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Source: Excerpt from a Letter from Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe
Paris, France. June 17, 1785

Info: From 1784-1789, Jefferson served as the United States' Minister to France to represent U.S. interests in France

“...I fear the terms in which I speak of slavery and of our constitution may produce an irritation which will revolt the minds of our countrymen...and thus do more harm than good.”

Analysis Questions

1. What does Jefferson think will happen if he speaks about slavery in politics?

2.

Why does Jefferson believe that his comments about slavery will “do more harm than good?” Explain your answer & give specific reasons & details.

3.

Does this passage make Jefferson sound like a hypocrite based on what he wrote in the Declaration of Independence? Why or why not? Explain with specific details.
