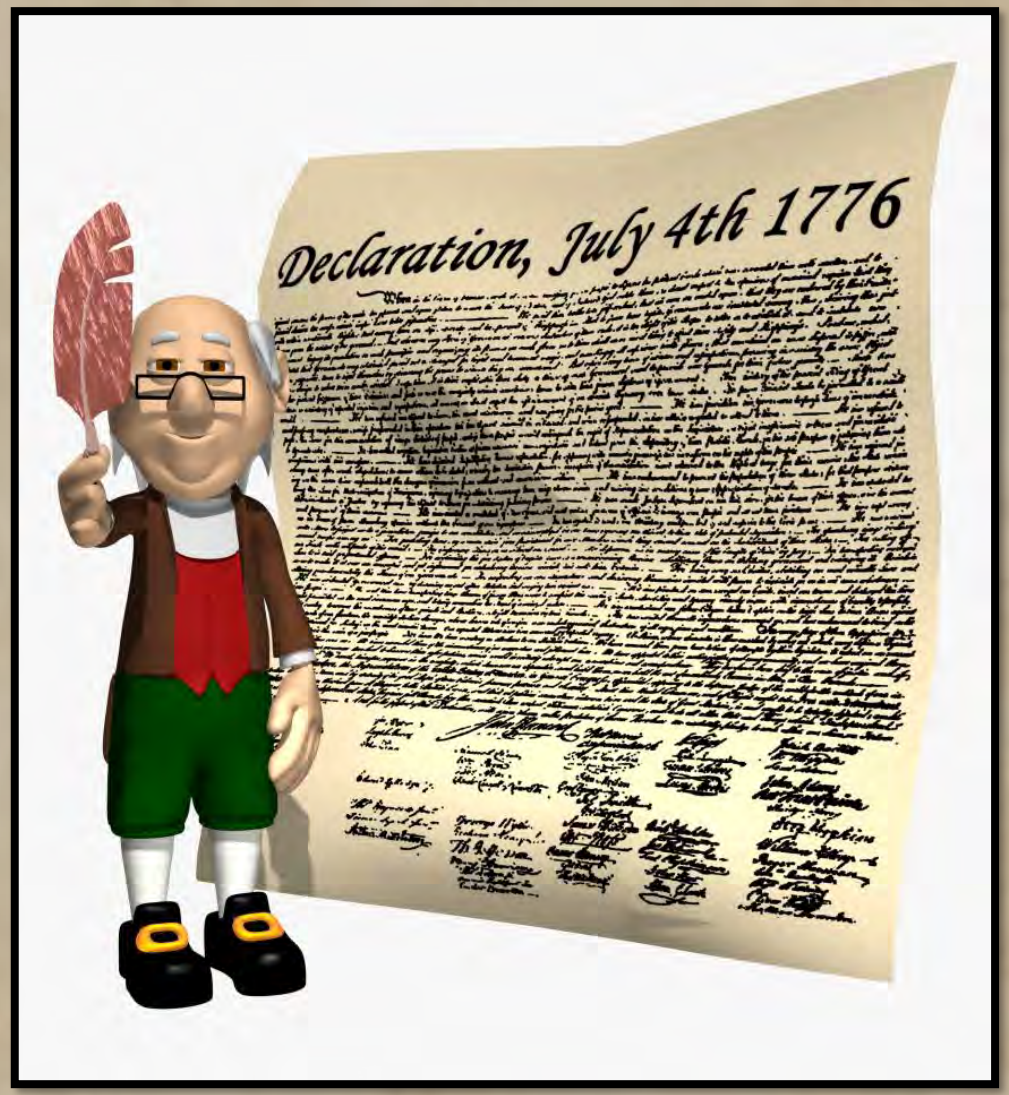
The Declaration of Independence

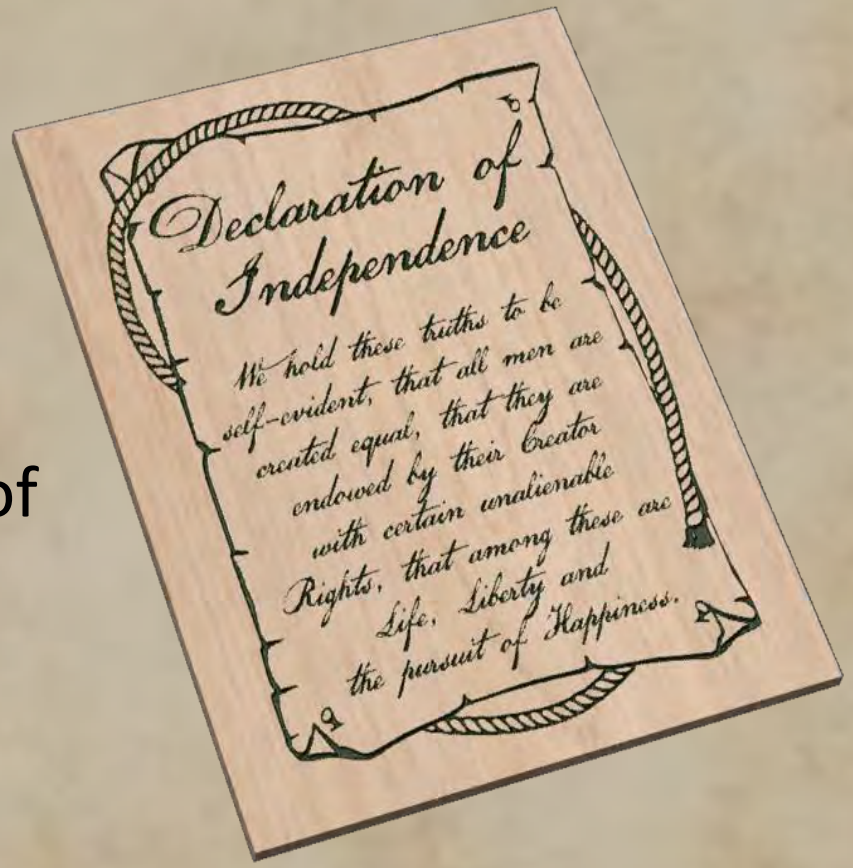
Dr. Heather Dudley



Declaration of Independence "The most heavily interpreted and fiercely discussed document in modern history."

July 4th 1776

- King George wrote in his diary: *"Nothing of importance happened today."*
- Jefferson went shopping. Purchased 6 pairs of lady's gloves and a thermometer.
- 6 AM: 68 degrees, light NW wind / 1 PM: 76 degrees, increasing clouds



The Nation's Birthday?

May15, 1776: Congress instructed colonies to form new governments.

- John Adams: "since the formation of new governments was the goal of revolution, the May resolutions marked total, absolute independence."

July 2, 1776: "Resolution for Independency" approved

- "Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States"
- Foreign alliances should be established. A plan of government should be written.
- Adams: "The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty."

September 3, 1783: Treaty signed that ended the War.

- American independence officially acknowledged: "His Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz [list of the 13 colonies] to be FREE, SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT STATES;"

How it came about

- **June 7th 1776**: Richard Henry Lee's "Resolution for Independency" presented to Congress.
- **June 10th 1776**: Congress appoints a committee to "prepare a declaration"
  - ✓ John Adams (MA)
  - ✓ Robert Livingston (NY)
  - ✓ Roger Sherman (CT)
  - ✓ Benjamin Franklin (PA)
  - ✓ Thomas Jefferson (VA)
- Jefferson worked on it from June 11th to June 28th
- July 2nd Congress approved the Lee Resolution
- July 2nd to July 4th Congress debated and edited the Declaration



Why Jefferson?

