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Due 9/28/11 Submitted 9/28/11

Adams Presidential Outline APUS History

**President’s Name:** Adams, John

**Term Served:** 1797 - 1801

**Vocabulary:**

1. XYZ Affair – French delegates demanded money from the U.S. in order to begin negotiations between the two countries. This incident was made public but only referred to the French delegates as X, Y, and Z. This led to an undeclared naval war between the two countries.
2. Navy Department is created – In 1798, Adams nominated Benjamin Stoddert as Sec Nav, to lead the new Navy Department.
3. Undeclared naval war with France worsens- After the XYZ affair, the undeclared naval war between France and America became known as the Quasi War. The war consisted of the capturing of enemy merchant and war ships.
4. Alien and Sedition Acts- A set of four acts passed to rid the country of illegal aliens and to protect the government for criticisms.
5. Naturalization Act- Made it necessary for aliens to live in the U.S. for 14 years before applying for citizenship.
6. Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions- Political statements saying the Virginia and Kentucky were not going to abide by the Alien and Sedition Acts.
7. Eli Whitney devises technique for using interchangeable parts- Unskilled workers were able to build uniform parts that made fixing machines and weapons easier because you were able to replace one part instead of the whole thing.
8. Convention of 1800 with France- Created the Treaty of Mortefonatine to end the Quasi War.
9. Judiciary Act- Congress introduced a three tiered court system that was generally described in the Constitution.
10. John Marshall appointed Chief Justice- Established principles of Constitutional Law.

**Presidential Rating:**

President John Adams was the second president of the United States of America. John Adams receives a 6 out of 10 rating for his actions as president. Adams had four major events that caused him to receive such a high rating. His major positive events were the XYZ affair and the Treaty of Mortefontaine. His major negative events were Naturalization Act and the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions.

In 1797, Adams sent delegates to France in an attempt to start negotiations with France. When the French representatives demanded money from the U.S. in order to start negotiations, the U.S. delegates rightfully declined. This affair became public and became known as the XYZ Affair. The XYZ Affair led to an undeclared naval war between France and the U.S., known as the Quasi War. Adams handled this situation very responsibly, even creating the Department of the Navy. Adams creation of the Navy created a department of the U.S. government that is still in effect centuries after its creation. In 1800, Adams decided that the Quasi War had gone on long enough. The Convention of 1800 established the Treaty of Mortefontaine. The results of this agreement include but are not limited to a sincere friendship between France and the U.S., each country returned public ships that were captured, and that in a future was citizens and merchants would have six months to evacuate the war zone before a country could take control of their vessel. This treaty was beneficial to citizens in both countries because it protected their rights and their businesses.

Adams also had some negative effects of his term in office. The Naturalization Act that he enacted made all aliens live in the U.S. for 14 years before being able to apply for citizenship. The act was not that bad but it was the reactions by the colonies and by the people that caused a problem in the Country. The Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions were 2 states responses to the Naturalization Act. Both states claimed that they would not follow the laws enacted by the Naturalization Act. The actions taken by Kentucky and Virginia weakened the strength of the Federal Government because it showed that states could make the decision on which laws they followed.

Adams had a successful term in office as President. For the reasons previously shown, he receives a rating of 6 out of 10. President John Adams was not the best President that this country has ever seen, but he is definitely not the worst.