

*The Declaration of
Independence*

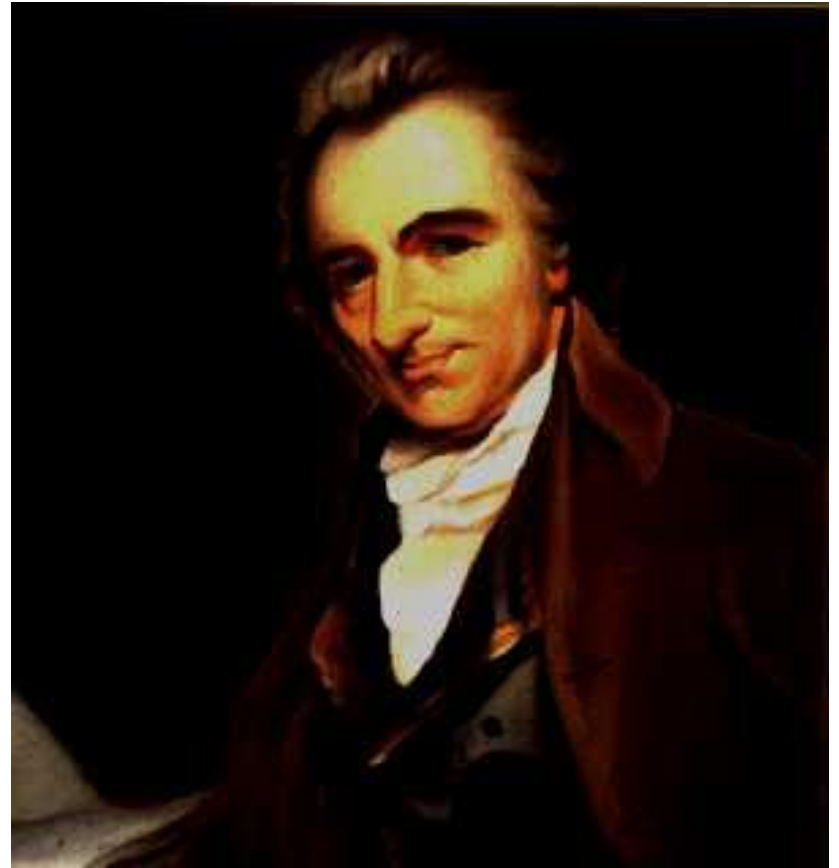
P 154-157

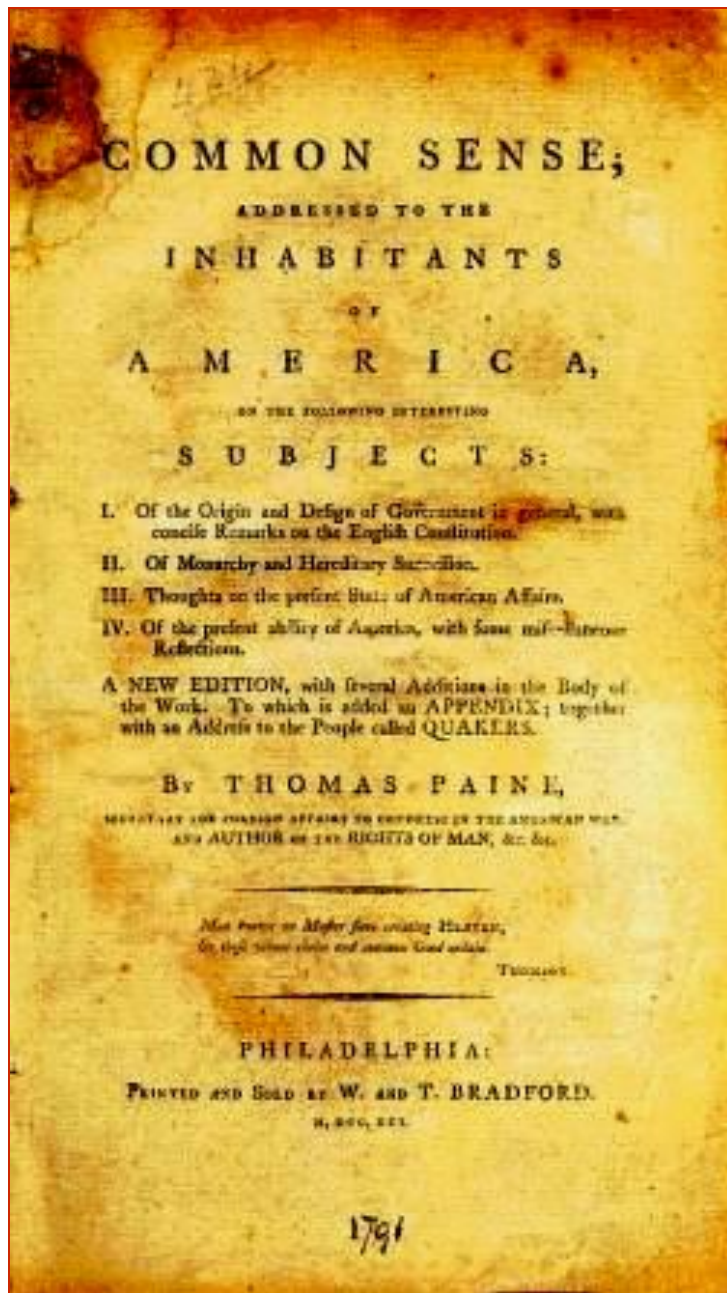
The Enlightenment Movement

- The Enlightenment spread the idea that reason & logic could improve society
- Enlightenment thinkers believed there was a SOCIAL CONTRACT between government and citizens
- Philosopher John Locke thought people had NATURAL RIGHTS such as equality and liberty
- These ideas directly influenced the writing of the Declaration of Independence

Thomas Paine's Common Sense

- On January 10, 1776 **Thomas Paine** put his ideas on American independence into a pamphlet called **Common Sense**
- It was the most influential political pamphlet ever written.





- Common Sense was written for the 'common man'; men who would shed their blood in the rebellion
- Paine states that sooner or later independence from England must come, because America had lost touch with the mother country.

Declaring Independence

- *Common Sense* had a huge impact on the hearts and minds of Colonial Americans.
 - Changed the way colonists viewed their king.
 - Made a strong case for economic freedom.
 - Believed colonists had the right to military self defense against tyranny—the abuse of govt. power.
 - Stated people should make the laws not the king or queen
 - people had a natural rights

A New Philosophy of Government

3 Ideas of the Declaration of Independence

- 1) All people possess unalienable rights:
 - life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness.
- 2) King George had violated the colonists right by taxing them without consent.
- 3) Jefferson believed King George had broken the social contract that says the governments and rulers must protect the rights of citizens.

Independence Hall



