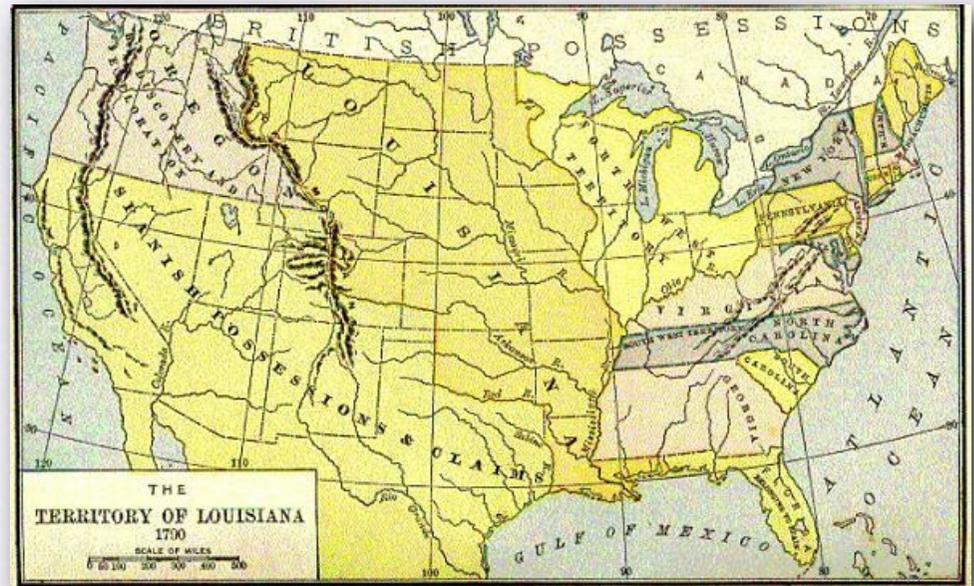


# Louisiana Purchase

“Can I do that?” - Thomas Jefferson

# Background

- In 1802 ,U.S. President Thomas Jefferson wanted to purchase the city of New Orleans.
- The city controlled the Mississippi River
- Important for shipping to and from west of the Appalachian Mountains



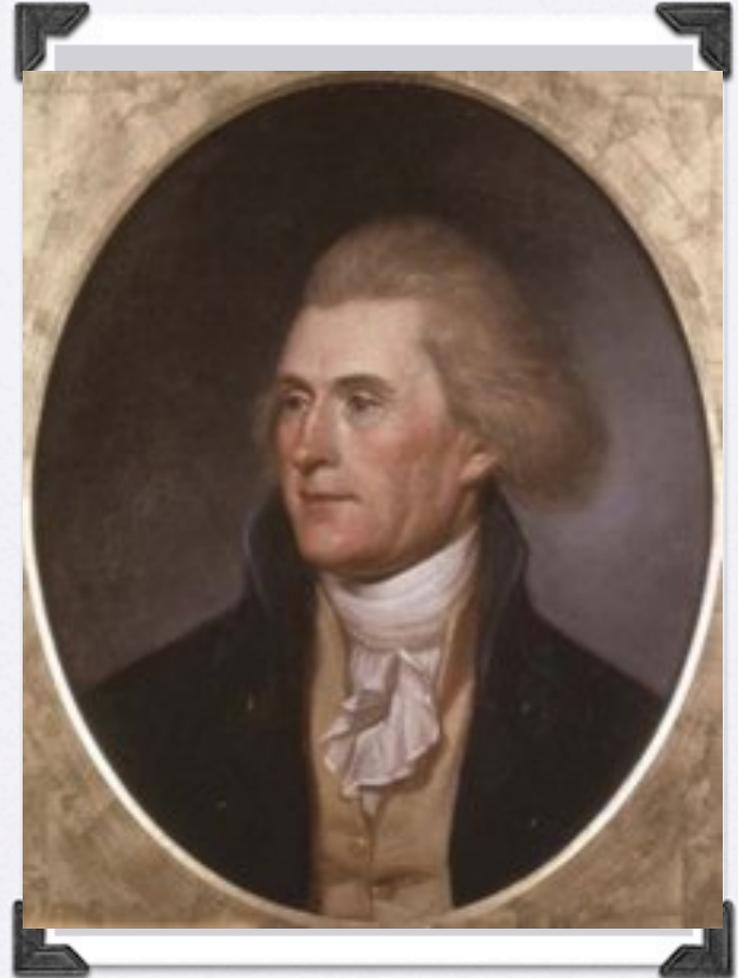
# Background



- A treaty with Spain gave US Merchants the right to use the port
- Napoléon Bonaparte took control of Louisiana from Spain
- Americans were fearful they would lose their right to use New Orleans.

