

Document A

Source: Alexander Hamilton, *Federal Constitution Debates*, June 18, 1787.

"All communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and the wellborn, the other the mass of the people...The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right. Give therefore to the first class a distinct, permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the second, and they cannot receive any advantage by a change, they therefore will ever maintain good government."

Document B

Source: Alexander Hamilton, *Opinion on the Constitutionality of the Bank*, February 23, 1791.

"If the end be clearly comprehended within any of the specified powers, and if the measure have an obvious relation to that end, and it is not forbidden by any particular provision of the Constitution, it may be safely deemed to come within the compass of the national authority."

Document C

"Although it is very true that we ought not to involve ourselves in the political system of Europe, but to keep ourselves always distinct and separate from it if we can, we are endeavoring (trying) to adjust all our differences with France by amicable negotiation...render it my indispensable (inevitable) duty to recommend to your consideration effectual measures of defense....I shall institute a fresh attempt at negotiation, and shall not fail to promote and accelerate an accommodation on terms compatible with the rights, duties, interests, and honor of the nation." Speech by John Adams in a Special Message to Congress on the XYZ Affair" (May 16, 1797)

- **Speech by John Adams in a Special Message to Congress on the XYZ Affair (May 16, 1797)**

Document D

Although I have never Sought popularity by any animated Speeches or inflammatory publications against the Slavery of the Blacks, my opinion against it has always been known and my practice has been so conformable to my sentiment that I have always employed freemen both as Domisticks and Labourers, and never in my Life did I own a Slave. The Abolition of Slavery must be gradual and accomplished with much caution and Circumspection. Violent means and measures would produce greater violations of Justice and Humanity, than the continuance of the practice. Neither Mr. Mifflin nor yourselves, I presume would be willing to venture on Exertions which would probably excite Insurrections among the Blacks to rise against their Masters and imbrue their hands in innocent blood.

- **John Adams letter to 2 abolitionists, January 24, 1801**

Document E

The reign of Mr. Adams has, hitherto, been one continued tempest of malignant passions. As president, he has never opened his lips, or lifted his pen, without threatening or scolding. The grand object of his administration has been to exasperate the rage of contending parties, to calumniate and destroy every man who differs from his opinions... Every person holding an office must either quit it, or think and vote exactly with Mr. Adams

- **James Callender, 1800 – Callender was prosecuted under the Sedition Act, fined \$250, and sentenced to prison for 9 months for pamphlets like the one above**

Document F

That the several states who formed that instrument [the Constitution], 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 colour of that instrument, is the rightful remedy.

- **The Kentucky Resolution, Thomas Jefferson, 1798**

Document G

Source: Thomas Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia, Query 19. 1781–1785.

“Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God, if ever he had a chosen people, whose breasts He has made his particular deposit for substantial and genuine virtue.”

Document H

Source: Thomas Jefferson, Letter to Colonel Edward Carrington, January 16, 1787.

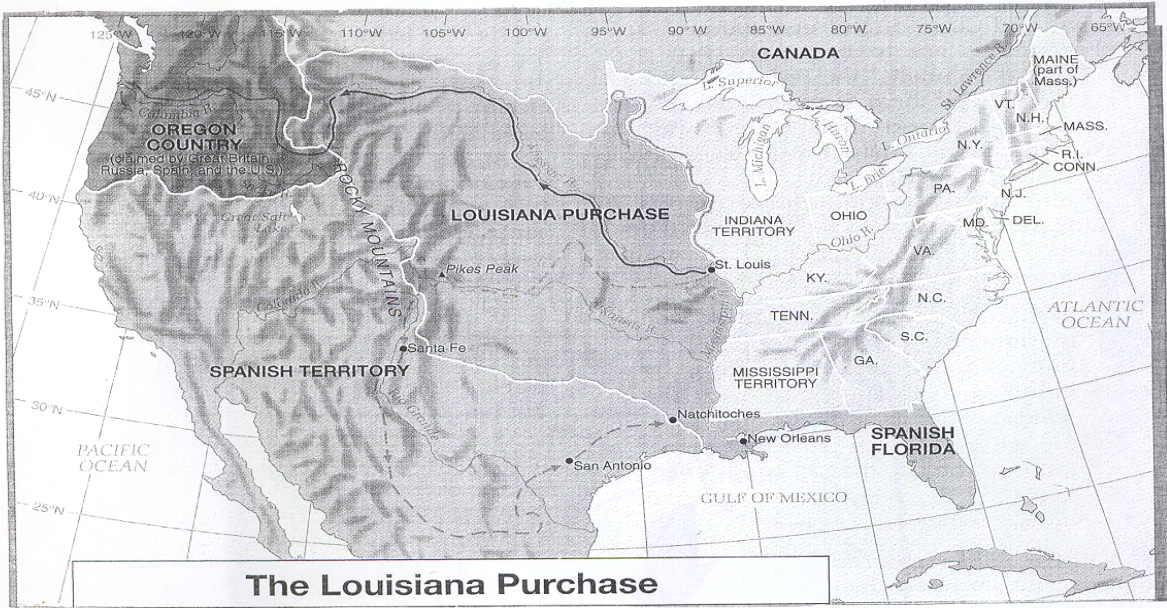
“The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right; and were it left to me to decide, whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”