The Declaration of Independence was an act of the Second Continental Congress.

- The Second Continental Congress formed a committee known today as “The Committee of Five.”
- John Adams, Ben Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, & Thomas Jefferson
- The Declaration was written by Thomas Jefferson, with minor changes from Benjamin Franklin and John Adams.



~~This conduct and at this time, ^{as they} are committing their ~~sovereign~~ chief magistrates~~
~~send over with ^{only} soldiers of our ^{common} ~~land~~ but foreign mercenaries ^{to} ~~to~~~~
~~deluge us in blood. These facts have shown the last shall to your ^{affection} ^{of} ^{mercy} ^{spirit} ^{wisdom} ^{of}~~
~~and this is too much to be borne even by relations. enough, ^{to} ^{say} we are~~
~~renounce for ever ^{these} ^{unfeeling} ^{brethren}~~
~~and ^{we} ^{hope} ^{to} ^{hold} ^{them} ^{as} ^{the} ^{rest} ^{of} ^{man} ^{kind} ^{enemies} ⁱⁿ ^{war} ⁱⁿ ^{peace} ^{friends}.~~
~~we might have been a ^{great} [&] ^a ^{happy} ^{people} ^{together} ^{but} ^{communication} ^{of} ^{happiness}~~
~~of ^{freedom} ^{it} ^{seems} ^{is} ^{below} ^{their} ^{dignity}. we will climb ^{then} ^{the} ^{road} ^{to} ^{glory}~~
~~happiness apart be it so, since they will have it. The road to ^{happiness}~~
~~is open to us too, we will climb it ^{apart} ^{from} ^{them} ^{by} ^{perseverance} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{necessity}~~
~~which ^{de} ^{termined} ^{our} ^{conduct} ⁱⁿ ^{eternal} ^{separation}.~~
~~The ^{fact} ^{is} ^{since} ^{the} ^{last} ^{shall} ^{to} ^{your} ^{affection} ^{of} ^{mercy} ^{spirit} ^{wisdom}~~
~~we ^{are} ^{to} ^{renounce} ^{for} ^{ever} ^{these} ^{unfeeling} ^{brethren}.~~

The Committee of Five first presented
the document to Congress on
June 28, 1776

JEFFERSON'S OOPS!