# Background

- Jefferson decided to purchase the city of New Orleans and the nearby portions of Louisiana east of the Mississippi.
- Sent [James Monroe](#) and [Robert R. Livingston](#) to [Paris](#) to negotiate a purchase.



# Napoleon

- Napoleon was trying to take over the world
- Secretly planned to take over British Canada
- France was afraid Britain would invade Louisiana from Canada



# Napoleon

- Had a fleet ready to occupy Louisiana
- Was afraid the US would help Britain
- Jefferson discovered Napoleon's plan
- 1801- sent Livingston to investigate buying New Orleans but was rebuffed



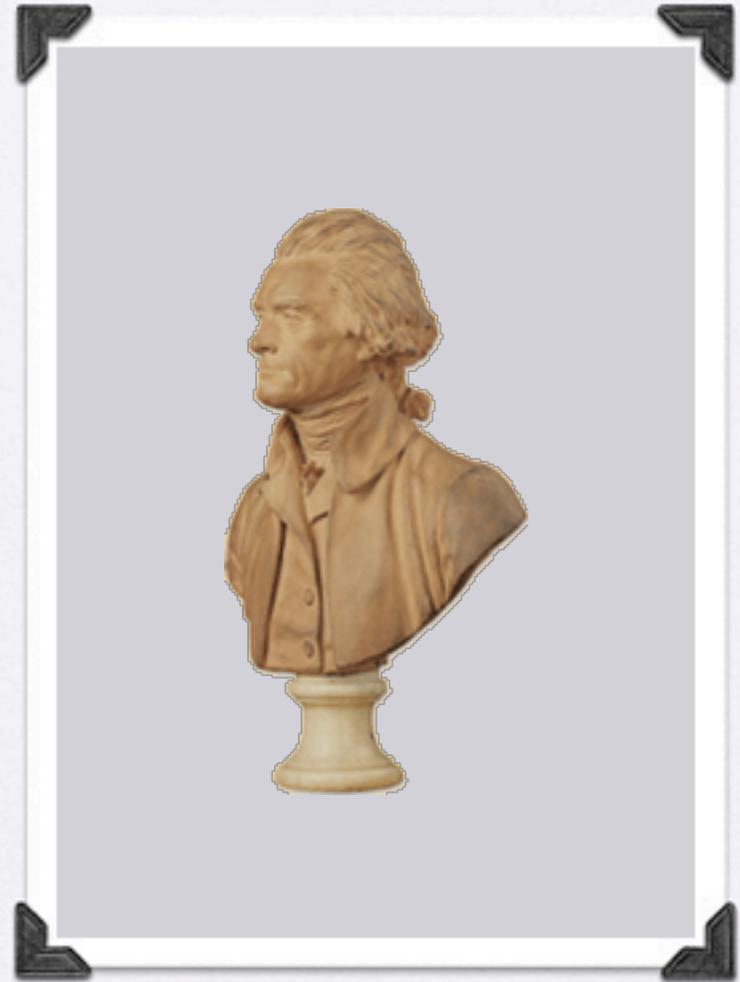
# Negotiation

- 1802 - Sent du Pont because he had an “in” with the French
- Du Pont came up with idea of larger purchase
- Would eliminate possible problems with France



