Decision Points: Elections and Warfare

It's almost election season, and you are the President. You are facing problems that could determine the outcome of this election:

- Muslim extremists in Africa and the Middle East are angered by our lack of support for their revolutions, so they have began attacking our embassies.
- Trade has decreased due to tariffs and China's claims that our credit is no good.
- Immigration & Refugees from South America & Syria is flooding our American system with people that might become a drain on our system or could promote terrorism.

If you appear weak on these issues, you may lose the vote to the person running against you in the upcoming election.

Decision Points: Will you...

- Get tough diplomatically, put up walls, and threaten war if the extremists, Chinese, and immigrants don't play by our rules?
- Or find ways to negotiate and avoid threats and conflict?
- Ask Congress to enact laws that will remove the vote from those who oppose your plans?
- Restrict the freedom of the press so that they will only present a favorable message about your plans and limit criticism & FAKE NEWS?

Simmering Tensions

- A Government that can tolerate disagreement?
  - President = Federalist
  - VP = Anti-Federalist
  - Trade & Alliance with France vs. Great Britain
Simmering Tensions

- A Government that can handle international turmoil?
  - French demand bribes for impressed sailors
    - "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute!"
  - "Quasi-War" with France

- Federalists target "enemies" (French supporters)
  - Limit freedoms of speech/press
  - Threaten liberty of foreigners

Targeting "Enemies"

- Alien & Sedition Acts of 1798:
  - Immigrant citizens = 14 years
    - Can’t vote for Jefferson
  - Pres. can imprison suspected illegal aliens
  - "Alien enemies" can be deported by Pres.
  - Writing, publishing, speaking = fines/imprisonment for anything
  - Disagreement = TREASON

- Prosecute Jeffersonian newspaper editors

- Essential Question: Does the Federal Government have a right to silence opposition to policies during times of war by limiting Freedoms of Speech?
- Does the Federal Government have a right to spy on its own people if it is meant to promote safety and protection?

The Constitutional Response

- Virginia & Kentucky Resolutions –
  - Proposed the
  - Since authority not explicit in Constitution:
    - Virginia Res. — ________ of states could nullify a federal law
    - Kentucky Res. — ________ state could nullify a federal law
The Constitutional Response

Activity Time:

Either in groups of 3-3 or by yourself for homework (depending upon time left in class) write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper describing in detail your feelings FOR or AGAINST the Alien & Sedition Acts. Timeframe = 1798, be sure to include the major issues.