


# Were Our Founding Fathers Racist? The Slaves are 3/5ths of a Person Debate

DIARY / JEFF DUNETZ // Posted at 11:33 pm on July 18, 2010 by Jeff Dunetz

 Share On Facebook

 Share On Twitter



Many in the progressive world, believe that our founding fathers were racist. As their evidence they point to Article 1, Section 2, Paragraph 3 of the United States Constitution:

“ Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.”

To the liberals, the 3/5th figure is an indication that our founding fathers were a bunch of racists who thought that the African Slaves were less than human.

The truth is that the founders from the northern colonies who opposed Slavery, insisted on counting the slaves as less than “full persons.” The reason for the insistence, is to prevent the slave states from getting too many congressman and electoral votes as to dominate the government and prevent Slavery from ever being abolished.

The Slave states wanted their slaves to be counted as a full person so they could dominate the House of Representatives and the Presidency. And the cool part of it for the southern whites is that they would have the benefit of counting the slaves, they would also be able to control the political power of their large numbers as the slaves were not allowed to vote.

The Northern States did not want them counted at all, to prevent the south from getting too powerful. The “three fifths of all other Persons” refers to the slave population as a whole, not to the humanity of each individual.

## TRENDING

- 1 [Joe Biden Blanks Out and Then Insults Martin Luther King In Disastrous Public Comments](#)
- 2 [Boom: Ilhan Omar Picks a Fight With Ted Cruz over Columbus Statue, It Does Not Go Well For Her](#)
- 3 [Now Anarchists in the Seattle Autonomous Zone Have a 'Garden' and It's as Funny as You'd Expect](#)
- 4 [DNI Ratcliffe Declassification of 'Annex A' Shows How the FBI Tried to Sandbag President Trump Using the Steele Dossier](#)
- 5 [San Fran Police Will No Longer Respond To Calls For Assistance Not Involving Criminal Activity](#)



TRENDING

**This Takes Some Nerve: House Dems File an Amicus Brief In the Flynn Case Against Dismissal, Claim 'Partisanship'**

Nick Arama



For those of you who took American History in high school, you might remember something called the Three-Fifths Compromise, originally proposed by Roger Sherman of Connecticut, and James Wilson of Pennsylvania. For those wing-nuts who did not take high school American History, let me suggest you borrow a book, or try Google.

Those who have read the Federalist papers would know the mindset of the founding fathers were not in favor of the continuation of Slavery, but were instead trying to wean their Southern brethren away from Slavery.

For example in Federalist #38 Madison justified the constitutional provision allowing slave trading for 20 years because it was an improvement,

Is the importation of slaves permitted by the new Constitution for twenty years? By the old, it is permitted forever.

In Federalist #42 he says



***Defund the Thought Police: Part 2 -- Owner of Second City Theater Forced out AFTER Supporting Black Lives Matter***

Brad Slager



***Now Anarchists in the Seattle Autonomous Zone Have a 'Garden' and It's as Funny as You'd Expect***

Nick Arama

It were doubtless to be wished, that the power of prohibiting the importation of slaves had not been postponed until the year 1808, or rather that it had been suffered to have immediate operation. But it is not difficult to account, either for this restriction on the general government, or for the manner in which the whole clause is expressed. It ought to be considered as a great point gained in favor of humanity, that a period of twenty years may terminate forever, within these States, a traffic which has so long and so loudly upbraided the barbarism of modern policy; that within that period, it will receive a considerable discouragement from the federal government, and may be totally abolished, by a concurrence of the few States which continue the unnatural traffic, in the prohibitory example which has been given by so great a majority of the Union. Happy would it be for the unfortunate Africans, if an equal prospect lay before them of being redeemed from the oppressions of their European brethren! Attempts have been made to pervert this clause into an objection against the Constitution, by representing it on one side as a criminal toleration of an illicit practice, and on another as calculated to prevent voluntary and beneficial emigrations from Europe to America. I mention these misconstructions, not with a view to give them an answer, for they deserve none, but as specimens of the manner and spirit in which some have thought fit to conduct their opposition to the proposed government.

Ben Franklin, freed his slaves and was a key founder of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society. Alexander Hamilton was opposed to slavery and, with John Jay and other anti-slavery advocates, helped to found the first African free school in New York City. Jay helped to found the New York Manumission (literally voluntary freeing of slaves) Society and, when he was governor of New York in 1798, signed into law the state statute ending slavery as of 1821.

