

Questions to think about for class #4,

After finishing up a bit of material left over from the last class, we're going to look at the break-up of the Union and after. Here are a couple of questions to consider:

1. We're going to examine both the opening paragraph of the *Declaration of Independence* and a bit of the *Constitution*. What are the differences between the two documents? What is each document attempting to accomplish? How do the documents fit into Woodard's ideas about "rival nations?" (This is tough with the brief excerpt I have here of the Constitution, so any thoughts would be interesting and welcome.) See excerpts at the end of this document.
2. According to Woodard, what are some of the reasons that we went from separate "nations" that occasionally came together, to a completely sectional *Nation*?
3. Not a question, but an article forwarded to me by Jo Howell. It's excellent, well-worth reading, especially as you think about the Constitution. It's long, but if you can get to it, I think you'll be interested. Here's the link. I hope you can open it. Fingers crossed.
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2024/09/30/constitution-book-reviews-chemerinsky-pierson-schickler>

Declaration of Independence

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another...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...

Preamble of the Constitution of the United States of America

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article IV, Section. 4.

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government...

10th Amendment

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.