

### **How did race influence Americas founding principles?**

I do not think that race had a huge impact on America's founding principles, the Declaration of Independence has no explicit neglect for a particular race. There was no verbiage stating that a particular group of people should be excluded from the rights defined in the Declaration of Independence.

The statement "All men are created equal" in the preamble of the Declaration of Independence clearly states that all men are equal in the eyes of god and so it should be in government, granting men their unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This however is not the case for slaves and native americans, being sold between owners and forced to work for no wages. This has changed as our views about slavery and race has improved throughout the years.

However The first nationalization law is more descriptive about the qualifications to be adopted as an American citizen. The law stated "any free white person," followed by other criteria means that only white skinned persons could be considered as citizens and thus be granted the rights of an American. This document does directly exclude a large amount of people but speculating on why this document was worded this way was probably to ensure that only wealthy landowning individuals of good esteem are able to participate in the politics of the country.

I believe that any prejudice against a race came from the interpretations of the time period, Native and African americans were not thought highly of because of their perceived lack of intelligence and the founders were not keen on changing the way things had been done for many years before that.