

Station 1: The Election of 1796

The election of 1796 was the first in which voters could choose between competing political parties. It was also the first test of whether the nation could transfer power through a contested election.

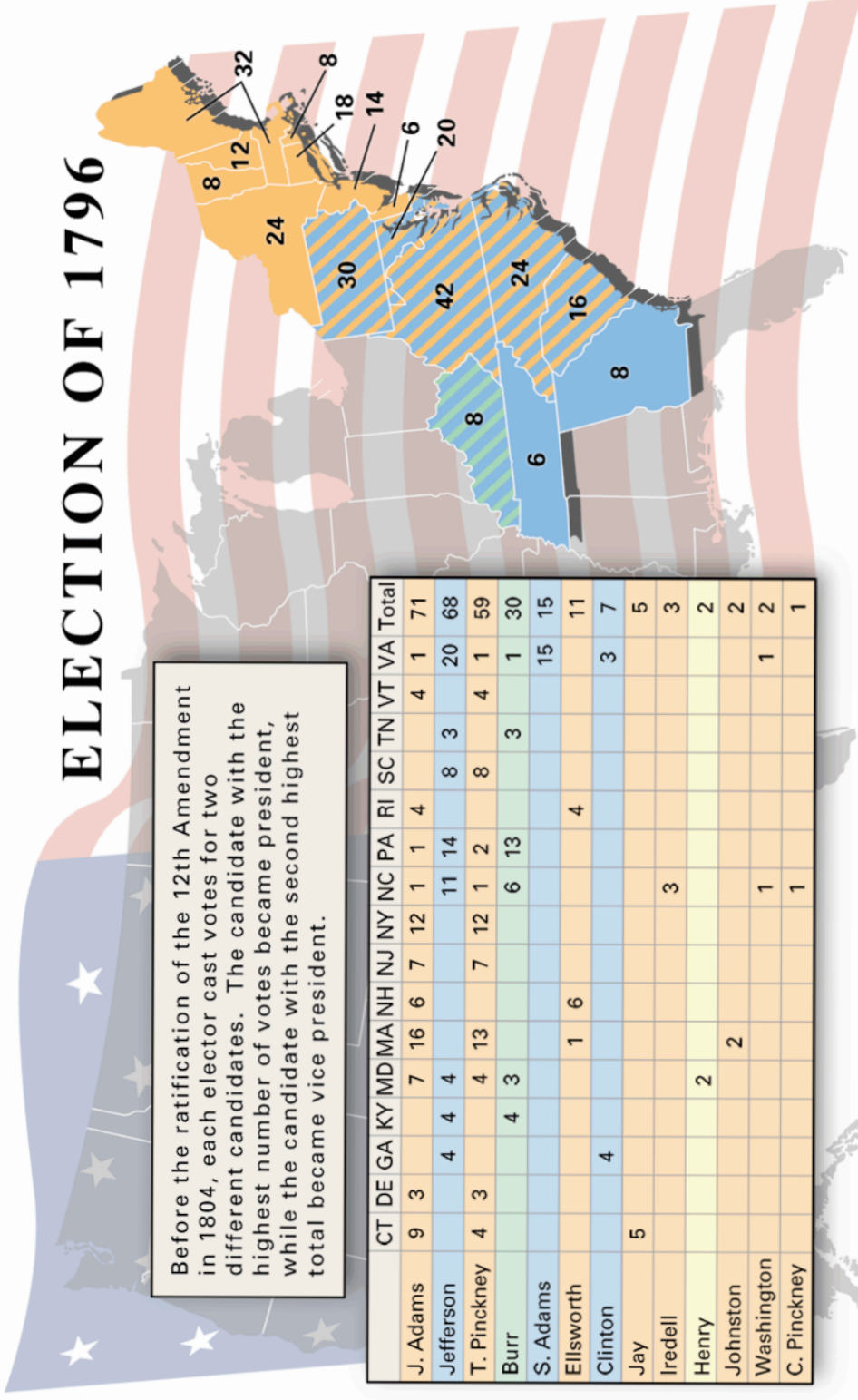
The Federalists chose Vice President John Adams as their presidential candidate, and the Republicans selected Thomas Jefferson. Both parties turned directly to the people for support, rallying supporters through the use of posters, handbills, and mass rallies. The Republicans condemned Adams as "the champion of rank, titles, and hereditary distinctions." The Federalists claimed that Jefferson was intent on undermining religion and morality.