Historians have always wondered about a smear under the word "citizens" in an early draft of the Declaration of Independence. They've wondered if Jefferson had written "our fellow patriots" or "our fellow residents." Using a spectral imaging technology, researchers revealed the truth: Jefferson had a Freudian slip and wrote "subjects" instead of citizens.



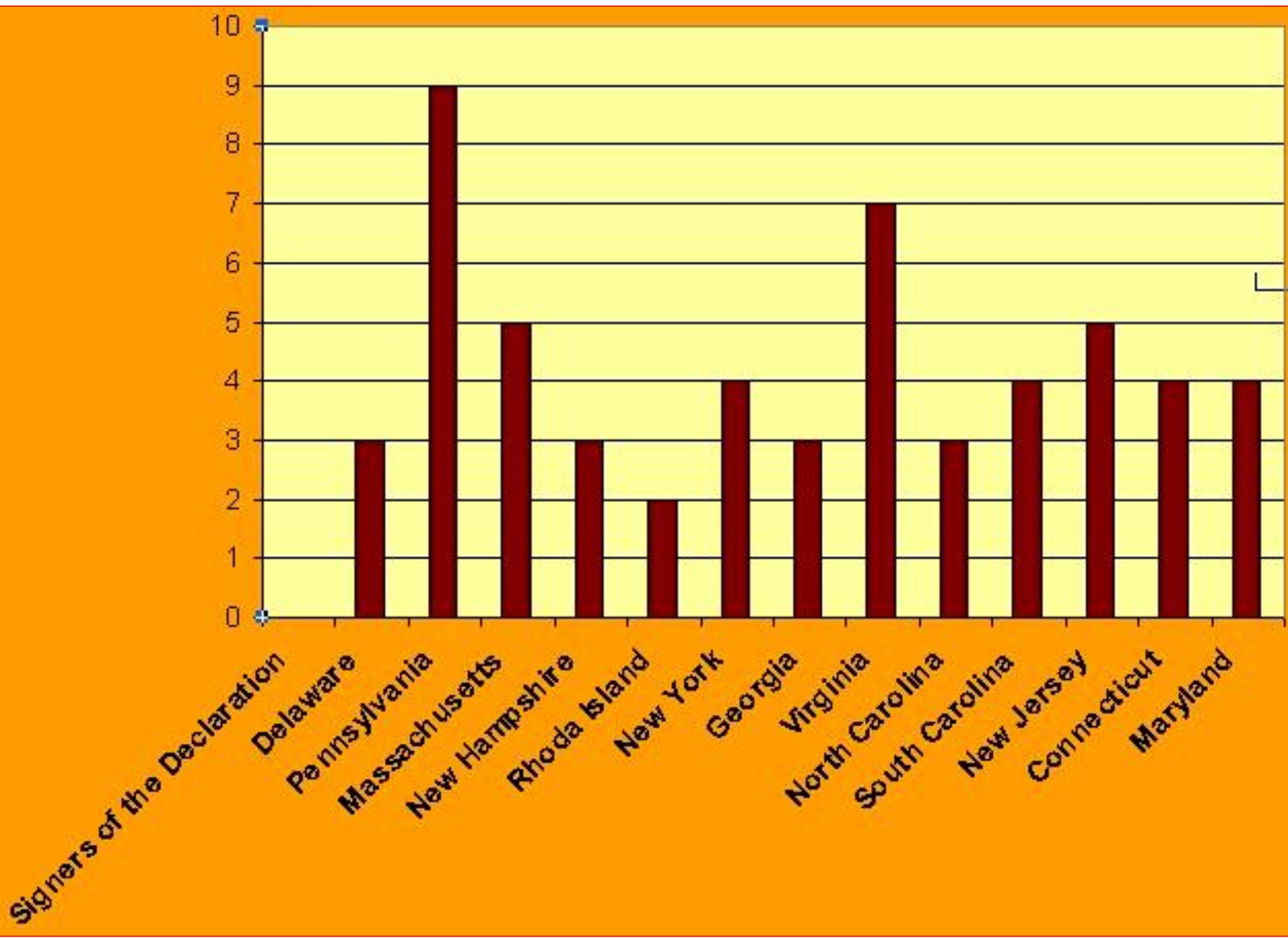
THE COLONIES DECLARE INDEPENDENCE

- On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress approved Lee's Resolution and declared independence from Great Britain.
- Most of the world is ruled by monarchs at this time.





The Declaration was adopted on July 4, 1776, breaking all ties to the British crown.



