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Week Six Reading Response

This reading response will address Freedman's *Redefining Rape* piece. This reading was one that brought attention to another dimension of conquest that I hadn't thought about in the past. Freedman attempts to define rape through different lens and views and I agree with many of her statements, particularly the historical context of the word. Freeman states "changing the definition and prosecution of rape has challenged the very meaning of citizenship in American history -- that is, who was to be included in and who was to be excluded from privileges and obligations such as voting, jury duty, officeholding, and access to due to process of law." The technicalities that are associated with the definition of rape and the fluidity of it reminds me a lot of how race is also used the same way. It is molded to how the courts see fit, so in the *United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind*, the definition of a white male was anyone who's country of origin was west of the Caucasus mountains. Thind fit this definition, yet the court was able to mold and change it so that he became the victim of it.

I also liked how Freedman defined the flipside of the rapist: "The definition of the rapist depended strongly upon a man's class, race, or other social position." This is just as important when thinking about conquest and how white men are positioned in society: "The sexual prerogatives of white men, like their rights to citizenship, thus rested upon the legal disabilities of African American men and both black and white women." This another dimension to always consider in two sides of the same issue.