John Adams' 1822 recollections:

- The delegates from MA were viewed with suspicion. Told not to take the lead.
- "Mr Jefferson came into Congress and brought with him a reputation for…a happy talent at composition. Writings of his were… remarkable for the peculiar felicity of expression."
- Congress selected a committee of five. They met and formed a subcommittee of Adams and Jefferson
- **Jefferson**: You shall do it.
- **Adams**: Oh No!
- **Jefferson**: Why will you not? You ought to do it.
- **Adams**: I will not.
- **Jefferson**: Why?
- **Adams**: Reasons enough.
- **Jefferson**: What can be your reasons?
- **Adams**: Reason 1st. You are a Virginian, and Virginia ought to appear at the head of this business. Reason 2d. I am obnoxious, suspected and unpopular; You are very much otherwise. Reason 3d: You can write ten times better than I can.
- **Jefferson**: "Well …if you are decided… I will do as well as I can."
- **Adams**: Very well, when you have drawn it up we will have a meeting.
- He was pleased with its "high tone and the flights of oratory with which it abounded."
- "There is not an idea in it, but what had been hackney'd in Congress for two years before."

Why Jefferson?

Jefferson's Response (1823)

- "Mr. Adams, memory has led him into unquestionable error. At the age of 88. and 47. years after the transactions of Independance, this is not wonderful. Nor should I, at the age of 80, on the small advantage of that difference only, venture to oppose my memory to his, were it not supported by written notes, taken by myself at the moment and on the spot."
- He says "The Committee met, discussed the subject, and then appointed him and myself to make the draught; that we, as a subcommittee, met, & after the urgencies of each on the other, I consented to undertake the task
- Now these details are quite incorrect. The Committee of 5. met, no such thing as a subcommittee was proposed, but they unanimously pressed on myself alone to undertake the draught. I consented; I drew it; but before I reported it to the committee, I communicated it *separately* to Dr. Franklin and mr. Adams requesting their corrections; because they were the two members of whose judgments and amendments I wished most to have the benefit before presenting it to the Committee;

John Adams' Preamble to the May 15th Resolution

Forasmuch as all the endeavours of the United Colonies, by the most decent representations and petitions to the King and Parliament of Great Britain, to restore peace and security to America under the British Government, and a reunion with that people upon just and liberal terms, instead of a redress of grievances, have produced, from an imperious and vindictive Administration, increased insult, oppression, and a vigorous attempt to effect our total destruction. By a late act all these Colonies are declared to be in rebellion, and out of the protection of the British Crown, our properties subjected to confiscation, our people, when captivated, compelled to join in the murder and plunder of their relations and countermen, and all former rapine and oppression of Americans declared legal and just; fleets and armies are raised, and the aid of foreign troops engaged to assist these destructive purposes; the King's representative in this Colony hath not only withheld all the powers of Government from operating for our safety, but, having retired on board an armed ship, is carrying on a piratical and savage war against us, tempting our slaves by every artifice to resort to him, and training and employing them against their masters. In this state of extreme danger, we have no alternative left but an abject submission to the will of those overbearing tyrants, or a total separation from the Crown and Government of Great Britain, uniting and exerting the strength of all America for defence, and forming alliances with foreign Powers for commerce and aid in war:-Wherefore, appealing to the Searcher of hearts for the sincerity of former declarations expressing our desire to preserve the connection with that nation, and that we are driven from that inclination by their wicked councils, and the eternal law of self-preservation:

