

Chapter Six
Primary Source Exercise
HIST 2111 FA 19

Readings:

(a) Charles Inglis, *The True Interest of America Impartially Stated* (1776):

<http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1776-1785/charles-inglis-the-true-interest-of-america-impartially-stated-1776.php>

(b) Thomas Jefferson, *Declaration of Independence* (1776):

<http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1776-1785/the-final-text-of-the-declaration-of-independence-july-4-1776.php>

After you have read the two primary sources listed above (as well as Chapter Six, 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, as well as what you know about the challenges facing the new American Republic more generally.

1. Who are the authors of these texts? That is, who does each author claim to be, and whom do you suspect each author actually might be? Put another way, whose voices are represented in each text, and whose voices are not represented? Why might this distinction be important? Can you find an example from each text?

2. What sorts of problems does Jefferson identify? To what degree do Inglis's arguments refute Jefferson's charges? Can you find an examples from the text?

3. What sorts of solutions does Jefferson suggest? What does Inglis think about the solution(s) proffered by Jefferson? Can you find an examples from the text?

4. How would you characterize the tone of each text? Why are they so? Can you find an example from each text?

5. Which people living in the colonies do you think would agree with Jefferson? Which ones might agree with Inglis? Why?