John Adams won the election, despite backstage maneuvering by Alexander Hamilton against him. Hamilton developed a complicated scheme to elect Thomas Pinckney of South Carolina, the Federalist candidate for vice president. Under the electoral system at the time, each presidential elector was to vote twice, with the candidate who received the most votes becoming president and the candidate who came in second becoming vice president. Hamilton convinced some southern electors to drop Adams's name from their ballots, while still voting for Pinckney. Thus Pinckney would receive more votes than Adams and be elected president. When New Englanders learned of this plan, they dropped Pinckney from their ballots, ensuring that Adams won the election. When the final votes were tallied, Adams received 71 votes, only 3 more than Jefferson. As a result, Jefferson became vice president.

Station 2: The Election of 1796 Electoral College

ELECTION OF 1796

Before the ratification of the 12th Amendment in 1804, each elector cast votes for two different candidates. The candidate with the highest number of votes became president, while the candidate with the second highest total became vice president.

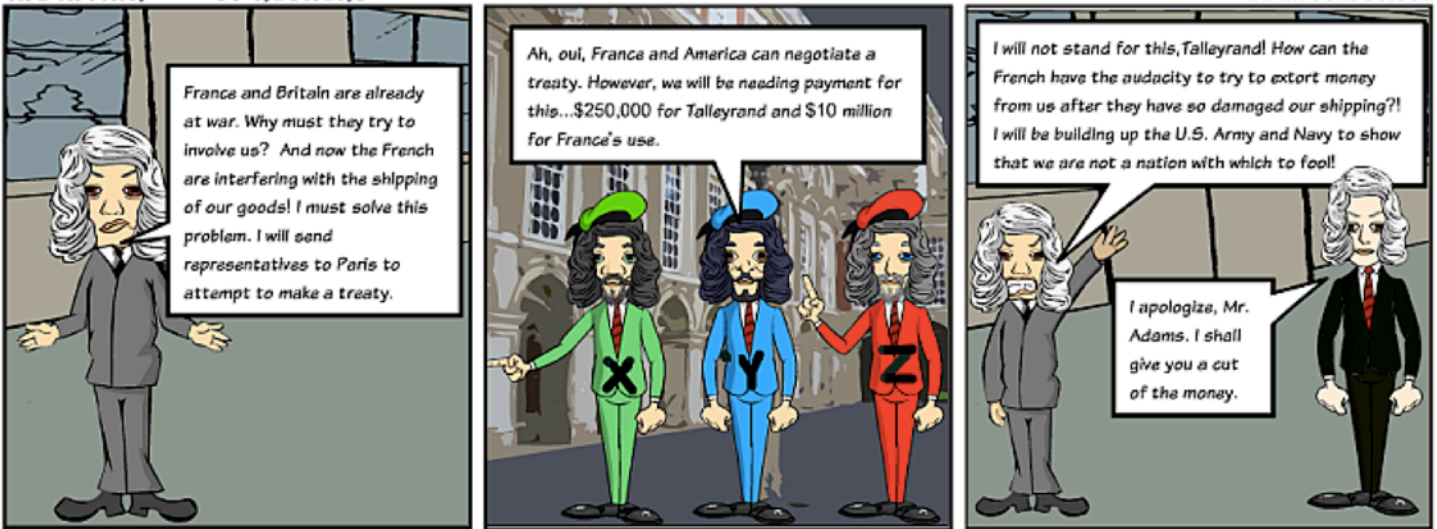


	CT	DE	GA	KY	MD	MA	NH	NJ	NY	NC	PA	RI	SC	TN	VT	VA	Total
J. Adams	9	3		7	16	6	7	12	1	1	4	4	1	4	1	71	
Jefferson			4	4	4			11	14	8	3	20	68				
T. Pinckney	4	3		4	13	7	12	1	2	8	4	1	59				
Burr			4	3				6	13	3	1	30					
S. Adams													15	15			
Ellsworth						1	6				4		11				
Clinton													3	7			
Jay																5	
Iredell										3						3	
Henry								2								2	
Johnston																2	
Washington										1						1	
C. Pinckney											1					1	

J. Adams (Federalist) 71 electoral votes
 Jefferson (Democratic-Republican (DR)) 68 electoral votes
 T. Pinckney (Federalist) 59 electoral votes
 Burr (Antifederalist) 30 electoral votes
 S. Adams (DR) 15 electoral votes
 Ellsworth (Federalist) 11 electoral votes
 Clinton (DR) 7 electoral votes
 Jay (Federalist) 5 electoral votes
 Iredell (Federalist) 3 electoral votes
 Henry (Independent) 2 electoral votes
 Johnston (Federalist) 2 electoral votes
 Washington (Federalist) 2 electoral votes
 C. Pinckney (Federalist) 1 electoral vote

XYZ AFFAIR - BY REBAERS

WWW.TOONDOO.COM



Station 3 XYZ Affair

Relations between the United States and France had gone steadily downhill. Tensions were further exacerbated by the Jay Treaty, signed between the United States and Great Britain. In addition, French ships had begun preying on American merchant ships.

