**Resource Sheet #02**

**Analysis: Compare and contrast Washington’s and Jefferson’s viewpoints on the rebellion.**

**Draw a conclusion unique to George**

**Washington’s viewpoint.**

**Draw a conclusion about the similarities between the viewpoints.**

**Draw a conclusion unique to Thomas**

**Jefferson’s viewpoint.**

**Resource Sheet #03**

**Document A – Excerpts of Letters Written by George Washington**

**in Response to Shays’ Rebellion**

**To Henry Lee, October 31, 1786**

“the accounts which are published of the commotions *[disturbances].* . . exhibit a melancholy *[sad]* proof of what our trans-Atlantic foe *[England]* has predicted; and of another thing perhaps, which is still more to be regretted *[sorry about],* and is yet more unaccountable *[strange],* that mankind when left to themselves are unfit *[incapable]* for their own

Government. I am mortified *[embarrassed]* beyond expression when I view the clouds that have spread over the brightest morn *[morning]* that ever dawned upon any Country. . . To be more exposed *[visible in a bad way]* in the eyes of the world, and more contemptible *[disgraceful]* than we already are, is hardly possible.”

Source: Washington, George To Henry Lee, October 31, 1786. The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-

1799. American Memory, Library of Congress. Washington, D.C. Accessed 8/5/14. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw290026))) [bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw290026))](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw290026)))

**To David Humphreys, October 22, 1786**

**“**commotions *[disturbances]* of this sort, like snow-balls, gather strength as they roll, if there is no opposition *[obstacle]* in the way to divide and crumble them. . . I am mortified *[embarrassed]* beyond expression that in the moment of our acknowledged *[accepted]* independence we should by our conduct *[behavior]* verify *[prove correct]* the predictions of our transatlantic foe *[England],* and render *[make]* ourselves ridiculous and contemptible *[disgraceful]* in the eyes of all Europe.”

Source: Washington, George to David Humphreys, October 22, 1786. The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799. American Memory, Library of Congress. Washington, D.C. Accessed 8/5/14. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mgw2&fileName=gwpage013.db&recNum=200&tempFile=./temp/~ammem_5uqU&filecode=mgw&next_filecode=mgw&itemnum=1&ndocs=100) [bin/ampage?collId=mgw2&fileName=gwpage013.db&recNum=200&tempFile=./temp/~ammem\_5uqU&filecode=mgw&next\_fil](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mgw2&fileName=gwpage013.db&recNum=200&tempFile=./temp/~ammem_5uqU&filecode=mgw&next_filecode=mgw&itemnum=1&ndocs=100) [ecode=mgw&itemnum=1&ndocs=100](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mgw2&fileName=gwpage013.db&recNum=200&tempFile=./temp/~ammem_5uqU&filecode=mgw&next_filecode=mgw&itemnum=1&ndocs=100)

**To Henry Knox, February 3, 1787**

“The moment is, indeed, important! – If government shrinks *[backs away]*, or is unable to enforce *[carry out]* its laws; fresh maneuvers *[movements]* will be displayed by the insurgents *[protestors]* – anarchy *[lawlessness]* & confusion must prevail *[win out]* – and every thing will be turned topsy turvey in that State; where it is not probable *[likely]* the mischiefs *[troubles]* will terminate *[end]*.”

“if three years ago any person had told me that at this day, I should see such a formidable *[dreadful]* rebellion against the laws & constitutions of our own making as now appears I should have thought him a bedlamite - a fit subject for a mad house.”

Source: Washington, George to Henry Knox, February 3, 1787. Founders Online. National Archives and Records

Administration. Washington, D.C. Accessed 8/5/14. <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/04-05-02-0006>

**Resource Sheet #04**

**Document B – Excerpts of Letters Written by Thomas Jefferson**

**in Response to Shays’ Rebellion**

**To William S. Smith, Paris, Nov. 13, 1787**

What country can preserve *[protect]* its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance *[opposition]*? Let them take arms *[weapons].* . . the tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots & tyrants *[dictators].*

Source: Jefferson, Thomas to William Smith, November 13, 1787. Library of Congress, Manuscript Division. Washington, D.C. Accessed 8/6/14. <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/jefferson/105.html>

**To James Madison, Paris, Jan. 30, 1787**

I am impatient to learn your sentiments *[opinions]* on the late troubles in the Eastern states… I hold it that a little rebellion *[revolution]* now and then is a good thing, & as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical. . . It is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government.

Source: Jefferson, Thomas to James Madison, Jan, 30, 1787. Library of Congress, Manuscript Division. Washington, D.C. Accessed 8/6/14. [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mjm&fileName=02/mjm02.db&recNum=860&itemLink=h?ammem/mjm:@field(DOCID+@lit(mjm012678))) [bin/ampage?collId=mjm&fileName=02/mjm02.db&recNum=860&itemLink=h?ammem/mjm:@field(DOCID+@lit(mjm012678))](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mjm&fileName=02/mjm02.db&recNum=860&itemLink=h?ammem/mjm:@field(DOCID+@lit(mjm012678)))

**To James Madison, Paris, Dec. 20, 1787**

The late rebellion in Massachusetts has given more alarm than I think it should have done. Calculate that one rebellion in 13 states in the course of 11 years, is but one for each state in a century & a half. No country should be so long without one. Nor will any degree of power in the hands of government prevent insurrections *[revolutions].* France, with all its despotism *[dictatorship]*, and two or three

hundred thousand men always in arms has had three insurrections in the three years I have been here in every one of which greater numbers were engaged than in Massachusetts & a great deal more blood

was spilt.

Source: Jefferson, Thomas to James Madison, December 20, 1787. Thomas Jefferson Papers, Series 1, General Correspondence,

1651-1827. American Memory, Library of Congress. Washington, D.C. Accessed 8/6/14.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mtj.mtjbib003193>

**To Abigail Adams, Paris, Feb. 22, 1787**

The spirit of resistance to government is so valuable on certain occasions, that I wish it to be always kept alive. It will often be exercised when wrong, but better so than not to be exercised at all. I like a little rebellion now and then. It is like a storm in the Atmosphere.

Source: Jefferson, Thomas to Abigail Adams, February 22, 1787. Thomas Jefferson Papers, Series 1, General Correspondence,

1651-1827. American Memory, Library of Congress. Washington, D.C. Accessed 8/6/14.

<http://memory.loc.gov/master/mss/mtj/mtj1/006/1200/1251.jpg>