

But if . . . this was done, then I declare to you it would be to attempt the impossible: we have known how to face dangers to obtain our liberty, we shall know how to brave death to maintain it.

C. L. R. James, *A History of Negro Revolt* (New York: Haskell House, 1938), 19.

PRACTICING Historical Thinking

Identify: What are L'Ouverture's main concerns?

Analyze: What is L'Ouverture's tone? Review your response regarding Phillis Wheatley's tone in Document 5.3. Are the two tones similar? Explain.

Evaluate: To what extent does race influence L'Ouverture's message? To what extent does race influence the Declaration of Independence (Doc. 5.6)? What accounts for the difference?

DOCUMENT 5.18 | Sedition Act 1798

The Sedition Act was passed by the Federalist-dominated Congress in 1798 during the Quasi-War with France. It made illegal any writings and statements that were considered destabilizing to the power of the federal government and was used primarily against Jeffersonian Republicans for the benefit of Federalists.

SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall write, print, utter, or publish, or shall cause or procure to be written, printed, uttered, or published, or shall knowingly and willingly assist or aid in writing, printing, uttering, or publishing any false, scandalous and malicious writing or writings against the government of the United States, with intent to defame the said government, or either house of the said Congress, or the said President, or to bring them or either of them into disrepute; or to excite against them, or either, or any of them, the hatred of the good people of the United States, or to stir up sedition within the United States, or to excite any unlawful combinations therein, for opposing or resisting any law of the United States, or any act of the President of the United States, and one in pursuance of any such law, or of the powers in him vested by the Constitution of the United States, or to resist, oppose or defeat any such law or act, or to aid, encourage or abet any hostile designs of any foreign nation against the United States, their people or government, then such person, being thereof convicted before any court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars, and by imprisonment not exceeding two years.

Albion Woodbury Small, *The Growth of American Nationality: An Introduction to the Constitutional History of the United States* (Waterville, ME: Colby University, 1888), 74.

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)?

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