Document I

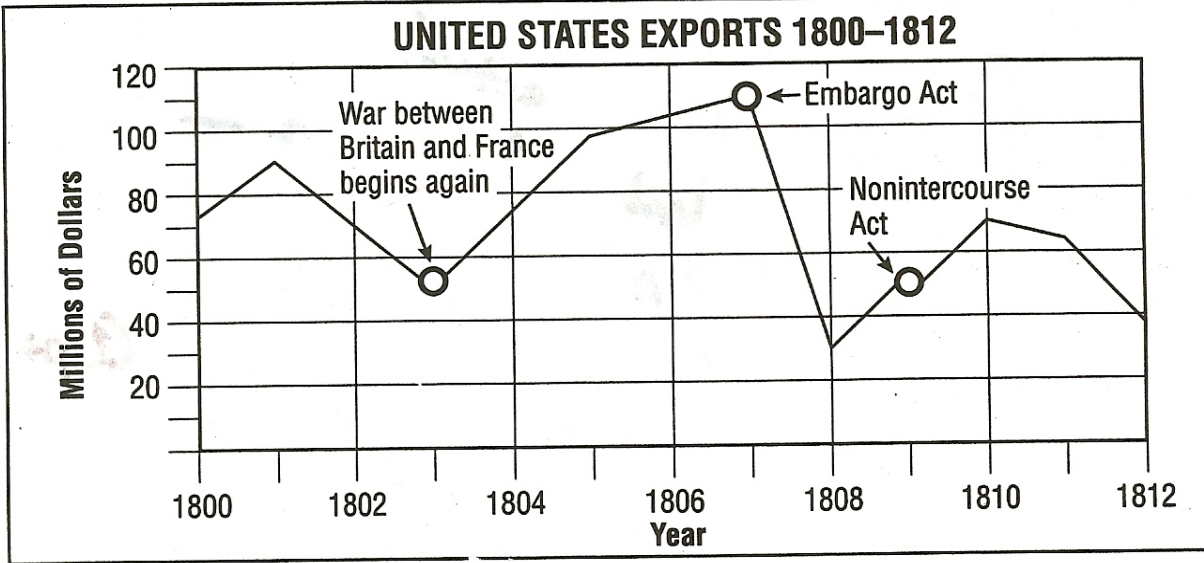
Source: Thomas Jefferson, Writings, February 15, 1791.

“I consider the foundation of the Constitution as laid upon this ground—that all powers *not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states, or to the people...* To take a single step beyond the boundaries thus specifically drawn around the powers of Congress is to take possession of a boundless field of power, no longer susceptible of any definition.”

Doc J



Document K



Doc L

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States: "I communicate to Congress certain documents, being a continuation of those heretofore laid before them on the subject of our affairs with Great Britain. British cruisers have been in the continued practice of violating the American flag on the great highway of nations, and of seizing and carrying off persons sailing. ..Thousands of American citizens, under the safeguard of public law and of their national flag, have been torn from their country and from everything dear to them; have been dragged on board ships ... of a foreign nation and exposed, under the severities of their discipline."

James Madison Special Message to Congress on the Foreign Policy Crisis War Message (June 1, 1812)

Doc M