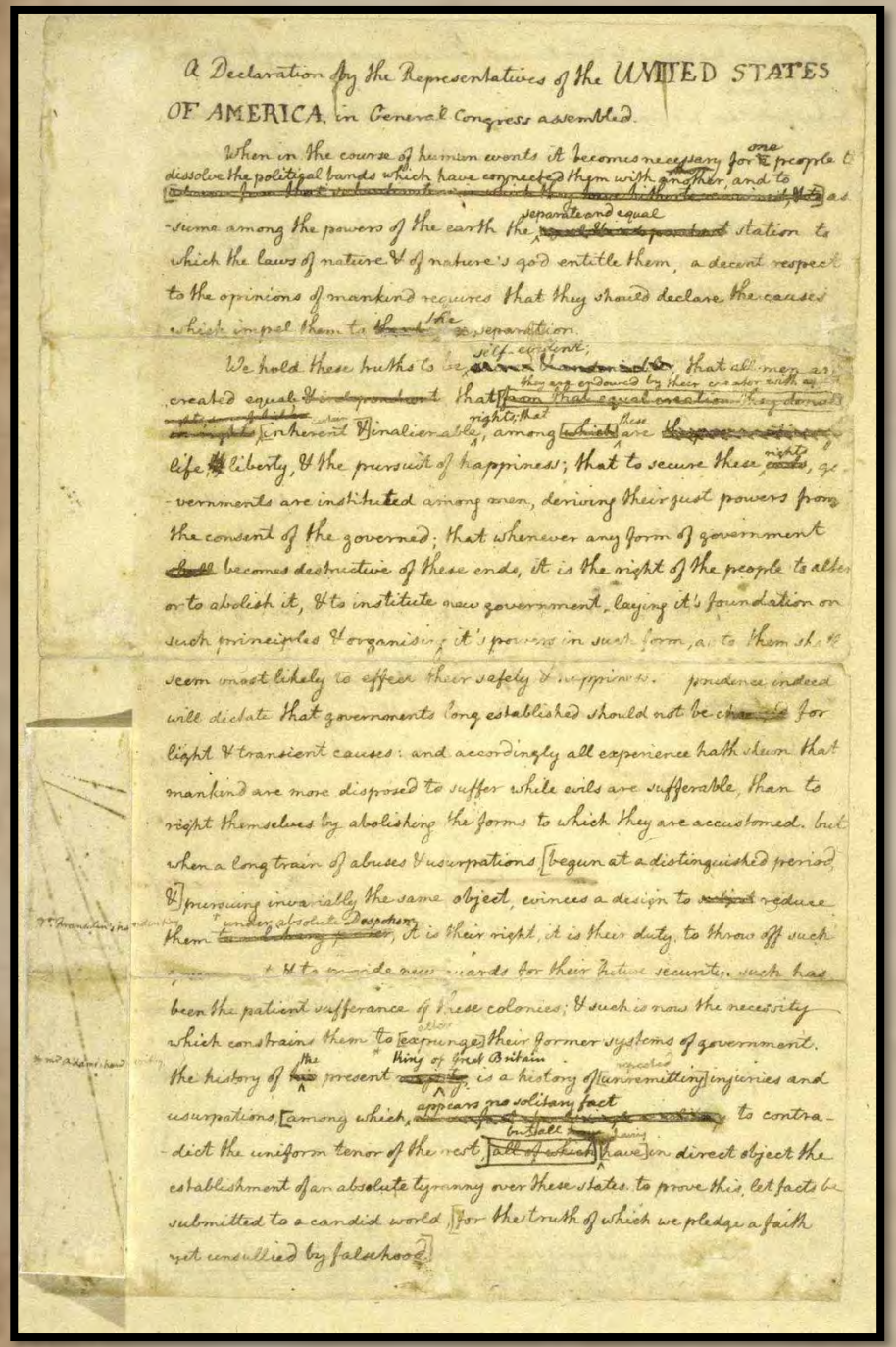
The Graff House







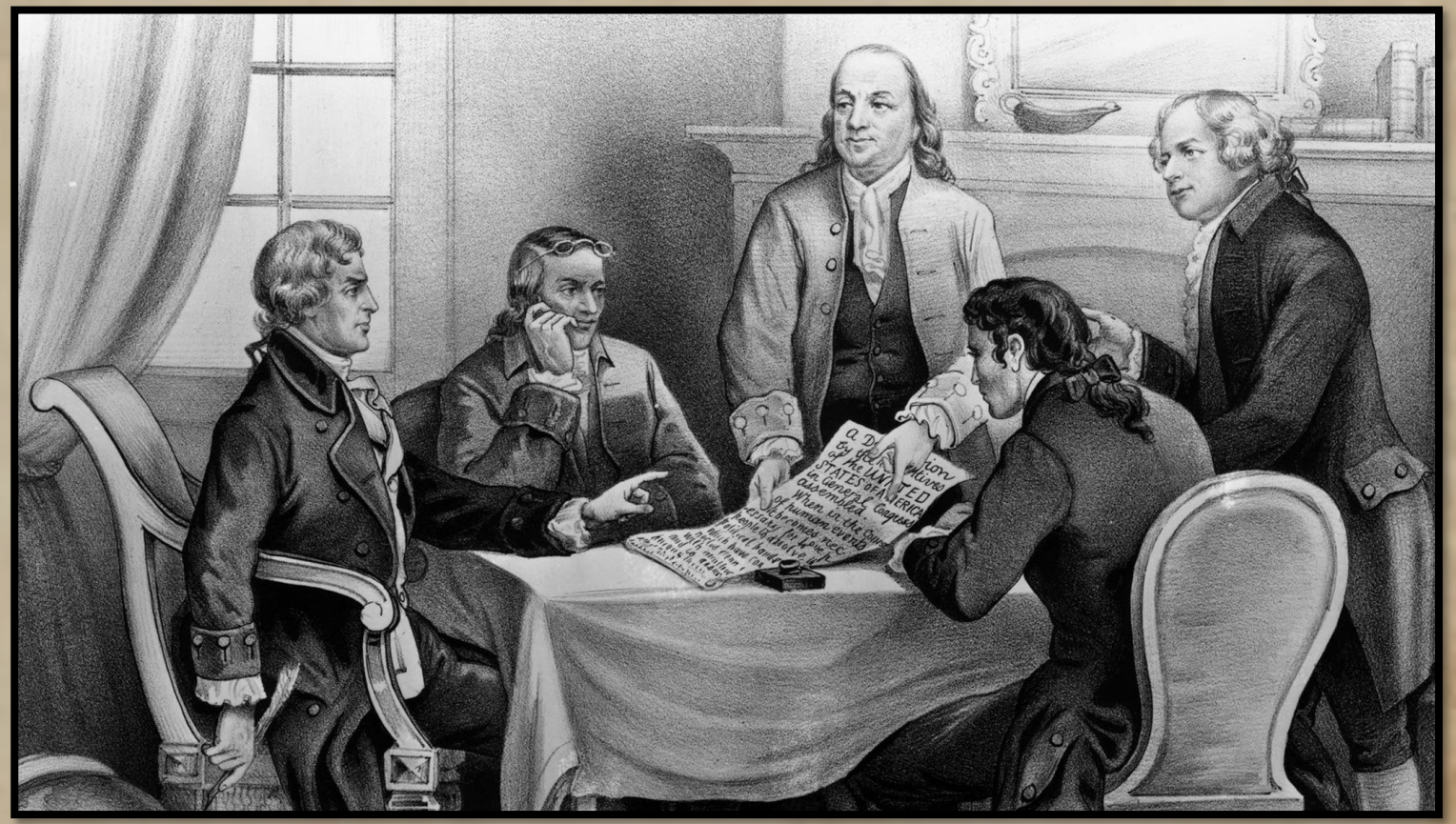
Jefferson's Draft

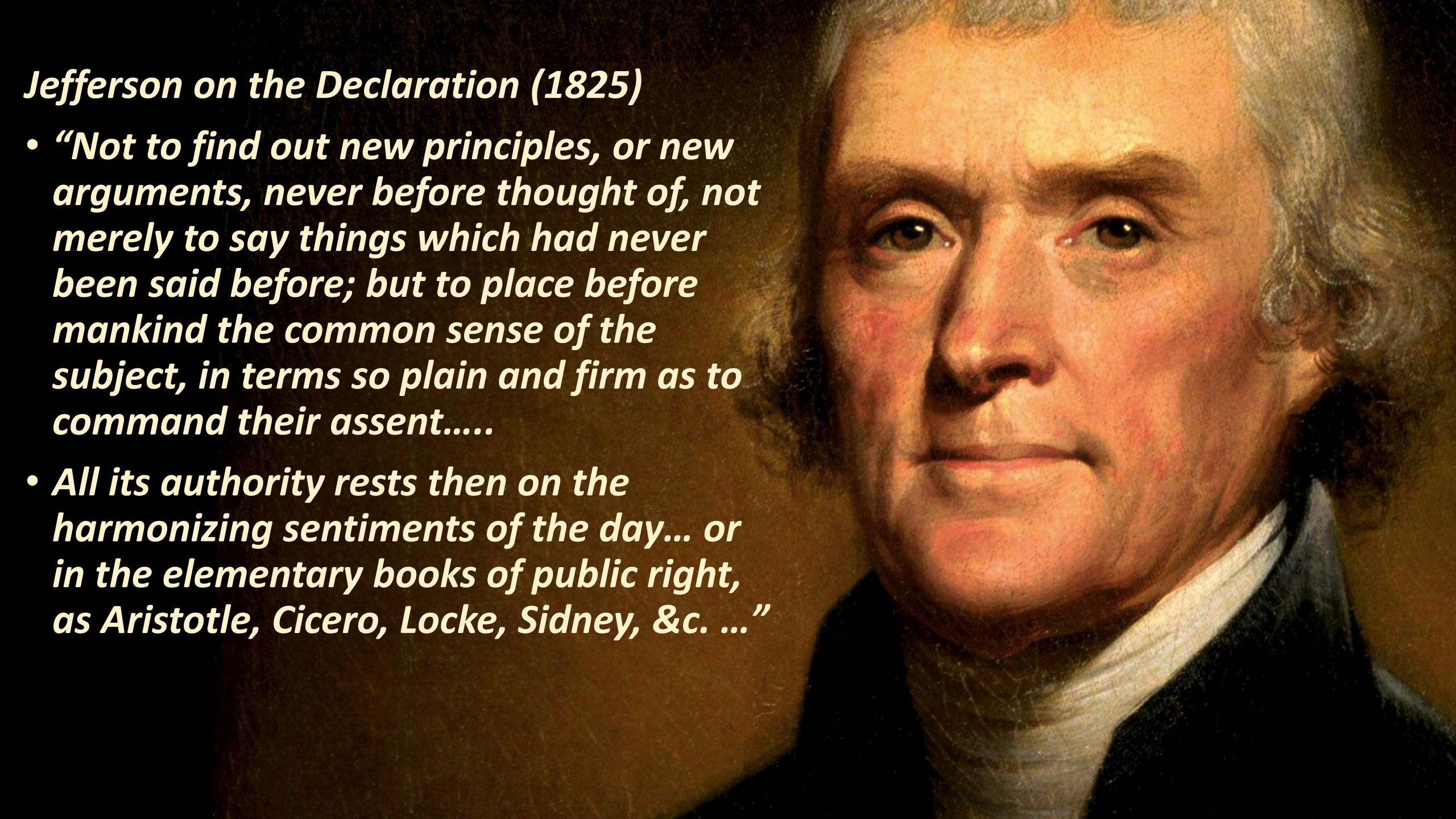


A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

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 & 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 & independent that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent & inalienable, among which are life, liberty, & 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, & to institute new government, laying it's foundation on such principles & organising it's powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety & happiness. prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light & 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 & usurpations [begun at a distinguished period & 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 + & to provide new guards for their future security. such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; & such is now the necessity which constrains them to expunge their former systems of government. the history of the present king of Great Britain is a history of unremitting injuries and usurpations, [among which, appears no solitary fact to stand single & solitary to contradict the uniform tenor of the rest, all of which have in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. to prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. [for the truth of which we pledge a faith yet unsullied by falsehood.]





Jefferson on the Declaration (1825)

- *"Not to find out new principles, or new arguments, never before thought of, not merely to say things which had never been said before; but to place before mankind the common sense of the subject, in terms so plain and firm as to command their assent…..*
- *All its authority rests then on the harmonizing sentiments of the day… or in the elementary books of public right, as Aristotle, Cicero, Locke, Sidney, &c. …"*







The Enlightenment!

Jefferson: “I consider them as the three greatest men that have ever lived, without any exception”

- **Francis Bacon**: Examine the evidence of experience
- **Sir Isaac Newton**: The world was orderly and uniform
- **John Locke**: Second Treatise on Government (1688)
  - Overturning the government had been a “glorious” thing to do
  - Kings are not divine. They become tyrants when they violate our natural rights.
  - Natural Rights
  - Compact Theory: Governments are created by men in order to protect their natural rights—rights given by God
  - The Right to Revolt

Aristotle

