

## PRACTICING Historical Thinking

**Identify:** What warnings are identified in this document?

**Analyze:** In what ways does this document represent the dangers of factionalism in the early republic?

**Evaluate:** How does this document undermine the argument of James Madison's Federalist No. 10 (Doc. 5.11)?

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### DOCUMENT 5.19 | Kentucky Resolution 1799

The Kentucky Resolution (1799) represented the Jeffersonian Republicans' public rejection of the Sedition Act (Doc. 5.18). Although the resolution was not binding on the federal government, it was a symbolic affirmation of the Republicans' dedication to states' rights and a weak federal government.

*Resolved*, That this Commonwealth considers the Federal Union, upon the terms and for the purposes specified in the late compact, as conducive to the liberty and happiness of the several states; that it does now unequivocally declare its attachment to the Union, and to that compact, agreeable to its obvious and real intention, and will be among the last to seek its dissolution: That if those who administer the General Government be permitted to transgress the limits fixed by that compact, by a total disregard to the special delegations of power therein contained, an annihilation of the State Governments, and the erection upon their ruins of a general consolidated government, will be the inevitable consequence: That the principle and construction contended for by sundry [various types] of the State Legislatures, that the General Government is the exclusive judge of the extent of the powers delegated to it, stop nothing short of despotism, since the *discretion* of those who administer the government, and not the *Constitution*, would be the measure of their powers. That the several states who formed that instrument, being sovereign and independent, have the unquestionable right to judge of its infraction, and *that a nullification by those sovereignties, of all unauthorized acts done under color of that instrument, is the rightful remedy*: That this Commonwealth does, upon the most deliberate reconsideration, declare that the said Alien and Sedition Laws are, in their opinion, palpable violations of the said Constitution; and, however cheerfully it may be disposed to surrender its opinion to a majority of its sister states in matters of ordinary or doubtful policy, yet, in momentous regulations like the present, which so vitally wound the best rights of the citizen, it would consider a silent acquiescence as highly criminal: That although this Commonwealth, as a party to the Federal Compact, will bow

to the laws of the Union, yet it does at the same time declare that it will not now, nor ever hereafter, cease to oppose in a constitutional manner, every attempt, from what quarter soever offered, to violate that compact. . . .

Edwin Williams, *The Book of the Constitution: Containing the Constitution of the United States; A Synopsis of the Several State Constitutions; with Various Other Important Documents and Useful Information* (New York: Peter Hill, 1833), 85.

### PRACTICING Historical Thinking

**Identify:** What is the role of government, according to this document?

**Analyze:** According to this document, how does the Sedition Act (Doc. 5.18) undermine the proper role of government?

**Evaluate:** If this document is a threat, who or what is being threatened? And with what are they being threatened?

### APPLYING AP® Historical Thinking Skills

#### SKILL REVIEW | Appropriate Use of Relevant Historical Evidence

In this chapter, many documents use the ideas of the Enlightenment to justify different ends. Here are three that you read:

- Document 5.11, James Madison, Federalist No. 10, November 22, 1787
- Document 5.17, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Letter to the Directory, 1797
- Document 5.19, Kentucky Resolution, 1799

**STEP 1** Analyze these documents using the chart below (first introduced in Chapter 4):

**Doc. 5.11,  
James Madison,  
Federalist No. 10,  
November 22,  
1787**

**Doc. 5.17,  
Toussaint  
L'Ouverture,  
Letter to the  
Directory, 1797**

**Doc. 5.19,  
Kentucky  
Resolution, 1799**

**Audience:** Who did the author have in mind when she or he created this source?

**Purpose:** What is the author's intent in creating this source? What is it for?