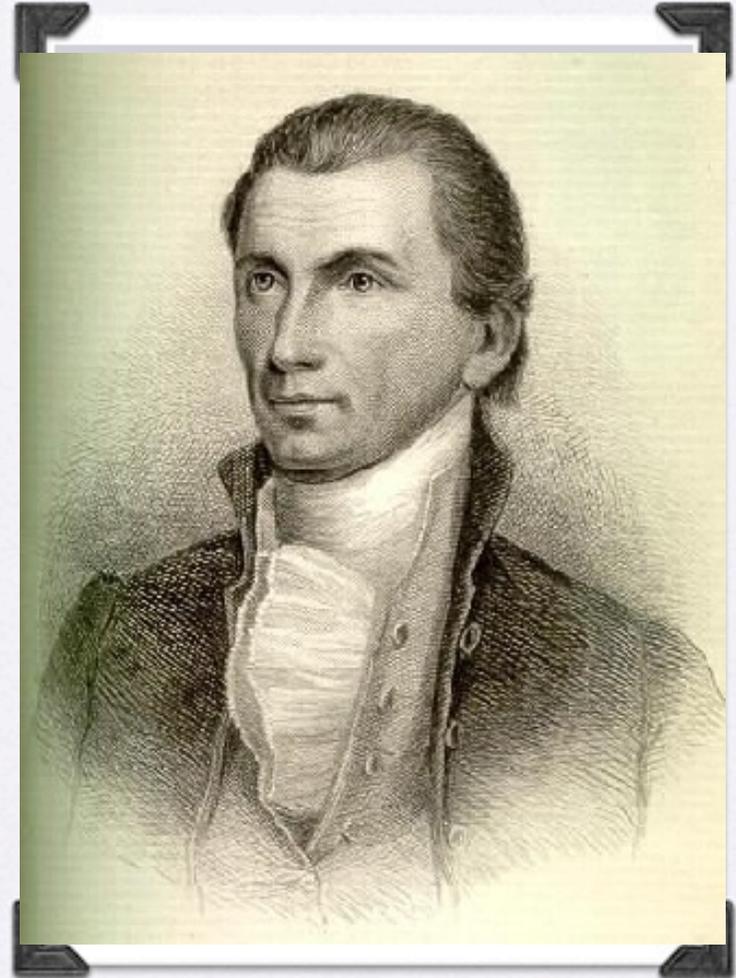
# Negotiation

- Jefferson HATED the idea
- Didn't think presidents had the right to buy land
- Napoleon's advisor, Talleyrand, was also very opposed



# Negotiation

- Sent James Monroe to negotiate even though he had been expelled from France
- Jefferson was making a point about how serious he was
- Napoleon got the point



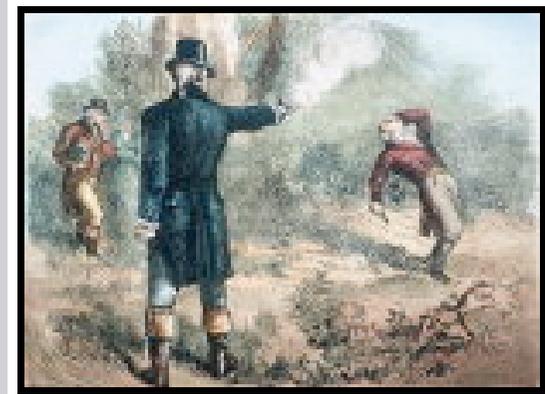
# Negotiation

- Napoléon offered to sell all of Louisiana
- All land between the Miss. Rvr. to the Rocky Mountains and between Canada & Gulf of Mexico
- Americans were only authorized to spend \$2 million for New Orleans



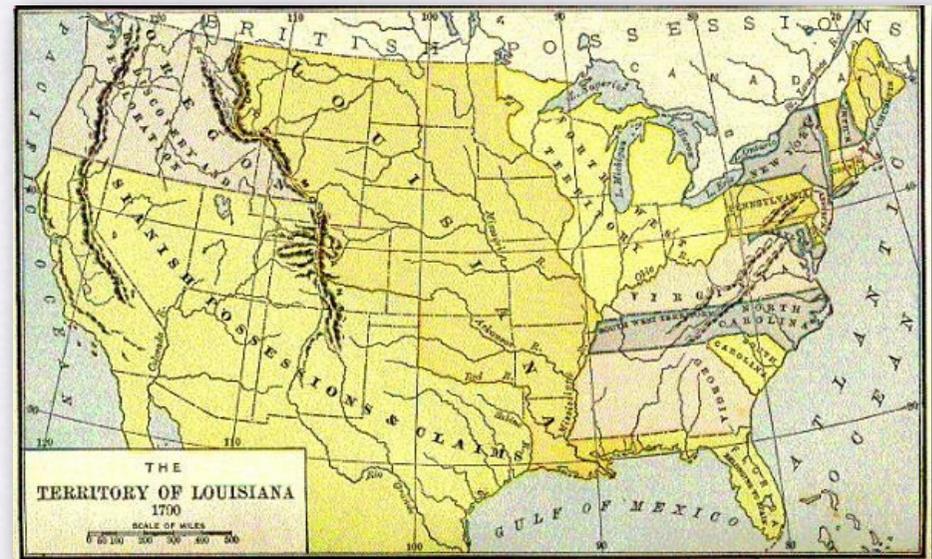
# Opposition at Home

- Livingston and Monroe accepted the offer
- Negotiated a \$15m. payment
- Many Americans were opposed
  - Unconstitutional
  - New westerners would clash with eastern merchants
  - North to secede



# Conflict with Spain

- Spain said Louisiana consisted of the western half of what is now the states of **Louisiana**, **Arkansas** and **Missouri**
- US claimed to Rocky Mountains and parts of FL (Miss. & Alabama today)



# Conflict with Spain

- France did not include boundaries in the sale
- Afraid of irking Spain
- Boundaries settled in a treaty in 1819