- Natural law
  - o There are moral principles inherent in human nature that can be discovered through reason.
  - o Only through understanding these principles can we lead meaningful lives.
- The purpose of government was to promote the good life and protect the community
- Monarchs can become tyrants when they no longer are promoting the public good.

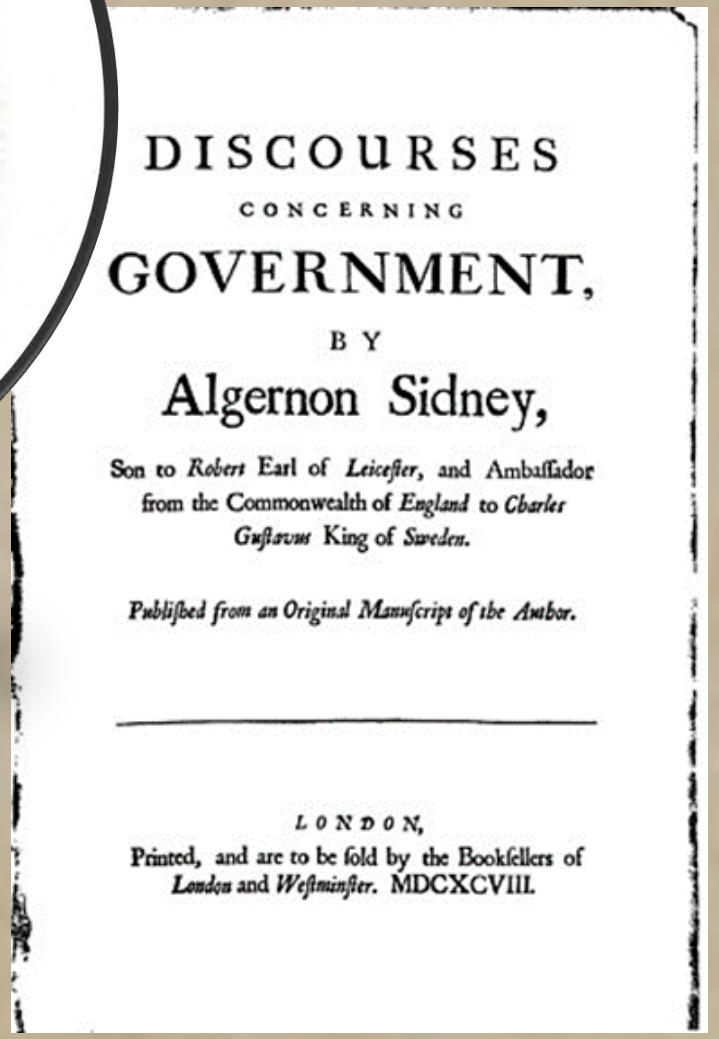
Cicero

- Justice and morality are the foundations of sound government









DISCOURSES

CONCERNING

GOVERNMENT,

BY

Algernon Sidney,

Son to *Robert* Earl of *Leiceſter*, and Ambaſſador from the Commonwealth of *England* to *Charles Guſtavus* King of *Sweden*.

Publiſhed from an Original Manuſcript of the Author.

LONDON,
Printed, and are to be ſold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*. MDCXCVIII.

- Algernon Sidney is one of the most important—and most overlooked—intellectual influences on the Declaration of Independence. Governments are legitimate only when they have the consent of the governed.
- Martyr for liberty—a model of sacrifice
- Government by consent · Right to resist tyranny
- Classical republican influence
- Author of *Discourses Concerning Government*

The Structure

Five major sections

1) **The Introduction (1st paragraph)** The immediate statement of purpose. The causes must be declared.
2) **Statement of Principles (2nd paragraph)**: States the principles upon which legitimate government rests. Violations would impel revolt.
3) **The grievances— "injuries and usurpations."**: Evidence that King George is a tyrant
4) **Failed Reconciliation**: The grievances have gone unredressed
5) **Conclusion**: "These United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States"



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

The 1st Paragraph—the statement of purpose
One very long sentence

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.

1st Paragraph

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it becomes necessary

for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another,

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2nd Paragraph, 1st Half

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.

2nd Paragraph, 1st Half

Certain truths are self-evident

Those truths imply certain rights

Governments exist to protect those rights

Governments that violate those rights lose legitimacy

The colonists have a right to rebel

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.

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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.

