

Chapter Nine
Primary Source Exercise
HIST 2111 FA 19

Readings (2):

(1) *The Sedition Act of 1798*: <http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1786-1800/the-sedition-act-of-1798.php>

(2) *The Kentucky Resolution of 1799*: <http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1786-1800/kentucky-resolution-1799.php>

After you have read the primary sources listed above (as well as Chapter Nine, and watched the videos for this module), answer the following questions, based on what you know about the Jefferson and Madison Administrations, as well as what you know about the early 19th century in America more generally.

1. Considering Adams's and Jefferson's ideas presented here, alongside the record of the American Revolution and the creation of the Constitution, what can you conclude about the Founding Fathers' ideas regarding freedom and equality? What does it mean that they fought a war for freedom against Great Britain but they will (apparently) use federal power to curtail the freedom of speech or, alternatively, use state power to thwart the rule of federal law?

2. Expanding on Question #1, what can you reasonably infer about the Founding Fathers' attitude towards Americans who object to actions taken by the Federal Government? If Jefferson and his followers objected to the Sedition Act, how should Jefferson's opponents have reacted to, for example, the Louisiana Purchase or the Embargo Act?

3. Based on what you know about Jefferson and his commitment to liberty and equality (think of the *Declaration of Independence*), how should we understand the tension between these ideas clearly and loudly espoused by Jefferson on the one hand, and his words and deeds relating to slavery on the other?