

Outline: On Ending Slavery

I. Introduction

- A. No one in all of France can champion liberty and equality, essential ideas of the Revolution, while denying both of these rights to the fellow French speaking people of Saint-Domingue.
- B. Two groups who champion these qualities: the revolutionaries and the Christians.
- C. Thesis: Therefore, the revolutionaries and all Christians, liberal and conservative alike, should be strongly supporting the abolition of slavery in the colony.

II. Revolutionary arguments: A call to the revolutionaries to end slavery

- A. Argument from the revolutionary beloved Rousseau: All men are born equal.
 - 1. Some think that people are born unequal, this is both true and false.
 - a) Men are born into slavery and are not equal to those born with more power, they are not born as slaves because of an inferior nature, but rather are born slaves and have an inferior power position because of the social status of their birth.
 - b) There is no such thing as “the right of the strongest.”
 - c) Therefore, no man has any natural power over another man.

B. Covenantal relationships

- 1. Authority comes from covenants and both parties benefit.
- 2. Slave doesn't benefit in relationship, therefore not a covenant (and therefore, not an authority).

C. Documents of the Revolution are Against Slavery:

1. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen: Article 1.
2. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen: Article 2.

III. Christian arguments: A call on the Christians to end slavery

- A. Introduction to the Christian argument.
- B. Old Testament: All are equal in the creation story.
- C. New Testament: Arguments
 1. Passage 1: Paul and Galatians
 2. Passage 2: Christ and Mark 12
- D. Catholic Dogma: Immensa Pastorum Principis

IV. Conclusion

- A. Recall core claim of thesis: no revolutionary or Christian should support the unwillful subjection of one person under another.
- B. Call to end slavery:
 1. End in Saint Domingue.
 2. Extend argument to all who are oppressed.
- C. What the Jacobins will do: we will raise the issue to the National Assembly as soon as possible.