George Mason's *A Declaration of Rights* (June 1776):
"That all men are by nature equally free and independent

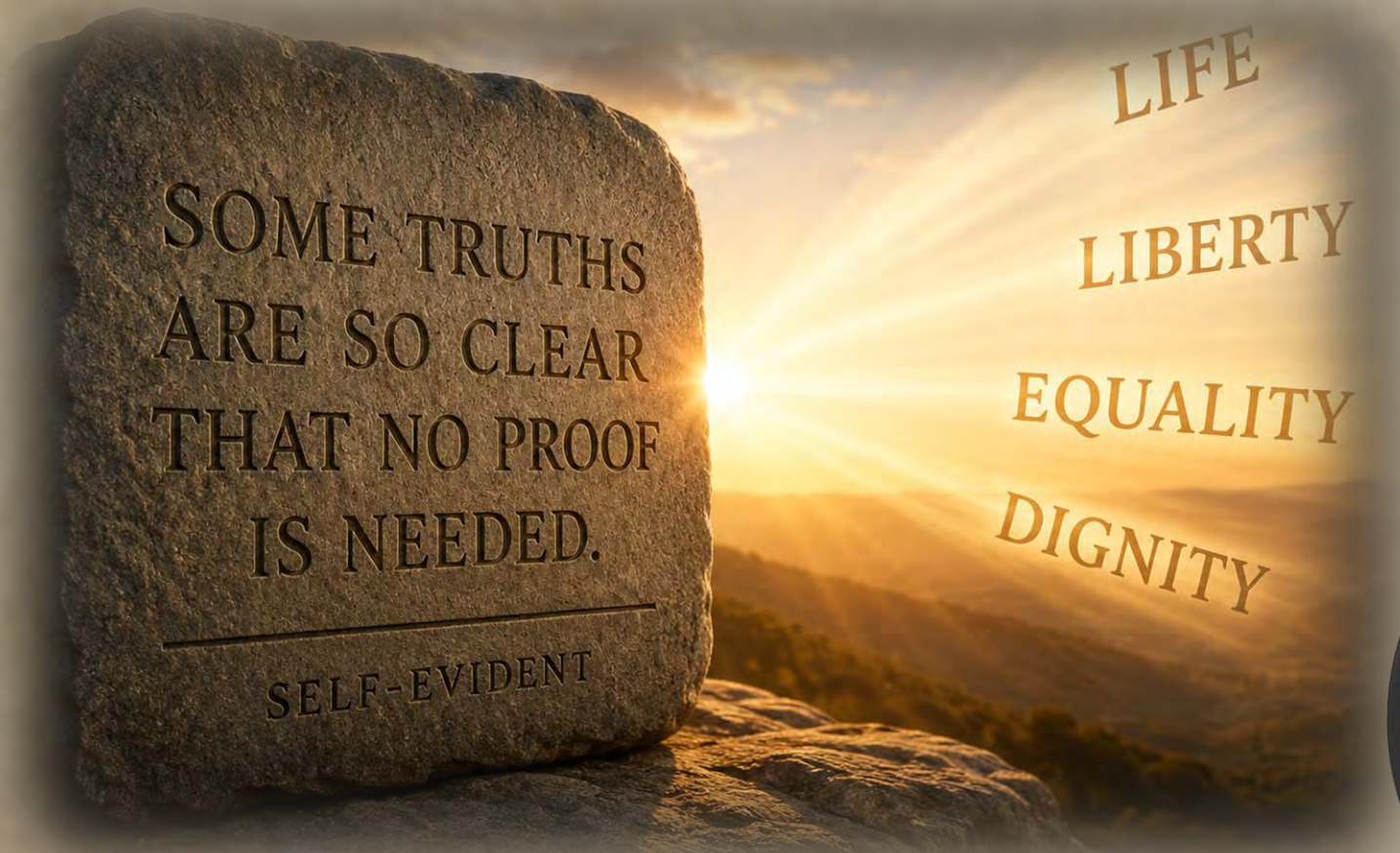
and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity

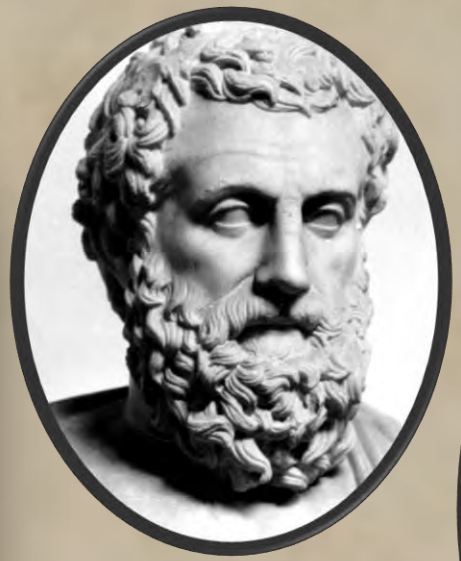
the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety."

That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community; of all the various modes and forms of government, that is best which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety and is most effectually secured against the danger of maladministration.

And that, when any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community has an indubitable, inalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish it, in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal.

We hold these truths to be self-evident,

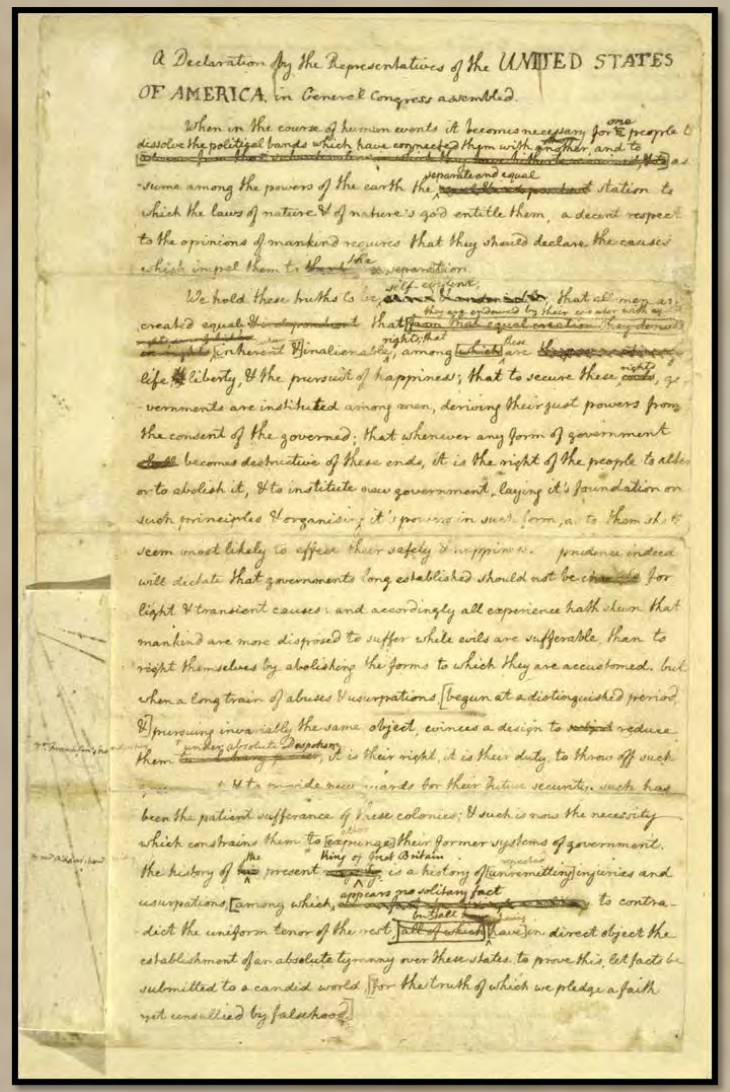








We hold these truths to be self-evident,



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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 & 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.

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Jefferson's original draft: *We hold these truths to be sacred & undeniable; that all men are created equal & independent, that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent & inalienable, among which are the preservation of life, & liberty, & the pursuit of happiness;*



William Small

that all men are created equal,

- Jefferson: Small "fixed the destinies of my life.
- **Moral sense philosophers**: We intuitively perceive things to be right or wrong (works just like the other senses)
- Given by God so humans would be good to one another
- All are equal in the moral sense—the ability to know right from wrong
- Francis Hutcheson's list of moral virtues in order of importance: **Benevolence, Gratitude, Fidelity**
- Jefferson about Blacks: "Notwithstanding these considerations…we find among them numerous instances of **benevolence, gratitude, and unshaken fidelity."**
- Jefferson: "The moral sense, or conscience, is as much a part of man as his leg or arm…State a moral case to a ploughman and a professor. The former will decide it as well, and often better than the latter, because he has not been led astray by artificial rules."

that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.



