

It's Not About Political Parties. It's About Liberty

In 1798, the John Adams administration signed into law that Alien and Sedition Acts, which made it a crime to publish "false, scandalous, and malicious writing" against the government or its officials. In practice, it was used to quell the freedom of speech in dissent against the sitting administration. In the Kentucky Resolutions of 1798, Thomas Jefferson responded:

"the several States composing the United States of America, are not united on the principle of unlimited submission to their General Government"

But wait – that's not all. He went on to say that all undelegated powers exercised by the federal government are "unauthoritative, void and of no force." And, that a "nullification of the act is the rightful remedy."

Nullification

There's been plenty of people talking about nullification lately, but many people don't know what it really means.

Nullification is not secession or insurrection, but neither is it unconditional or unlimited submission. Nullification is not something that requires any decision, statement or action from any branch of the federal government. Nullification is not the result of obtaining a favorable court ruling. Nullification is not the petitioning of the federal government to start doing or to stop doing anything.

Nullification doesn't depend on any federal law being repealed. Nullification does not require permission from any person or institution outside of one's own state. Nullification is something that's already happening around the country.

Nullification begins with a decision made in your state legislature to resist a federal law deemed to be unconstitutional. It usually involves a bill, which is passed by both houses and is signed by your governor. In some cases, it might be approved by the voters of your state directly, in a referendum. It may change your state's statutory law or it might even amend your state constitution. It is a refusal on the part of your state government to cooperate with, or enforce any federal law it deems to be unconstitutional.

At its very core, nullification is mass civil-disobedience to the federal government with the support of the state apparatus. It's about "We the People" exercising our rights whether the politicians or judges in Washington D.C want to give us "permission" to exercise those rights or not.

Lost Liberty

In 1775 John Adams wrote, "liberty once lost, is lost forever." He went on to explain that when the People allow government to gain power and restrict liberty, it will never voluntarily give that power back. Liberty given up to government power will never be returned to the people without a long and difficult struggle.

The bottom line, is this. When you allow politicians to bend the rules of the Constitution – even for things you may support – over a long period of time, sooner or later you're going to end up with politicians who feel that the rules don't apply at all. And, if we're not there right now, we're pretty darn close.

Every Issue, Every Time

That's why we must demand adherence to the Constitution – Every Issue. Every time. No exceptions. No excuses. That means that much of what the federal government does is unconstitutional, including:

The Department of Education, The Patriot Act, Federal Gun Laws and Regulations, National Health Care Mandates, and something that's been going on since 1941, wars without a Congressional declaration of war from Congress.

Liberty

From this we can see that the Tenth Amendment is not about political parties. It's not about political ideologies. It's not even about political candidates. It's about liberty. It was designed to promote your liberty by strictly limiting the powers of the federal government.

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