

## Sec. 1—Judicial Power, Courts, Judges

so it has been understood since,<sup>269</sup> with only a few judicial voices raised to suggest that what Congress could not do directly (by suspension) it could not do by omission (by failing to provide for *habeas*).<sup>270</sup> But, because statutory authority had always existed authorizing the federal courts to grant the relief they deemed necessary under *habeas corpus*, the Court did not need to face the question.<sup>271</sup>

Having determined in *Bollman* that a statute was necessary before the federal courts had power to issue writs of *habeas corpus*, Chief Justice Marshall pointed to § 14 of the Judiciary Act of 1789 as containing the necessary authority.<sup>272</sup> As the Chief Justice read it, the authorization was limited to persons imprisoned under federal authority. It was not until 1867, with two small exceptions,<sup>273</sup> that legislation specifically empowered federal courts to inquire into the imprisonment of persons under state authority.<sup>274</sup> Pursuant to this authorization, the Court then expanded the use of the writ into a major instrument to reform procedural criminal law in both federal and state jurisdictions.

However, the question then arose as to what aspects of this broader *habeas* are protected against suspension. Noting that the statutory writ of *habeas corpus* has been expanded dramatically since the First Congress, the Court has written that it “assume[s] . . . that the Suspension Clause of the Constitution refers to the writ as it exists

<sup>269</sup> See *Ex parte McCordle*, 74 U.S. (7 Wall.) 506 (1869). Cf. *Carbo v. United States*, 364 U.S. 611, 614 (1961).

<sup>270</sup> E.g., *Eisentrager v. Forrestal*, 174 F.2d 961, 966 (D.C. Cir. 1949), *revd. on other grounds sub nom.*, *Johnson v. Eisentrager*, 339 U.S. 763 (1950) (holding that *habeas* exists as an inherent common law right); see also Justice Black's dissent, *id.* at 791, 798: “*Habeas corpus*, as an instrument to protect against illegal imprisonment, is written into the Constitution. Its use by courts cannot in my judgment be constitutionally abridged by Executive or by Congress.” And, in *Jones v. Cunningham*, 371 U.S. 236, 238 (1963), the Court said: “The *habeas corpus* jurisdictional statute implements the constitutional command that the writ of *habeas corpus* be made available.” (Emphasis added).

<sup>271</sup> Cf. *Ex parte McCordle*, 74 U.S. (7 Wall.) 506 (1869).

<sup>272</sup> *Ex parte Bollman*, 8 U.S. (4 Cr.) 75, 94 (1807). See *Fay v. Noia*, 372 U.S. 391, 409 (1963).

<sup>273</sup> Act of March 2, 1833, § 7, 4 Stat. 634 (federal officials imprisoned for enforcing federal law); Act of August 29, 1842, 5 Stat. 539 (foreign nationals detained by a state in violation of a treaty). See also Bankruptcy Act of April 4, 1800, § 38, 2 Stat. 19, 32 (*habeas corpus* for imprisoned debtor discharged in bankruptcy), repealed by Act of December 19, 1803, 2 Stat. 248.

<sup>274</sup> The act of February 5, 1867, 14 Stat. 385, conveyed power to federal courts “to grant writs of *habeas corpus* in all cases where any person may be restrained of his or her liberty in violation of the constitution, or of any treaty or law of the United States. . . .” On the law with respect to state prisoners prior to this statute, see *Ex parte Dorr*, 44 U.S. (3 How.) 103 (1845); cf. *Elkison v. Delieesseline*, 8 Fed. Cas. 493 (No. 4366) (C.C.D.S.C. 1823) (Justice Johnson); *Ex parte Cabrera*, 4 Fed. Cas. 964 (No. 2278) (C.C.D. Pa. 1805) (Justice Washington).