

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.  
A DECLARATION  
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

**W**HEN 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.

**W**E 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 abolish it, and to institute a 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 shewn, 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.

**H**e has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

**H**e 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 Migrations 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 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.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the consent of our Legislature.

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 in 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 Powers 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.

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 and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy 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 among 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 Attentions 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.

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 the divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

*Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,*  
JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.



<p>4<sup>th</sup> JULY, DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</p>	
<p><b>W</b>HEN in the course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another<sup>1</sup>, 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<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, <b>that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness</b><sup>3</sup>—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed<sup>4</sup>, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new Government<sup>5</sup>, 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<sup>6</sup> (...) But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism<sup>7</sup>, 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<sup>8</sup>. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.</p>	<p>1 Sometimes, it is necessary for a group of citizens to break free from the country's government.</p>
	<p>2 Before breaking their relation with their government, it is fair that they give reason for independence.</p>
	<p>3 We believe that everybody has the right to live safely, to be free and to try to be happy.</p>
	<p>4 We also think that governments should look after their people's rights.</p>
	<p>5 If a government endangers its citizens' lives, freedom and happiness; they have the right to change it.</p>
	<p>6 It is not sensible to change a government without very good reasons.</p>
	<p>7 Men and women must fight and change a government which has been bossy and dangerous with them, so that they can be safe again.</p>
	<p>8 The people of America have suffered the unfair and authoritarian government of the British king and need to throw off this government.</p>
	<p>9</p>
	<p>10</p>

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.

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<p><b>W</b>HEN in the course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another<sup>1</sup>, 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<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>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<sup>3</sup>—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed<sup>4</sup>, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new Government<sup>5</sup>, 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<sup>6</sup> (...) But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism<sup>7</sup>, 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<sup>8</sup>. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a</p>	<p>Sometimes, it is necessary for a group of citizens to break free from the country’s government.</p> <p>Before breaking their relation with their government, it is fair that they give reason for independence.</p> <p>We believe that everybody has the right to live safely, to be free and to try to be happy.</p> <p>We also think that governments should look after their people’s rights.</p> <p>If a government endangers its citizens’ lives, freedom and happiness; they have the right to change it.</p> <p>It is not sensible to change a government without very good reasons.</p> <p>Men and women must fight and change a government which has been bossy and dangerous with them, so that they can be safe again.</p> <p>The people of America have suffered the unfair and authoritarian government of the British king and need to throw off this government.</p> <p>The thirteen colonies leaders have to make an important and fair decision in the eyes of God</p> <p>The American settlers and colonist say and decide that, according to their rights, they become free from Britain.</p>

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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**<sup>9</sup>, 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**<sup>10</sup>.

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Cuando en el curso de los acontecimientos humanos se hace necesario para un pueblo disolver los vínculos políticos que lo han ligado a otro, y tomar entre las naciones de la Tierra el puesto separado e igual al que las leyes de la naturaleza y del Dios de esa naturaleza le dan derecho, un justo respeto al juicio de la Humanidad exige que declare las causas que lo impulsan a la separación.

Sostenemos como evidentes por sí mismas dichas verdades: que todos los hombres son creados iguales; que son dotados por su creador de ciertos derechos inalienables; que entre estos están la vida, la libertad y la búsqueda de la felicidad; que para garantizar estos derechos se instituyen entre los hombres los gobiernos, que derivan sus poderes legítimos del consentimiento de los gobernados; que cuando quiera que una forma de gobierno se vuelva destructora de estos principios, el pueblo tiene derecho a reformarla o abolirla, e instituir un nuevo gobierno que base sus cimientos en dichos principios, y que organice sus poderes en forma tal que a ellos les parezca más probable que genere su seguridad y felicidad. La prudencia, claro está, aconsejará que los gobiernos establecidos hace mucho tiempo no se cambien por motivos leves y transitorios; y, de acuerdo con esto, toda la experiencia ha demostrado que la humanidad está más dispuesta a sufrir, mientras los males sean tolerables, que a hacerse justicia mediante la abolición de las formas a las que está acostumbrada. Pero cuando una larga serie de abusos y usurpaciones, que persigue invariablemente el mismo objetivo, evidencia el designio de someterlos bajo un despotismo absoluto, es el derecho de ellos, es el deber de ellos, derrocar ese gobierno y proveer nuevas salvaguardas para su futura seguridad. Tal ha sido el paciente sufrimiento de estas colonias; y tal es ahora la necesidad que las compele a alterar su antiguo sistema. La historia del presente Rey de la Gran-Bretaña, es una historia de repetidas injurias y usurpaciones, cuyo objeto principal es y ha sido el establecimiento de una absoluta tiranía sobre estos estados. Para probar esto, sometemos los hechos al juicio de un mundo imparcial.

Por tanto, nosotros, los Representantes de los Estados Unidos, reunidos en Congreso General, apelando al Juez supremo del Universo, por la rectitud de nuestras intenciones, y en el nombre y con la autoridad del pueblo de estas colonias, publicamos y declaramos lo presente: que estas colonias son, y por derecho deben ser, estados libres e independientes;

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