Pinckney was sent to France to replace James Monroe, the French refused to receive him. In an attempt to avoid war, Adams agreed to send a special delegation to attempt to negotiate a treaty with France. The delegation included John Marshall, Elbridge Gerry, and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. The representatives arrived in France, and were told that they would not be received by the French Foreign Minister Talleyrand unless certain political conditions were met. Furthermore, they were told that, as a precondition to any talks, a bribe would have to be paid to members of the Directorate, and a loan given to France. Finally, they were told that they were in danger of arrest. Needless to say they decided to return home.

When Adams received word of what had happened, he informed the Senate that the mission was not successful. He did not want to release complete information on the meetings, fearing that it would result in a war cry against France. The Republicans did not believe that the mission had been unsuccessful, and demanded that Adams release the full transcripts of the dispatches from France. They expected to show that France was receptive to an agreement. Finally, Adams, who was being attacked mercilessly, complied and released the complete transcripts, but he replaced the French diplomat's names with X, Y and Z. Soon, war fervor was sweeping the nation. Adams did not wish to go war with France, but American ships were being attacked almost as soon as they left New York Harbor.

Station 4 Part 1 Protecting the United States

After the XYZ Affair Adams decided to build a navy and give it the task of protecting American ships and attacking French privateers. The Navy was officially established in 1798. Four large frigates, which had been originally authorized by Congress in 1794, were rushed to completion. They were the "Constellation," the "United States," the "Chesapeake" and the "President." They represented the very best in ship design, combining speed and firepower. In addition, cities throughout the eastern seaboard built ships for the government, at their own expense. By 1800, the US Navy was fielding a fleet of 49 warships of various sizes. Furthermore, over 100 merchant vessels were armed and authorized not only to defend themselves, but to take aggressive actions when possible.

The US Navy was given the task of protecting US ships and attacking French privateers and naval vessels. In the two years of warfare between France and the US, American ships sank or captured nearly 90 French vessels on the high seas. In the most successful sea battle of the war, the USS "Constellation" captured the French naval frigate "L'Insurgent", reportedly one of France's best vessels. By 1800, the French realized the error of their ways, and agreed to accept an American delegation without precondition. An agreement was swiftly reached, and the hostilities came to an end. For those not at sea, the fighting between France and the US may have seemed like a "quasi-war", but for those serving in the US Navy or on merchant ships, it was a war in every way that mattered.

Station 4: Part 2 Alien Act

At first, President Adams tried to work closely with Jefferson. "Party violence," Adams found, made such efforts "useless." Meanwhile, Federalists in Congress passed four controversial laws known as the Alien and Sedition Acts. They argued that these laws were needed as protection against foreigners who might threaten the nation. In fact, the real purpose of the Alien and Sedition Acts was to make life difficult for the Federalists' rivals, the Republicans.

Rumors of a French invasion and enemy spies frightened many Americans. President Adams warned that foreign influence within the United States was dangerous and must be "exterminated."

The **Alien Enemies Act** provided that once war had been declared, all male citizens of an enemy nation could be arrested, detained, and deported. If war had broken out, this act could have expelled many of the estimated 25,000 French citizens then living in the United States. But the country did not go to war, and the law was never used.

The **Alien Friends Act** authorized the president to deport any non-citizen suspected of plotting against the government during either wartime or peacetime. This law could have resulted in the mass expulsion of new immigrants. The act was limited to two years, but no alien was ever deported under it.

Station 5: Naturalization Act

Many immigrants came here, to the U.S. with their family in search of a better life. One man described in a letter that “there was room and jobs for immigrants in America.” Therefore people that could not support their family would come here for economic reasons.

Coming to the United States was a difficult task. Usually only men would come. People would come in steerage because of lack of money. The conditions they faced there were devastating. People were crammed up together in dirty, small decks. Coming to America was a dangerous journey where many got sick, and some even died. But still, people from Britain, Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, and China, came to America.

Population in many cities kept growing abruptly because of new immigrants. In the early 1800's, New York's population went from 60,489 to 202,589. St. Louis' population doubled every nine years and Cincinnati doubled every seven years. Abrupt population growth brought issues for the residents. Houses were compacted together and toilets overflowed, spreading diseases. Crime was also a huge problem. To help new immigrants, societies were set up to aid them and politicians set up organizations to help.