When Constitution signer William Livingston heard of the New York society he, as Governor of New Jersey, wrote them, offering:

“I would most ardently wish to become a member of it [the society in New York] and... I can safely promise them that neither my tongue, nor my pen, nor purse shall be wanting to promote the abolition of what to me appears so inconsistent with humanity and Christianity... May the great and the equal Father of the human race, who has expressly declared His abhorrence of oppression, and that He is no respecter of persons, succeed a design so laudably calculated to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke.”

Washington was a paradox, he was a slave owner hated slavery

“I can only say that there is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do to see a plan adopted for the abolition of it [slavery].”-George Washington

Washington’s successor John Adams did not own slaves and hated the Practice:

“[M]y opinion against it [slavery] has always been known... [N]ever in my life did I own a slave.”-John Adams



***FRAUD: FBI Knew of Key Information About the Steele Dossier Earlier than Thought***

Elizabeth Vaughn




***Op-Ed: Sonnie Johnson's Message During White House Meeting Wasn't Only For Trump***

Jeff Charles

Slavery will always be a horrible chapter in American History, but the three-fifths compromise was not. The three-fifths clause was not a measurement of human worth; it was an attempt to reduce the number of pro-slavery proponents in Congress. By including only three-fifths of the total numbers of slaves into the congressional calculations, Southern states were actually being denied additional pro-slavery representatives in Congress and electoral votes for selecting the president.

Now if we can only count progressives as three-fifths of a person for census purposes.

 Share On Facebook

 Share On Twitter

SHOW COMMENTS

### Around the Web

Ads by Revcontent

**The Real Reason They're Keeping Americans Home**

Stansberry Research

**1 Simple Trick to Cut Your Electric Bill by 90% (Try Tonight)**

sharpguard.club

**The One Meat You Should Never Feed Your Dog**

Dr. Marty

**"They Almost Killed Me" Why Tommy Chong Doesn't Trust CBD**

Tommy Chong

**People Born 1948-1979 With No Life Insurance Are In For A Treat This June**

Comparisons.org

**Little-Known Method To Kill All Indoor Odors & Mildew Without Lifting A Finger**

Airjo!

### Around the Web



***Boom: Ilhan Omar Picks a Fight With Ted Cruz over Columbus Statue, It Does Not Go Well For Her***

Nick Arama



***Trump Announces First Post Wuhan Rally and Gets the Usual Unhinged Outrage PLUS He Triggers Joe Biden***

streiff



**Nine Kinds of Ancestors  
You Could Find on Your  
Family Tree**



**Ring Devices Help Make  
Peace of Mind More  
Accessible to All**



**Walmart Center for Racial  
Equity Update: Advancing  
Equity in Criminal Justice**



**Why Google Workspace for  
Business is Worth the  
Upgrade**



**Four Ways Food Banks Are  
Feeding Kids Right Now**



**Is My Space a Good Fit for  
Airbnb?**



**The Close Relationship  
Between Stress and Sleep**



**Get Dog Food Designed for  
Your Dog's Health &  
Happiness**



**Get Mortgage Advice Close  
to Home**

**Los Angeles Councilman Jose  
Huizar Arrested, Accused of  
Taking \$1.5 Million in Bribes**

---

## RECENT STORIES

---



**This Takes Some Nerve.  
House Dems File an  
Amicus Brief In the Flynn  
Case Against Dismissal,  
Claim 'Partisanship'**

Nick Arama



**San Fran Police Will No  
Longer Respond To Calls  
For Assistance Not  
Involving Criminal  
Activity**

Shipwreckedcrew



**Lady Antebellum Changes  
Their Name, Apologizes  
for Making Anyone Feel  
'Unsafe'**

Alex Parker

## TRENDING ON TOWNHALL MEDIA



**Derailing The Market  
Rebound**

inance.townhall.com



**'It is Illegal and  
Unconstitutional' to Put  
Down a Rebellion, Dems  
Say. Tell That to Abraham  
Lincoln**

pjmedia.com



**Outrage Mob: With Tensions  
Running High, Cancel  
Culture Is Spinning  
Dangerously Out of Control**

townhall.com



**The Racial Disparity Of  
Police And Armed Citizens**

bearingarms.com



**Townhall**

**HOTAIR**

**BEARING ARMS**

 twitchy

**RedState**

**PJ**  
MEDIA

[Home](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[California - Do Not Sell My Personal Information](#)

---

**Townhall**  
**MEDIA** + **RedState**

Copyright RedState.com/Salem Media. All Rights Reserved. [Terms](#) under which this service is provided to you.