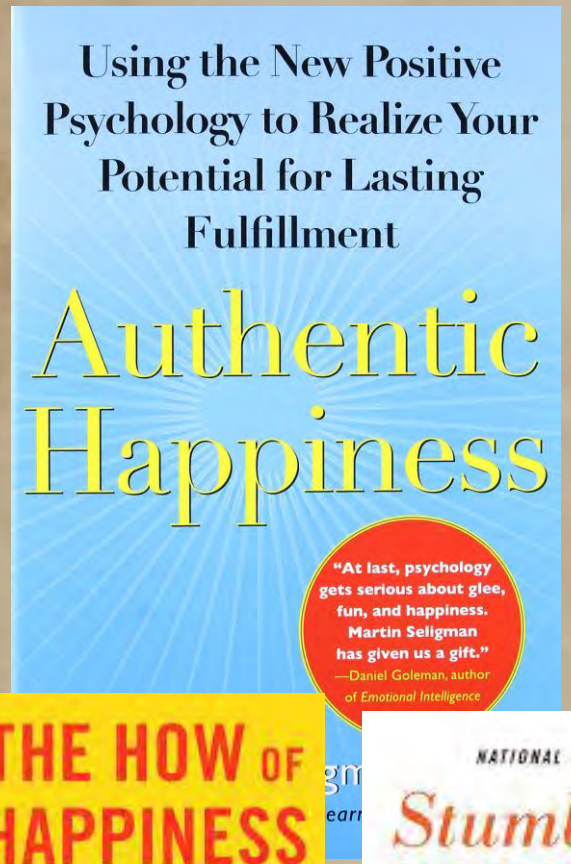
- John Locke's thought experiment
- State of Nature before government and written laws.
- "The state of nature has a law of nature to govern it… that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions…

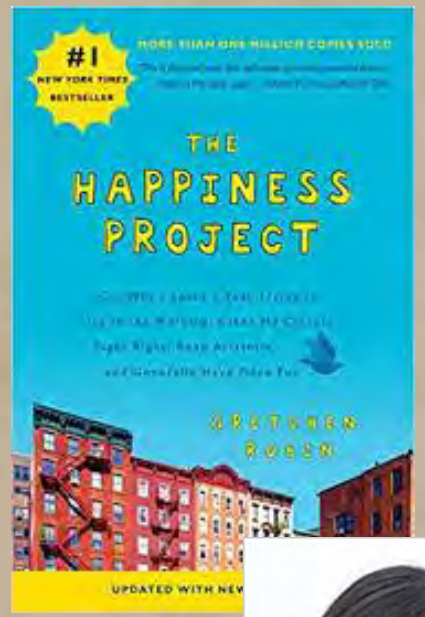
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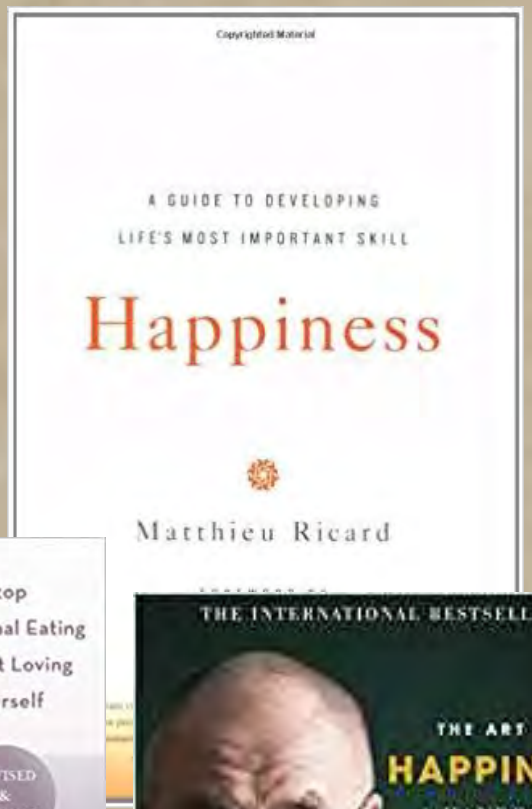


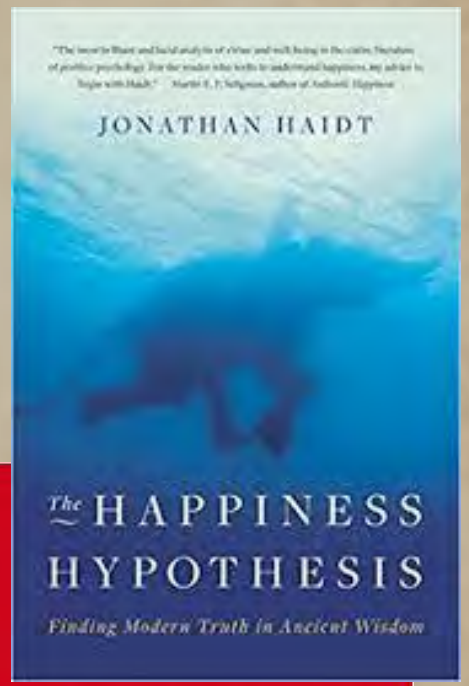
- Why does Jefferson drop property??
- John Locke: “The reason why men enter into society, is the preservation of their property.”
- Jefferson:
  - “It is a moot question whether the origin of any kind of property is derived from nature at all”
  - “In the earlier times of the colony…. some provident individuals procured large grants…. The transmission of this property from generation to generation in the same name raised up a distinct set of families…distinguished by the splendor and luxury of their establishments…. To annul this privilege, and instead of an aristocracy of wealth, of more harm and danger…. to make an opening for the aristocracy of virtue and talent,”
- Jefferson’s autobiography listed three reforms that he thought were especially important:
  - Ending the established church.
  - Abolishing entail.
  - Abolishing primogeniture.

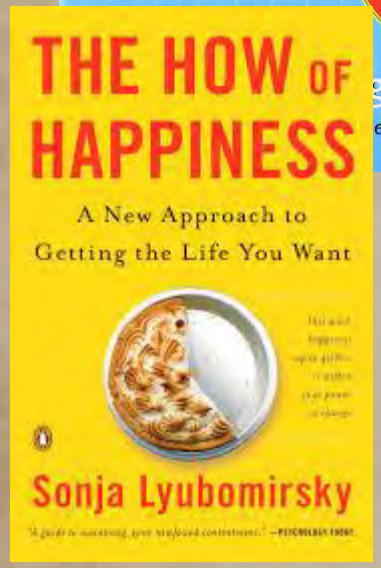
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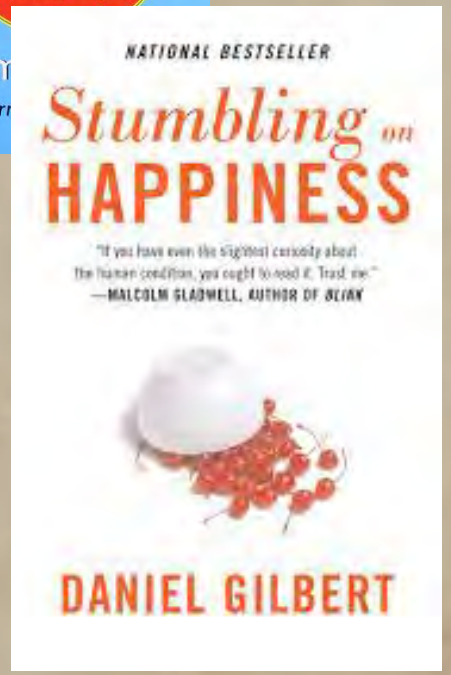

