered office, he did not repeal any of the major legislation ~~legislation~~ that had been passed by the Federalists; the Naturalization Act and the Sedition Act that had been passed due to the XYZ affair tensions were repealed, but ~~this~~ <sup>this</sup> represented a return to a ~~more~~ more peaceful state of the nation in which fear of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ war with France were subsiding. The most important evidence that supports the ~~Yankee~~ theory that the term is "the Revolution of 1800" is not altogether accurate, however, that Jefferson repealed the National Bank as established by Alexander Hamilton during the presidency of George

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Washington. When the Bank was first established, Jefferson was highly opposed to it on the grounds that it was an unconstitutional extension of federal power and that public funds should not be under the control of private hands; Jefferson was opposed to the "loose construction" interpretation of the Constitution as was advocated by Hamilton. Jefferson's acceptance of the Bank as he entered his presidency and his refusal to repeal the main legislation passed by the Federalists signify that the "Revolution of 1800" was not as revolutionary as its name suggests.

Although Jefferson's reactions to the Judiciary Act of 1801 and to John Adams's appointment of several "midnight justices" during his final days in office may be considered somewhat revolutionary, it is evident through Jefferson's acceptance of the National Bank and of Federalist legislation that the term "the Revolution of 1800" <sup>does</sup> not entirely reflect the events surrounding the election of 1800. In this respect, the election of 1800 served as an important precedent for all subsequent changes of power in American history through the respect of legislation passed by those who had previously been in power.

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Between the time from Adam's presidency to the time of Jefferson's election, there had been constant rivalry on the interpretation of the constitution and the power of the different factions, federalists or democrats that would remain after the 1800 elections. There was already an executive revolution occurring at the onset of the Adams presidency. Adams was a federalist and Jefferson a democrat. This provided different viewpoints on multiple legislation during Adam's presidency and so, when Jefferson had been elected, Adams initiated the Judiciary Act of 1801 to put more federalists judges in the judiciary branch.

When Jefferson was elected, Adams wanted to maintain a federalist sentiment in the government and so issued the Judiciary Act of 1801 to empower more federalists judges.

However, since this was done as a last minute response to Jefferson's election, many of these <sup>"midnight"</sup> judges had not receive

their writs, or rights to practice, and in the case of Marbury

vs. Madison in 1803, Marbury, an appointed judge, had sued

~~the~~ Secretary of state Madison for failing to issue a

writ. However, instead of ruling on the case, chief justice

John Marshall ruled instead that the Supreme Court had

no power to rule on such an issue; it was unconstitutional.

This paved way for an increase in power of the courts and

the establishing of judicial review.

During Adam's presidency, the XYZ affair occurred, ~~with~~ escalating

French resentment in the states. At that time, the Jeffersonians

avored French, but at the time that this occurred, the



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Jeffersonians ~~were not~~ did not agree to the French demanding for money; "millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute". ~~However,~~ Likewise, when Jefferson was elected, he kept most of his federalist imposed laws, despite his opposition. He kept Hamilton's Bank of United States and the taxes ~~on whiskey~~. However, when Napoleon offered the whole of Louisiana territory in 1803 for \$15 million when Jefferson only asked for New Orleans, Jefferson went back to his policies of the strict interpretation of the constitution, which did not allow for the purchase of that land without congressional approval.

So in many aspects, Jefferson changed his policies to match those of his ~~past~~ federalist precedent, realizing that there were some benefits to their thinking, but opposed the policy of instituting federalists into the government to keep federalist control. The "Revolution of 1800" to an extent pertains mostly to the "midnight ~~judge~~ judge" appointments and the Judiciary Act of 1801. In light of foreign policy and politics, it was not a revolution, because Jefferson sought to keep many of the federalist policies throughout his presidency.