

all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and **usurpations**, pursuing
20 invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute **despotism**, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity that constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain¹ is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having, in direct object, the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. **B**

He has refused his assent to laws² the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. **C**

30 He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and, when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless these people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature—a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measure.

40 He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the State remaining, in the meantime, exposed to all dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population³ of these States; for that purpose obstructing the laws for the naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

50 He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of their offices,⁴ and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.⁵

usurpation

(yoo' sər-pā'shən) *n.* the act of wrongfully taking over a right or power that belongs to someone else

despotism

(dēs'pə-tīz'əm) *n.* government by a ruler with unlimited power

B ARGUMENT

What **counterargument** does Jefferson anticipate in lines 15–22? What **claim** does he make at the end of this paragraph and what does he say he is about to do?

C TEXT STRUCTURE

Why might the list of complaints make up the largest part of the four-part structure?

1. **the present King of Great Britain:** George III, who reigned from 1760 to 1820.

2. **refused his assent to laws:** Laws passed in the colonies needed the king's approval; sometimes it took years for laws to be approved or rejected.

3. **to prevent the population:** to keep the population from growing.

4. **the tenure of their offices:** their job security.

5. **eat out their substance:** use up their resources.