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don't have the wherewithal to feed, clothe and shelter your family, it's difficult to get involved in theoretical or academic discussions about political theories. But this is what Rossiter wrote, beginning on page 31: Below the bottom of the class system of the new Republic, "Republic" capitalized, in legal status, if not always in economic condition, was that vast group of, "strangers in the land"--the Negro slaves, who were an important component of the American economy, a presence, if not a power, in American politics and a challenge to the American conscience. I don't believe there as a conscience. That the challenge had never been taken up, that only a handful of Negroes had been set free and only a handful of white men had accepted such Negroes as even second-class citizens in a country proclaiming the natural rights and equality of "all men" has been attributed to many causes. Four of these bear particular mention because they are so often and easily overlooked: number one, inertia, by which I mean that slavery flourished in the new Republic primarily because it had flourished in the old empire, and that to legislate it out of existence in any state south of Pennsylvania would have called for an economic, political, and cultural revolution far greater than that of 1776. Freeing my people would have led to a revolution greater than the one America, through its colonies, levied against England. Second, apprehension, by which I mean the suspicions voiced by even the most decent men. Decent? Humbug! Preposterous! Voiced by even the most decent men that American society could not absorb so numerous and culturally alien a people without changing its own ways for the worse. They brought us here. Y'all came here running from England. You ran here. They dragged me here in chains. And I'm the alien? I'm the one who will change this country for the worse and you built it on my back with my blood, my sweat, my tears, raping my women? Why do you think I'm the color that I am? Not because black men jumped over the fence and bedded down with white women, although there were white women who came over the fence. We were victimized, a whole race of people, vulnerable. A man came to this country from England. I'm not going to tell you his name, but he's a Frenchman. He's quoted all the time by people who can't pronounce his name. He said when he went on these plantations he was amazed when he heard all the racist and white supremacist type comments made, the degradation verbally heaped upon the Africans. But then,