The **LOUISIANA PURCHASE**

...but they didn’t own it. Spain had secretly traded the Louisiana Territory (all of the land between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains, including New Orleans) to France in 1800. In 1802, Spain closed the port to American shipping.

**NAPOLEON BONAPARTE**, the ruler of France, was planning to expand his empire in the Americas, using New Orleans as a critical point of entry for troops headed to the country. New Orleans also controlled the Mississippi River, which was a major port of exit for goods from the American West. France was essentially threatening the sovereignty and economic stability of the U.S.

Jefferson sent **ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON** and **JAMES MONROE** to France to meet with Minister Talleyrand to discuss buying the territory of New Orleans, but they got a surprise. Haitian leader **TOUSSAINT-LOUVERTURE** led a slave revolt that forced the French out of Haiti. France was losing interest in the Americas and needed to fund its war with England.

**BURR v. HAMILTON**

Concerned that the newly acquired lands would soon be filled with Democratic-Republicans, some Federalists discussed **SECEDING** and becoming a “Northern Confederacy,” a separate union that would include New York. They encouraged Aaron Burr, who had been **OSTRACIZED** by his own party for not dropping out of the race during his tie with Jefferson, to run for governor of New York. Burr lost (he was sitting vice president at the time).

Burr blamed Alexander Hamilton for ruining his reputation and challenged Hamilton to a duel. In July 1804, Hamilton claimed he was opposed to dueling, and he may have chosen not to shoot at his opponent, or it may have been a mistake, but Burr shot Hamilton. Alexander Hamilton died from wounds from the duel 30 hours later.