PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR OLLI LECTURE “SLAVERY AND THE FOUNDERS

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SLAVERY AND THE FOUNDERS; AN OLLI LECTURE

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THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: 1776

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.

He (the King) has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating it's most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation hither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian king of Great Britain. (determining to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold): he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or restrain this execrable commerce: and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms against us, and to purchase that liberty of which he also obtruded them: thus paying off former crimes against the liberties of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.

THE NORTHWEST ORDINANCE: 1787 ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE THIRTEEN SOVEREIGN STATES

ARTICLE 6:
There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory (the area East of the Mississippi River and North of the Ohio River), otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be
lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.

UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION: 1787 ADOPTED 1788

ARTICLE I SECTION 2

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within the Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound in Service of a Term of Years and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons.

ARTICLE I SECTION 9:

The Migration of Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

ARTICLE 4 SECTION 2:

No person held to service in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall in consequence of any law or regulation, therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up to claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

ARTICLE 4 SECTION 3:

The Congress shall have the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice and claims of the United States, or any particular state.