Using the New Positive Psychology to Realize Your Potential for Lasting Fulfillment
Authentic Happiness
"At last, psychology gets serious about glee, fun, and happiness. Martin Seligman has given us a gift."
—Daniel Goleman, author of Emotional Intelligence

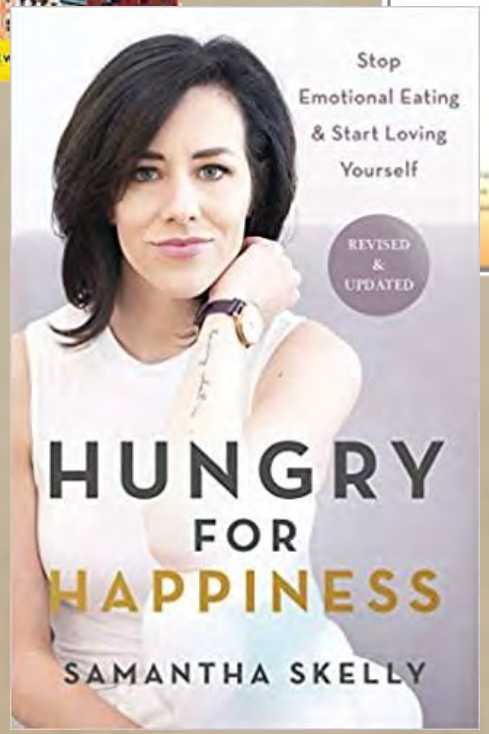

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
THE HAPPINESS PROJECT

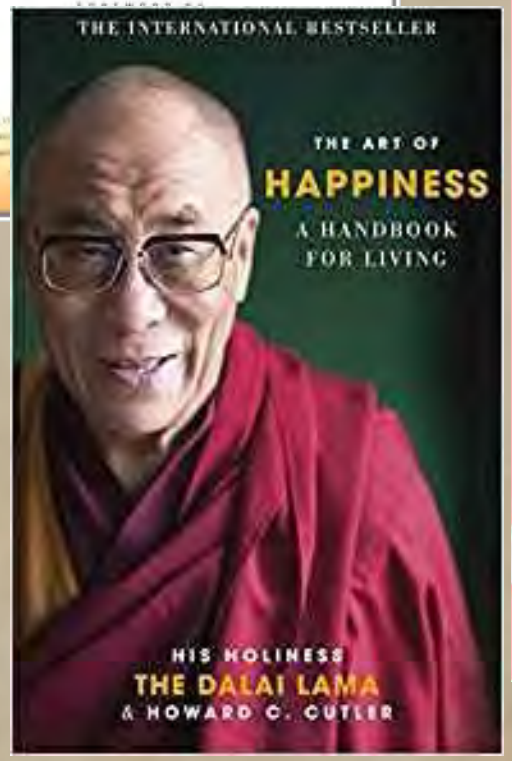

A GUIDE TO DEVELOPING LIFE'S MOST IMPORTANT SKILL
Happiness
Matthieu Ricard

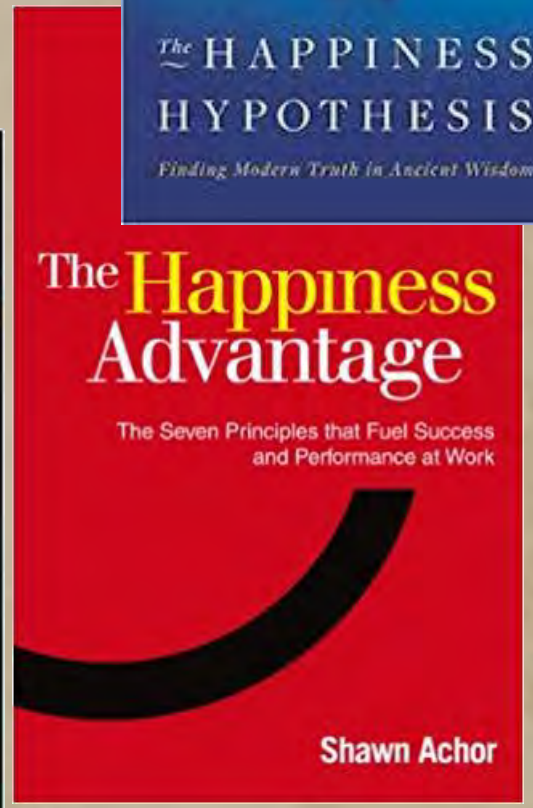

JONATHAN HAIDT
The HAPPINESS HYPOTHESIS
Finding Modern Truth in Ancient Wisdom


THE HOW OF HAPPINESS
A New Approach to Getting the Life You Want
Sonja Lyubomirsky


NATIONAL BESTSELLER
Stumbling on HAPPINESS
"If you have even the slightest curiosity about the human condition, you ought to read it. Trust me."
—MALCOLM GLADWELL, AUTHOR OF BLINK
DANIEL GILBERT


Stop Emotional Eating & Start Loving Yourself
REVISED & UPDATED
HUNGRY FOR HAPPINESS
SAMANTHA SKELLY


THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER
THE ART OF HAPPINESS
A HANDBOOK FOR LIVING
HIS HOLINESS
THE DALAI LAMA
& HOWARD C. CUTLER

