

Declaration of Independence

- In Congress, July 4, 1776
The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America,
- When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.
- We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. --Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

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The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America
July 4, 1776

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary to dissolve the political bonds which connect one people to another, and become established themselves, among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal status to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, respect for humanity requires they should declare the causes which compel them to the separation.

We think these truths are obvious: all people are created equally, and they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. Among them are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

To secure these rights, governments are started by people; governments get their power from the permission of the governed. Whenever their government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to change it, make it evolve, or to stop it and institute a new government, laying its foundation on principles and organizing its powers in a form which seems most likely to cause their safety and happiness.

Wisdom dictates that governments which have been around a long time should not be overthrown for flimsy or shortsighted reasons. History has shown that compromises are worth striving for, before taking up arms.

But when a long list of abuses and power-grabs are a pattern, and create a dictatorship, it is the people's right and duty to throw off such a government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

This has been the patient suffering of our colonies; we are forced to alter our system of government.

The history of the present king of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and power-grabs, pushing towards the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States.

To prove this, we will tell the facts directly to the world.

Declaration of Independence

- He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.
- He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.
- He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.
- He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.
- He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.
- He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.
- He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.
- He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.
- He has made judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.
- He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance.

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He has refused to pass laws which are needed for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, stopping progress, until his agreement is obtained. Then he pretends to forget about them, and ignores us.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would give up the right of representation in the legislature, a right too great to calculate. The removal of such rights only benefits tyrants.

He has called legislative bodies to unusual and uncomfortable places, far from the place of their public records, for the sole purpose of tiring them into compliance.

He has repeatedly dissolved Representative Houses because we sought justice due to his invasions on our rights.

He has refused, for a long time, to oversee elections. Thus legislative needs go unmet, each person taking the law into his or her own hands. Leaving the State exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions from within.

He has obstructed justice by refusing to pass laws defining judicial powers.

He has prevented judges from being impartial since he is the only one who hires, pays, and fires them.

He has created a multitude of new offices, and sent swarms of officers to harass our people, and consume every resource.

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- He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.
- He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.
- He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended legislation:
- For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:
- For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:
- For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:
- For imposing taxes on us without our Consent:
- For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:
- For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:
- For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:
- For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:
- For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.
- He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

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He has kept among us in times of peace, armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has strengthened the Military to be superior over the affairs of the Civil Authority, and act independently of it.

The Military exists to protect citizens. It is not the other way around.

For putting many armed troops among us:

For protecting them with pretend trials; even in cases of murder:

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:

For taxing us without our consent:

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by Jury:

For transporting us across the Atlantic Ocean to be tried for pretended offenses:

For moving on to adjoining land, then telling us his borders have increased so much as to encompass us, and that we are now under his total control.

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and fundamentally altering the forms of our governments:

For suspending our legislatures, and declaring *only themselves* as being capable to legislate for us.

He has forfeited authority here, by declaring us out of his protection *and* waging war against us.

Declaration of Independence

- He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.
- He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy of the Head of a civilized nation.
- He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.
- He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.
- In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People.
- Nor have We been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

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He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burned our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He has kidnapped our fellow Citizens on the oceans and forced them to use weapons to kill family and friends; if they refuse, they are executed.

He has tried to cause the colonies to fight each other. And he has encouraged some "Indians" to attack us, instead of seeking friendship.

During these oppressions we have formally asked for justice in the most humble ways; however, our repeated requests have only been answered by repeated injuries.

He is the very definition of a tyrant. And a tyrant is unfit to rule people.

We have paid constant attention to our British brothers and sisters. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to micro-manage the colonies' affairs or take away our rights. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here.

We have appealed to their sense of justice and been humble to them, we have implored them through family and friends to stop these power-grabs, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence.

They have been deaf to the voice of justice and of family ties / brotherly love.

We must hold them, as we hold the rest of humanity, best kept as Friends in Peace, rather than Enemies in War. However, realities prove we must formally separate governmental authority.

Declaration of Independence

- We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

- Signatures

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We, therefore, the

**Representatives of the United States of America,
in General Congress, Assembled,**

appeal to the Supreme Judge of the world
to purify our intentions,

do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the
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solemnly publish and declare,

That these United Colonies are, and
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- Free and Independent States; that they are
- Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that
- all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that
- as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and all other Acts and Things which Independent States have every right to do.

Showing support of this Declaration, relying firmly on the Protection of Divine Providence, we pledge our Lives to each other, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

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