

Chapter Seven
Primary Source Exercise
HIST 2111 FA 19

Readings:

(1) Thomas Jefferson, *Thoughts on Slavery* (1782):

<http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/presidents/thomas-jefferson/jefferson-on-slavery.php>

(2) Judith Sargent Murray, *On the Equality of the Sexes* (1790):

<http://www.digital.library.upenn.edu/women/murray/equality/equality.html>

After you have read the two primary sources listed above (as well as Chapters Six and Seven, and watched the video for this module), answer the following questions, based on what you know about the course of the American War for Independence and the writing of the US Constitution, as well as what you know about the challenges facing the new American Republic more generally.

1. Considering Jefferson's words in the Declaration of Independence alongside his words here on slavery, what can you conclude about Jefferson's ideas regarding freedom and equality?

2. Considering Murray's argument, what did women gain in the adoption of the Constitution? Can you reasonably infer anything about the attitudes of the writers of the Constitution toward women? Can you reasonably infer anything about the attitudes of the writers of the Constitution toward slavery?

3. Based on what you know about the reasons for replacing the Articles of Confederation with the Constitution, what was/were the ramifications of this change on African-Americans and women?

4. Take a look at the Constitution [here](#). Can you find definitions for who gets to vote? For who gets counted as a citizen? For who deserves equal treatment under the law?

5. Now take a look at the [Bill of Rights](#) (Amendments 1-10). Can you find any more definitions from #4? How long until African-Americans and/or women are mentioned in the Constitution?