

PRACTICING Historical Thinking

Identify: Who are the "wolves" that Brodhead mentions in his letter?

Analyze: What similar objectives do Brodhead and George Washington share?

Evaluate: Compare this document with William Trent's (Doc. 4.2). What is a similarity and a difference between the two? What historical events account for this similarity and this difference?

DOCUMENT 4.11 Treaty of Paris

1783

After the siege at Yorktown, where General George Washington, with the help of the French fleet, bottled up British General Charles Cornwallis in October 1781, the United States, France, Great Britain, Spain, and Holland took nearly two years to negotiate the Treaty of Paris (1783), which recognized the independence of the United States.

Article I

His Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States . . . to be free, sovereign and independent States; that he treats with them as such; and for himself, his heirs and successors, relinquishes all claims to the government, propriety and territorial rights of the same, and every part thereof. . . .

Article V

It is agreed that Congress shall earnestly recommend it to the legislatures of the respective states, to provide for the restitution of all estates, rights and properties, which have been confiscated, belonging to real British subjects, and also of the estates, rights and properties of persons resident in districts in the possession of his Majesty's arms, and who have not borne arms against the said United States. And that persons of any other description shall have free liberty to go to any part or parts of any of the thirteen United States, and therein to remain twelve months, unmolested in their endeavours to obtain the restitution of such of their estates, rights and properties, as may have been confiscated; and that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several states a reconsideration and revision of all acts or laws regarding the premises, so as to render the said laws or acts perfectly consistent, not only with justice and equity, but with that spirit of conciliation, which on the return of the blessings of peace should universally prevail. And that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several states, that the estates, rights and properties of such last mentioned persons, shall be restored to

them, they refunding to any persons who may be now in possession, the bona fide price (where any has been given) which such persons may have paid on purchasing any of the said lands, rights and properties, since the confiscation. . . .

Richard Peters, ed., *The Public Statutes at Large of the United States of America from the Organization of the Government in 1789, to March 3, 1845* (Boston, MA: Little, Brown, 1867), 55–56.

PRACTICING Historical Thinking

Identify: Identify the key provisions of this treaty.

Analyze: Who are the intended audiences of this treaty? Explain.

Evaluate: In what ways do you detect the influence of John Locke's philosophy (Doc. 3.9) in this document? What are some other possible influences on this treaty?

DOCUMENT 4.12 THOMAS JEFFERSON, Letter to Thomas Pinckney 1793

Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826) served as secretary of state in George Washington's first presidential administration. In this letter to Thomas Pinckney (1750–1828), minister to Great Britain, Jefferson discusses negotiations with native peoples in the northwestern frontier and the efforts of Edmond-Charles Genet (1763–1834), who had been sent by France to enlist US support for the French revolutionary government. When this letter was written, Great Britain was at war with revolutionary France.

Our negotiations with the North-Western Indians have completely failed, so that war must settle our difference. We expected nothing else, and had gone into negotiations only to prove to all our citizens that peace was unattainable on terms which any one of them would admit.

You have probably heard of a great misunderstanding between Mr. Genet and us. On the meeting of Congress it will be made public. . . . We have kept it merely personal, convinced his nation [France] will disapprove him. To them [the French] we have with the utmost assiduity given every proof of inviolate attachment. We wish to hear from you on the subject of Marquis de La Fayette, though we know that circumstances [the increasing violence of the French Revolution, which put the lives of moderates like Lafayette in danger] do not admit sanguine [optimistic] hopes.

H. A. Washington, ed., *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson: Being His Autobiography, Correspondence, Reports, Messages, Addresses, and Other Writings, Official and Private*, vol. 4 (New York: Taylor & Maury, 1854), 85–86.