

Read Thomas Jefferson's Letter to James Madison and George Mason's Objections to the Constitution, both of which are in the course textbook. What do you think of Jefferson and Mason's reactions to the Constitution? Do you agree or disagree with their various points? (Not all of their points, but the ones you think are important.) Why/Why not? What parts of their letters do you not understand? Can we help each other understand what they were saying? (Don't be afraid to ask "What did so and so mean by X?") Is anything they wrote relevant to our times?

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For both I too had a difficult time understanding quite a bit of what I read but from what I did love right away was what he said about the Senate. "they are not the representatives of the people, or amenable to them." Because it's intriguing that he felt the need to make that clear right in the beginning.

He also made it clear there should be representation from all areas of the country and a rotation of the positions so that "the Executive would always have had safe and proper information and advice".

I did not understand this part of his letter:

"Hence also sprung that unnecessary and dangerous officer the Vice President; who for want of other employment is made President of the Senate; thereby dangerously blending the executive and legislative powers; besides always giving to someone of the States an unnecessary and unjust pre-eminence over the others."

But my favorite part is "The general Legislature is restrained from prohibiting the further importation of slaves for twenty odd years." Although I wish it has been indefinitely, I think that helped to mold the future to a life without slavery.

There was a lot more of the letter to Mason that I did not follow. He ran sentences or thoughts all together and seemed to be jumbled. What I could take from it was "Let me add that a bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth." he seems to get what the reason for the bill of rights is solely intended for. However he did not like that they would attempt to re-elect a president every 4 years but I am incredibly grateful that we do. Because I cannot imagine being stuck for life with some of the Presidents we have had.

Towards the end the letter made more sense. I love that when the constitution was created that these men, highly educated in their right minds, had the ability to see clearly that while each had opposing views on certain things, they were amicable. Clearly our elections have gone awry and it would be nice to see this much intelligence in our White House.