Resource 5

James Madison on War

Of all the enemies to public liberty [i.e., freedom from governmental tyranny] war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes . . . known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few. . . . No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare.

—James Madison, Political Observations, 1795

Source: Madison, J. (1795, April 20). Political observations. Founders Online. Retrieved from http://founders.archives.gov/ documents/Madison/01-15-02-0423