**The Kentucky Resolutions of 1798**

(Printed anonymously, authorship later claimed by Thomas Jefferson)

1. *Resolved*, That the United States of America, are not united on the principle of unlimited submission to their general government; but that, by a compact under the style and title of a Constitution for the United States, they constituted a general government for special purposes — delegated to that government certain definite powers, reserving, each State to itself, the residuary mass of right to their own self-government; and that whensoever the general government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force:

*Definitions*:

**Submission**: surrender

**Compact**: an agreement

**Delegated powers**: authorized powers

**Residuary**: remaining or what is left over

**Void**: not valid or not legal

2. *Resolved*, That the Constitution of the United States, having delegated to Congress a power to punish treason, piracies, and felonies committed on the high seas, and offenses against the law of nations, and no other crimes, whatsoever; and it being true as a general principle, and one of the amendments to the Constitution having also declared, that “the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, not prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people,” therefore the act of Congress, passed on the 14th day of July, 1798, and intituled <“Alien and Sedition Acts>,” (and all their other acts which assume to create, define, or punish crimes, other than those so enumerated in the Constitution,) are altogether void, and of no force; and that the power to create, define, and punish such other crimes is reserved, and, of right, appertains solely and exclusively to the respective States, each within its own territory.

*Definitions*:

**Enumerated**: numbered or listed

8th. *Resolved*, that to take from the States all the powers of self-government and transfer them to a general and consolidated government, without regard to the special delegations and reservations solemnly agreed to in that compact, is not for the peace, happiness or prosperity of these States…Where powers are assumed which have not been delegated, a nullification of the act is the rightful remedy: that every State has a natural right in cases not within the compact, (*casus non fœderis*) to nullify of their own authority all assumptions of power by others within their limits: that without this right, they would be under the dominion, absolute and unlimited, of whosoever might exercise this right of judgment for them:

*Definitions*:

**Nullification/nullify**: to declare invalid or cancel out

**Dominion**: under the control of

**The Kentucky Resolutions** – Questions

**Section 1:**

1. What does Jefferson say should happen to laws that aren’t delegated to the Federal government?

**Section 2:**

1. According the Constitution, what powers are delegated to the Federal Government?
2. Who has authority over all other issues?
3. Therefore, what does Jefferson say should happen to the Alien & Sedition Acts?

**Section 8:**

1. Jefferson says that when the Federal Government assumes powers it was not given, what is the remedy for this problem?
2. What is the danger for the States if they do not do this?