Original Declaration of Independence
July 4th 1776

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text on aged paper, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the document.]

Unfinished Business...

- Declaration of Independence did not include women, slaves, or Native Americans.
 - Women were the chattel of their fathers or husbands
 - Slavery was legal in 1776 –
 - steps were taken by 1780 to abolish slavery in parts of the US
 - Native Americans rights were disregarded
 - The Proclamation of 1763 was largely ignored by US settlers
- This message is not consistent with the practice of democracy.

Structure of the Document

1. Preamble:

- The Introduction
- Explains the reasons for writing the Declaration
- ***"WHEN, in the Course of human events"***

2. Statement of beliefs:

- Says what the Framers believe
- The philosophy behind the document
- ***"We hold these Truths to be self-evident"***

3. List of complaints:

- The things Britain did that caused the need for Independence
- ***"To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World"***

Structure of the Document

4. Statement of prior attempts to redress grievances:
 - What the Framers had tried in the past to fix the problem
 - ***"Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren,"***

5. Declaration of independence:
 - Statement that they are formally cutting ties with Great Britain
 - ***"WE, therefore,.....do solemnly publish & declare,"***

6. The signatures:
 - All the delegates who were willing to sign

RSA: Copy down & memorize the following quote from the Declaration of Independence

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,

Preamble:

Declaration of Independence

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.

Statement of Beliefs:

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 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.

List of Complaints:

To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

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.

List of Complaints:

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 the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

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.

List of Complaints:

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

List of Complaints:

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.

List of Complaints:

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 & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

List of Complaints:

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.

Statement of prior attempt to redress greivances:

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish 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.

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 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.

The 56 signatures on the Declaration appear in the positions indicated:

- **Column 1**
Georgia:
Button Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
George Walton
- **Column 2**
North Carolina:
William Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn
South Carolina:
Edward Rutledge
Thomas Heyward, Jr.
Thomas Lynch, Jr.
Arthur Middleton
- **Column 3**
Massachusetts:
John Hancock
Maryland:
Samuel Chase
William Paca
Thomas Stone
Charles Carroll of Carrollton
Virginia:
George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Thomas Jefferson
Benjamin Harrison
Thomas Nelson, Jr.
Francis Lightfoot Lee
Carter Braxton

- **Column 4**
Pennsylvania:
Robert Morris
Benjamin
Rush
Benjamin
Franklin
John Morton
George
Clymer
James Smith
George Taylor
James Wilson
George Ross
Delaware:
Caesar Rodney
George Read
Thomas
McKean

- **Column 5**
New York:
William Floyd
Philip Livingston
Francis Lewis
Lewis Morris
New Jersey:
Richard Stockton
John Witherspoon
Francis Hopkinson
John Hart
Abraham Clark
- **Column 6**
New Hampshire:
Josiah Bartlett
William Whipple
Massachusetts:
Samuel Adams
John Adams
Robert Treat Paine
Elbridge Gerry
Rhode Island:
Stephen Hopkins
William Ellery
Connecticut:
Roger Sherman
Samuel Huntington
William Williams
Oliver Wolcott
New Hampshire:
Matthew Thornton

Ancient Greece
(circa 500 B.C.)

Democratic government in ancient Greek city-states 2,500 years ago. The word *democracy* comes from the Greek word *demos*, “the people,” and *kratein*, “to rule.”

Magna Carta
(1215)

In 1215, English barons forced King John to sign a charter guaranteeing certain civil and political freedoms. Over time, these protections became the rights of all English people.

The Petition of Right
(1626)

In 1626, the English Parliament forced Charles I to sign the Petition of Right, a document that limited the power of the monarchy. It included protections against (1) imprisonment without jury trial, (2) the institution of martial law during peacetime, (3) the mandatory quartering of troops, and (4) taxation without the permission of Parliament.

English Bill of Rights
(1689)

This document forbade the monarchy from suspending or passing laws and from raising taxes without Parliament’s consent, guaranteed the right to a fair and speedy trial, and forbade cruel and unusual punishment.

Social Contract Theory
(1651)

Philosopher Thomas Hobbes described the relationship between the state and the governed as a social contract. Individuals surrendered their will to the state, which saved the people from anarchy.

Natural Rights
(1690)

Political philosopher John Locke put forth an opposing view of the social contract. Locke maintained that the state exists to preserve the natural rights of its citizens—the right to life, liberty, and property. If the government fails in its duty to the citizens, the citizens then have the right to resist or rebel against that government.