

- Lincoln vs Douglas on the Meaning of Equality
- Douglas on Race and Equality
- Lincoln on Race and Equality

# DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

## ■ 3 CRITICISMS OF THE DECLARATION

- 1) OVERUSED DOCUMENT THAT WAS WRITTEN QUICKLY AND NOT COHERENTLY
- 2) THESE CLAIMS ARE NOT SELF-EVIDENT
  - VERY FEW GOVERNMENTS ARE FOUNDED ON CONSENT
  - BAD HISTORY
- 3) THEY SAID EQUALITY AND RIGHTS BUT DID NOT BELIEVE IT
  - EQUAL RIGHTS? WOMEN, SLAVERY, AND PROPERTY QUALIFICATIONS

# Logic of the Declaration

- STRUCTURE OF THE ARGUMENT

- SYLLOGISM

- MAJOR PREMISE

- MINOR PREMISE

- CONCLUSION

# MEANING OF SELF-EVIDENT

- What does self-evident mean?
- Syllogisms
- Politics and the claim of self-evident truths

# CONTEMPORARY CRITICISMS OF THE FOUNDERS

- 1) WOMEN AND THE DOCTRINE OF EQUALITY
- 2) PROPERTY QUALIFICATIONS AND THE DOCTRINE OF EQUALITY
- 3) SLAVERY AND THE DOCTRINE OF EQUALITY

## Pre-politic

- all Men are created equal,

- they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights

## Politic

- to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men

- deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed,

## Post-politic

- whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends...

- to institute new Government

# Pre-Political

- Locke on the State of Nature
  - State of Perfect Freedom
  - State of Equality
    - Meaning of Equality
      - Age or Virtue (54)
  - Not a state of License
    - Law of Nature
    - Executive Power: Reparation and Restraint
    - Problem of Self Love (13)
    - Origin of Political Life
      - Consent (119)
      - Protection of Property

# Political

- WHO CONSENTS?
- WHY IS CONSENT IMPORTANT?
- WHAT IS THE END OF POLITICS
  - POLITICAL RIGHTS VS NATURAL RIGHT
- THE MEANING OF EQUALITY?
  - WOMEN IN AMERICAN POLITICS?
  - SLAVERY AND AMERICAN POLITICS
- THE MEANING OF RIGHTS
  - PROPERTY QUALIFICATIONS?
    - NATURAL RIGHTS
    - POLITICAL RIGHTS

# Post-Political

- WHEN GOVT BECOMES DESTRUCTIVE?
- THE RIGHT TO ALTER?
- THE RIGHT TO ABOLISH?

- COMPARISON OF LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS ON EQUALITY AND RACE