

## Document 1 – Jefferson on an “Empire of Liberty”

Source 1A:

Jefferson to James Madison, 20 December 1787

“I think our governments will remain virtuous for many centuries; as long as they are chiefly agricultural; and this will be as long as there shall be vacant lands in any part of America. When they get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, they will become corrupt as in Europe”

<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-12-02-0454>

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Source 1B:

Jefferson to George Rogers Clark, 25 December 1780

"...we shall divert through our own Country a branch of commerce which the European States have thought worthy of the most important struggles and sacrifices, and in the event of peace on terms which have been contemplated by some powers we shall form to the American union a barrier against the dangerous extension of the British Province of Canada and add to the Empire of liberty an extensive and fertile Country thereby converting dangerous Enemies into valuable friends." -

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Source 1C:

Jefferson to James Madison, 27 April 1809

“we should then have only to include the North in our confederacy, which would be of course in the first war, and we should have such an empire for liberty as she has never surveyed since the creation: & I am persuaded no constitution was ever before so well calculated as ours for extensive empire & self government.”

<https://www.monticello.org/site/jefferson/empire-liberty-quotations>