

enslaving the Colonies." This has been the uniform language of the malcontents on both sides of the Atlantic. The Congress has assumed it to justify their rebellion; and the opposition to Government in Britain has echoed it, some of them to conceal their thirst for emoluments and dignities, the sole ground of their opposition; and others, republican in principle, to cover their as yet immature design of destroying our happy constitution. It has been asserted so often and so confidently, *in* as well as *out* of Parliament, that the incautious, who seldom examine the motives of human conduct, have believed it.

To prove that this opinion is not founded in truth—that neither the conduct of this nor of any past reign has produced this rebellion, but that it has sprung from different causes, existing as early as the beginning of the sixteenth century, and been nourished by those two fiends, Superstition and Ambition, the great enemies to religious and civil liberty—is the design of this Essay. But before I proceed to support this opinion, I shall shew the absurdity of that which I oppose. This will dispel the mist which has been cast before the eyes of the misinformed, and enable the candid to perceive the truth in its due force.

In almost every society, opposition to legal government has been a common event. In almost every instance which history affords, it has arisen from continued injustice and oppression in the rulers. These have been the *means*, by which ambitious men, of whom every society has its share, have been enabled to incite the vulgar to sedition, and finally to throw off their allegiance. But the American rebellion in this respect stands distinguished from all others. It can appeal neither to antecedent injustice nor oppression for an excuse. At the time it broke out, the people in the Colonies were more free, and happy than any others on earth. A summary view of the conduct of the State towards the Colonies, from the dawn of their settlements,

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