

attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation. That your sex are naturally tyrannical is a truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute. . . .

Library of the World's Best Literature, Ancient and Modern, ed. Charles Dudley Warner, vol. 1 (New York: International Society, 1896), 87–88.

PRACTICING Historical Thinking

Identify: What request does Adams make of her husband? What result does she foresee if this request is not met?

Analyze: In what ways does Adams's request echo the ideas of Thomas Paine (Doc. 5.4) and John Locke (Doc. 5.1)?

Evaluate: In what ways do Adams's arguments foreshadow future debates in American politics and society?

DOCUMENT 5.6 THOMAS JEFFERSON, Declaration of Independence

1776

When, Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826), Virginia planter and delegate to the Continental Congress, was asked to write a justification for American independence, he drew from Enlightenment ideas that were familiar to many British Americans. Congress adopted Jefferson's declaration on July 4, 1776.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the Earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.—That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and

organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. . . .

The Constitution of the United States of America, Established March 4, 1789: To Which Is Added the Declaration of Their Reasons for Separating from This Country, Made in Congress, July 4, 1776. And a Resolution of Congress Expressive of Their High Sense of the Services of Mr. Thomas Paine (London: D. I. Eaton, 1794), 23.

PRACTICING Historical Thinking

Identify: Identify the five most significant words in this document. Explain your choices.

Analyze: Based on this document, what is the relationship between government and human beings' inalienable rights?

Evaluate: In what ways does this document build on Jonathan Mayhew's (Doc. 5.2)?

DOCUMENT 5.7

ABIGAIL ADAMS, Letter to John Quincy Adams

1780

Abigail Adams wrote the letter excerpted below to her thirteen-year-old son, John Quincy Adams, while he accompanied his father, John Adams, on his diplomatic duties as special envoy to Europe during the American Revolution.

. . . It will be expected of you my son that as you are favoured with superiour advantages under the instructive Eye of a tender parent, that your improvements should bear some proportion to your advantages. Nothing is wanting with you, but attention, diligence and steady application, Nature has not been deficient.

. . . The Habits of a vigorous mind are formed in contending with difficulties. All History will convince you of this, and that wisdom and penetration are the fruits of experience, not the Lessons of retirement and leisure.

Great necessities call out great virtues. When a mind is raised, and animated by scenes that engage the Heart, then those qualities which would otherways lay dormant, wake into Life, and form the Character of the Hero and the Statesman.

War, Tyranny, and Desolation are the Scourges of the Almighty, and ought no doubt to be deprecated. Yet it is your Lot my Son to be an Eye witness of these Calimities in your own Native land, and at the same time to owe your existance among a people who have made a glorious defence of their invaded Liberties, and who, aided by a generous and powerful Ally, with the blessing of heaven will transmit this inheritance to ages yet unborn. . . .

The strict and invariable regard you have ever paid to truth, gives me pleasing hopes that you will not swerve from her dictates, but add justice, fortitude, and every Manly Virtue which can adorn a good citizen, do Honour to your Country, and render your parents supremely happy, particularly your ever affectionate Mother,

AA

"Abigail Adams to John Quincy Adams, 19 January 1780," Founders Online, National Archives, <http://founders.archives.gov/volumes/Adams/04-03>. Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *The Adams Papers: Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 3, *April 1778–September 1782*, ed. L. H. Butterfield and Marc Friedlaender (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1973), 268–269. Copyright © 1973 by the Massachusetts Historical Society

PRACTICING Historical Thinking

Identify: List Adams's main reasons for writing to her son.

Analyze: What does Adams mean when she states, "War, Tyranny and Desolation are the Scourges of the Almighty, and ought no doubt to be deprecated"?

Evaluate: To what extent does Adams's letter reinforce traditional views of women in late eighteenth-century America?

DOCUMENT 5.8 Franchise Restrictions in the Georgia State Constitution

1777

During the American Revolution, British-American colonies reorganized themselves into sovereign (or self-governing) states and composed constitutions to frame the boundaries of government power. These constitutions often limited voting rights, as seen in this excerpt from Georgia's first state constitution.

ART. IX. All male white inhabitants, of the age of twenty-one years, and possessed in his own right of ten pounds value, and liable to pay tax in this State, or being