Many immigrants would vote for the Democratic party. The opposite party would want to limit the number of immigrants coming in. So they passed the Naturalization Act. This Act increase the number of years someone had to live in the US before they could become a citizen.

Station 6: The Sedition Act

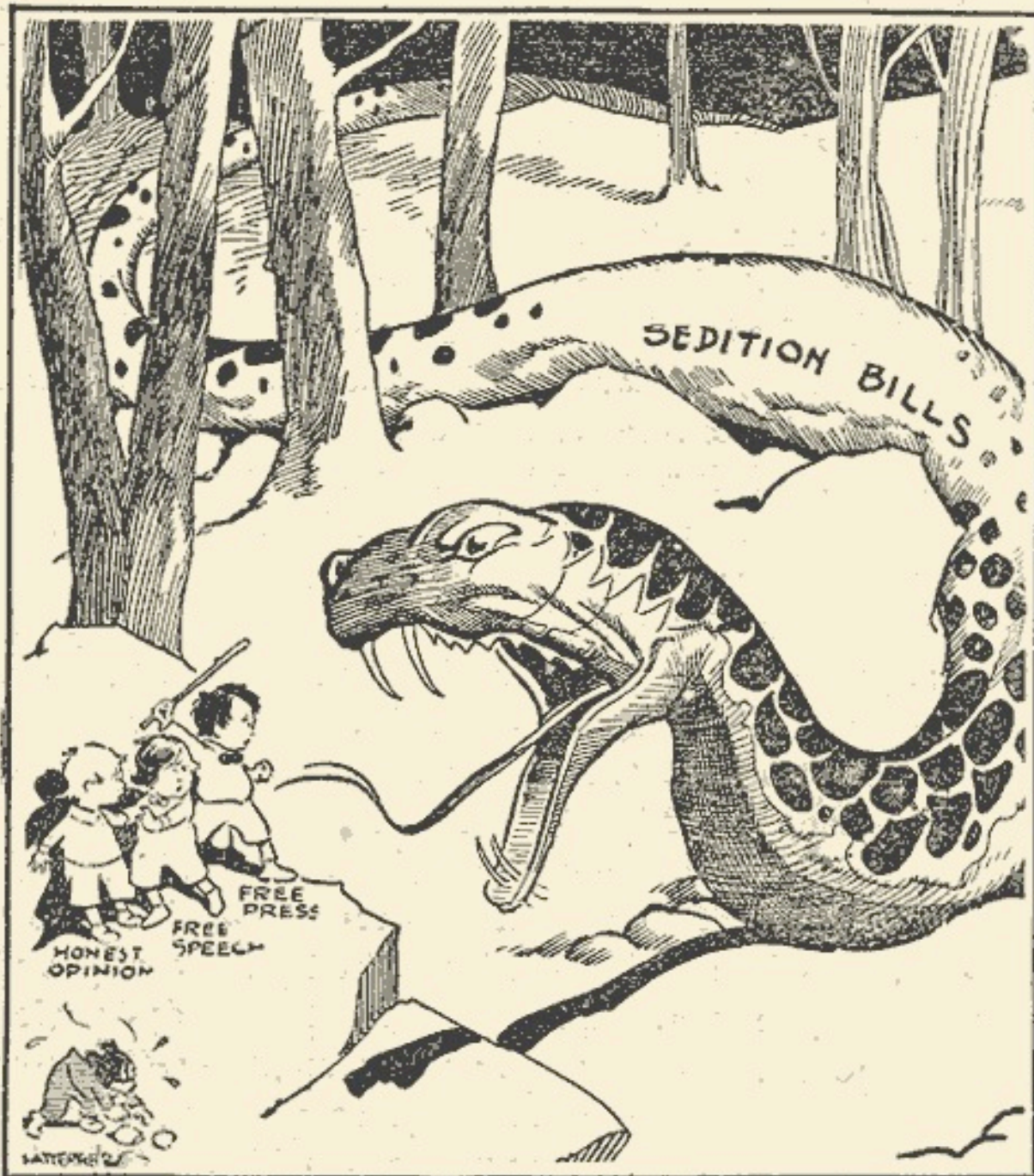
The Sedition Act, made **sedition**—encouraging rebellion against the government—a crime. Its definition of sedition included “printing, uttering, or publishing any false, scandalous and malicious [hateful] writing” against the government, Congress, or the president. Alexander Hamilton approved of this law, believing that it would punish only those who published lies intended to destroy the government.

Instead, the Sedition Act was used to punish Republican newspaper editors who insulted President Adams in print. One, for example, called him “old, querulous [whiny], bald, blind, crippled, toothless Adams.” Twenty-five people were arrested under the new law. Ten of them were convicted of printing seditious opinions. These definitions of sedition were still broad enough to punish anyone who criticized the federal government, its laws, or its elected leaders. The act also left it to the jury to decide if a defendant had "bad intent." Penalties for different provisions of the law ranged from six months to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000 (more than \$100,000 in today's dollars).

The Republican minority in Congress argued that sedition laws violated the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which protects freedom of speech and the press. The Federalists countered by defining these freedoms in the narrow English manner. According to English law words had been spoken or printed, could be punished by the government if they had maliciously defamed the king or his government.

The Federalist majority in Congress passed the Sedition Act and President Adams signed it into law on July 14, 1798. It was set to expire on March 3, 1801, the last day of John Adams presidential term.

Station 7 Cartoon and Case Study



AS GAG-RULERS WOULD HAVE IT.

—Satterfield in the *Jersey City Journal*.

Case Study 3 – Thomas Cooper

Thomas Cooper (1759-1840), born in London, England and educated at Oxford, was a well known lawyer, political philosopher, and newspaper editor in Sunbury, Pennsylvania. Earlier threatened with prosecution in England because of his active sympathy with the French Revolution, he immigrated to the United States in 1794, and began the practice of law in Pennsylvania. An Anti-Federalist, he was friends with Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. He took part in agitation against the Sedition Act, and in 1799 he wrote a newspaper attack sharply critical of President John Adams. In part, Cooper was reacting to an article about himself that had appeared in the *Reading (Pennsylvania) Advertiser*. In Cooper's article he accused President Adams of "saddling the people with the expense of a permanent navy and a standing army." Further, he stated that President Adams actions had reduced U. S. credit "so low that we are obliged to borrow money at eight percent interest in a time of peace." He delivered a copy of his article to the U. S. Attorney in Philadelphia.

Cooper was brought to trial in Federal Court on charges of "having published a false, scandalous and malicious libel against the president of the United States." (U.S. v. Cooper, 1800). After a spirited defense by Cooper and an intense debate between him and Judge Chase, Cooper was found guilty of the charges, fined \$400, sentenced to 6 months in prison, and at the end of that period, to find bonds for his good behavior, a thousand from himself, and two bonds in five hundred dollars each from others. As soon as the trial was over, Cooper, who had taken careful notes throughout the trial, published all documents and transcripts, along with his commentary.

Most of the rest of his career was spent as college president and professor, at Dickinson College, The University of Pennsylvania, and the University of South Carolina.

Station 8 Response to the Sedition Act



“To the Senate and Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled. It is equally foreign from our wishes and intentions to criminate the motives of the national legislatures...”

--Response to the Sedition Act of 1798, John Armstrong

Part I

By this law citizens of their states are prohibited, under the severest penalties, from expressing even their disapprobation of any part of the conduct of the President, or of either house of Congress, through the medium of the press...

prohibited— forbidden or unable to do by law
 severest penalties—strongest punishment
 disapprobation—disapproval
 conduct—actions or behaviors

Part II

What stronger, what more precise definition of slavery can be given than this? That we can state no belief, hazard no opinion, that has even a tendency to lessen the public estimation of a public servant.

Precise—specific or exact

state—say or comment
 hazard no opinion—risk sharing an opinion
 estimation—judgment or opinion
 public servant—an elected official (for example, a senator)

Station 9: Response to the Sedition Act 1798 Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions

These resolutions were passed by the legislatures of Kentucky and Virginia in response to the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 and were authored by [Thomas Jefferson](#) and [James Madison](#), respectively. The resolutions argued that the federal government had no authority to exercise power not specifically delegated to it in the [Constitution](#).

Kentucky Resolution, November 16, 1798, Thomas Jefferson

Part I

<p>[S]pecial provision has been made by one of the amendments to the Constitution which expressly declares, that “Congress shall make no law respecting an Establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press,” thereby guarding in the same sentence, and under the same words, the freedom of religion, of speech, and of the press,</p>	<p>provision— law in a legal document</p> <p>expressly declares— specifically states</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Part II

<p>That, therefore the act of the Congress of the United States passed on the 14th day of July 1798, entitled “An act in addition to the act for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States,” which does abridge the freedom of the press, is not law, but is altogether void and of no effect.</p>	<p>abridge—lessen or cut-off</p> <p>void—has no legal force</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------