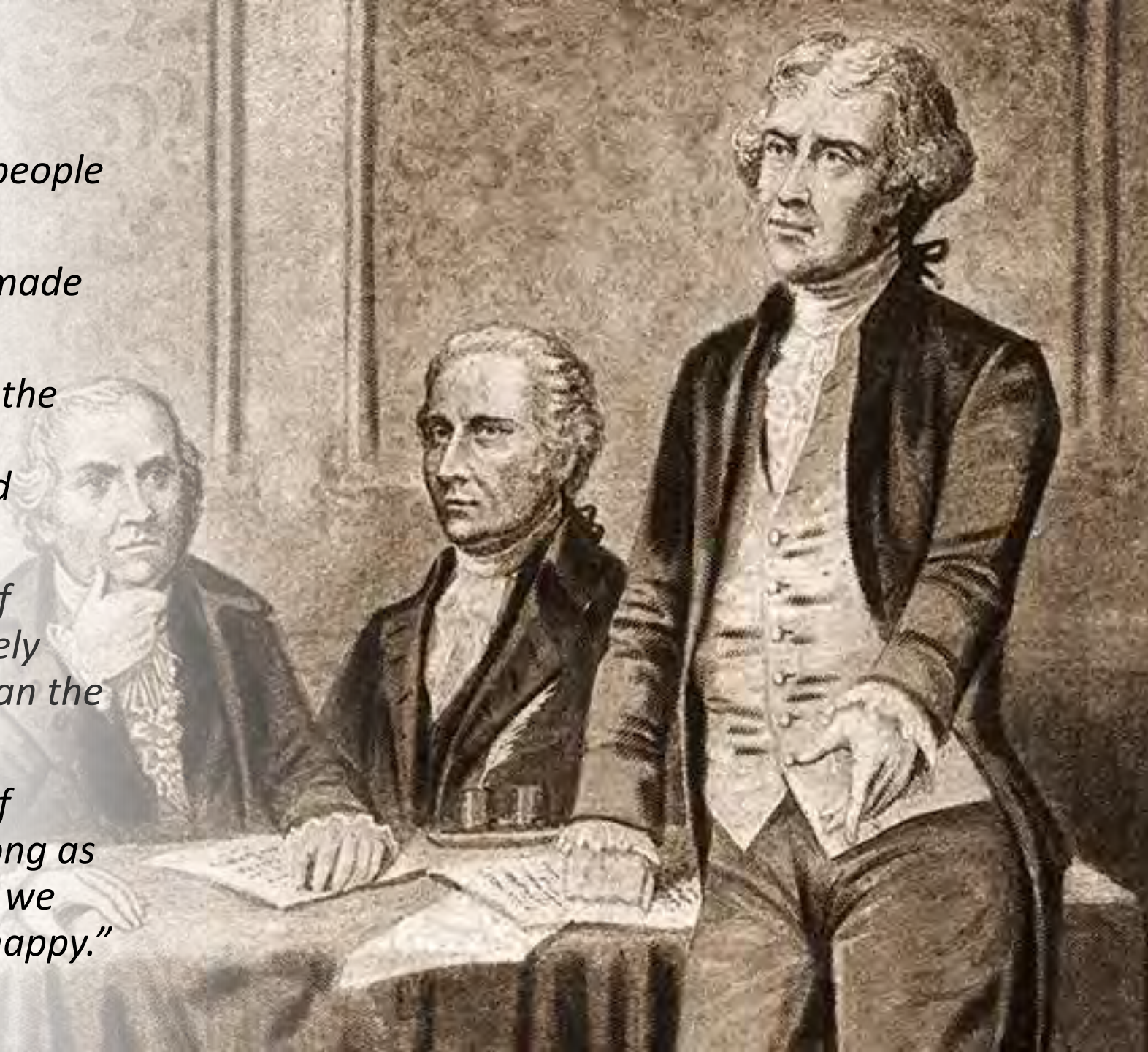

The Happiness Advantage
The Seven Principles that Fuel Success and Performance at Work
Shawn Achor

the pursuit of Happiness... to effect their Safety and Happiness.



- For Aristotle, happiness (*eudaimonia*) was not a temporary feeling of pleasure
- It was the **highest good** – the only thing humans pursue entirely for its own sake,
- According to Aristotle, the purpose of government was not just to maintain order or protect rights or promote commerce—it was ***to promote human flourishing***.
- **Create the Right Conditions for Flourishing**
  - ✓ Economic conditions that allow people to live decently
- **Promoting the Common Good (The Commonwealth of Virginia)**
  - ✓ State-funded public education, land-grant colleges, libraries
  - ✓ Public Morality Laws**:** Sabbath laws, Gambling restrictions, Prohibition
  - ✓ Public Health**:** Vaccination programs, Food and drug laws.
  - ✓ City parks, national parks
- **Cultivating Virtue**
  - ✓ Encourages good character (like courage, justice, and moderation)

- **Benjamin Franklin**: *"Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom."*
- **John Adams:** *"Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people."*
- **George Washington:** *"There exists in the economy and course of nature, an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness"*
- **Sam Adams**: *"A general dissolution of principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of America than the whole force of the common enemy."*
- **Richard Henry Lee:** *"The happiness of America will be secured, at least so long as it continues to be virtuous, and when we cease to be virtuous we shall not be happy."*



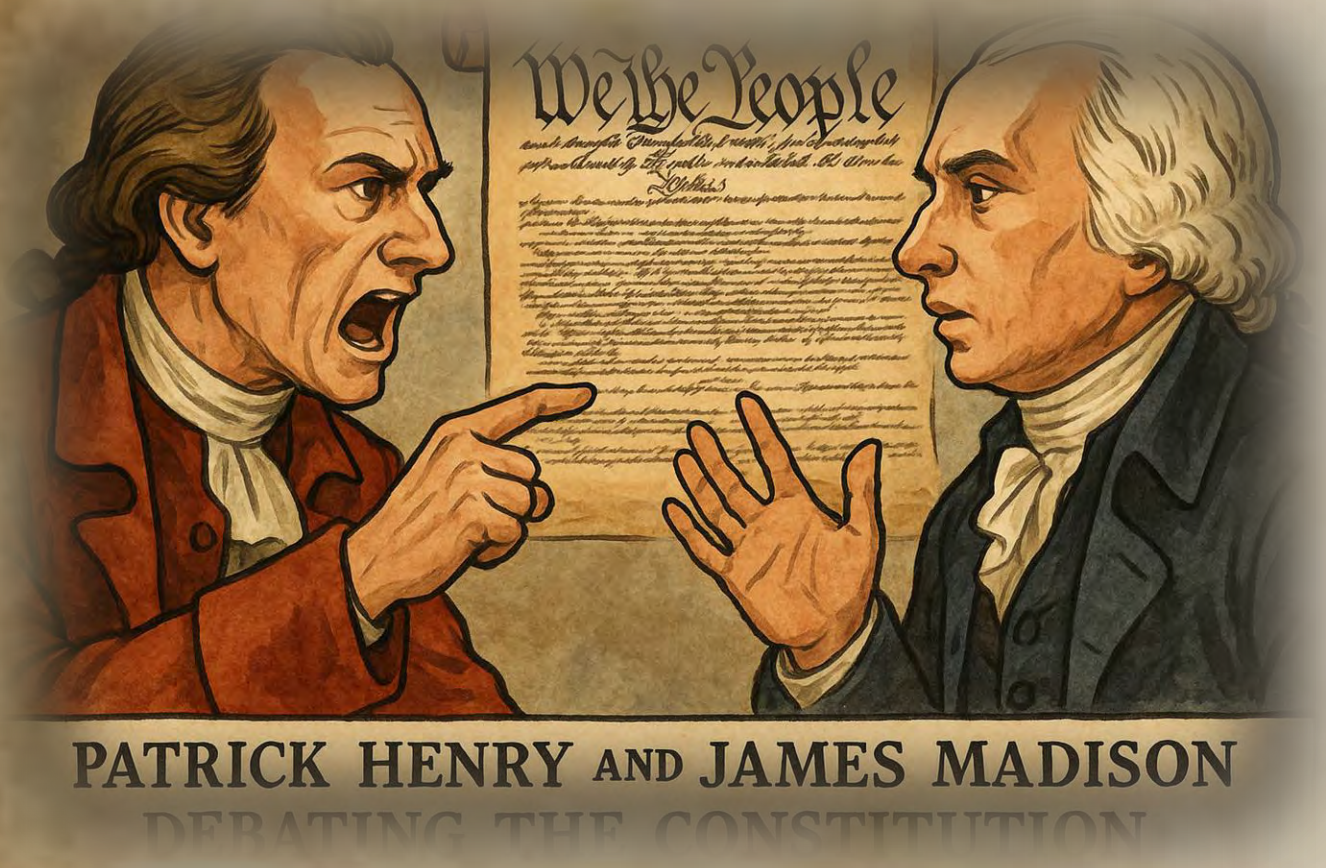
That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.





That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it,

- John Locke: When government systematically denies rights, it dissolves the contract and power reverts to the people

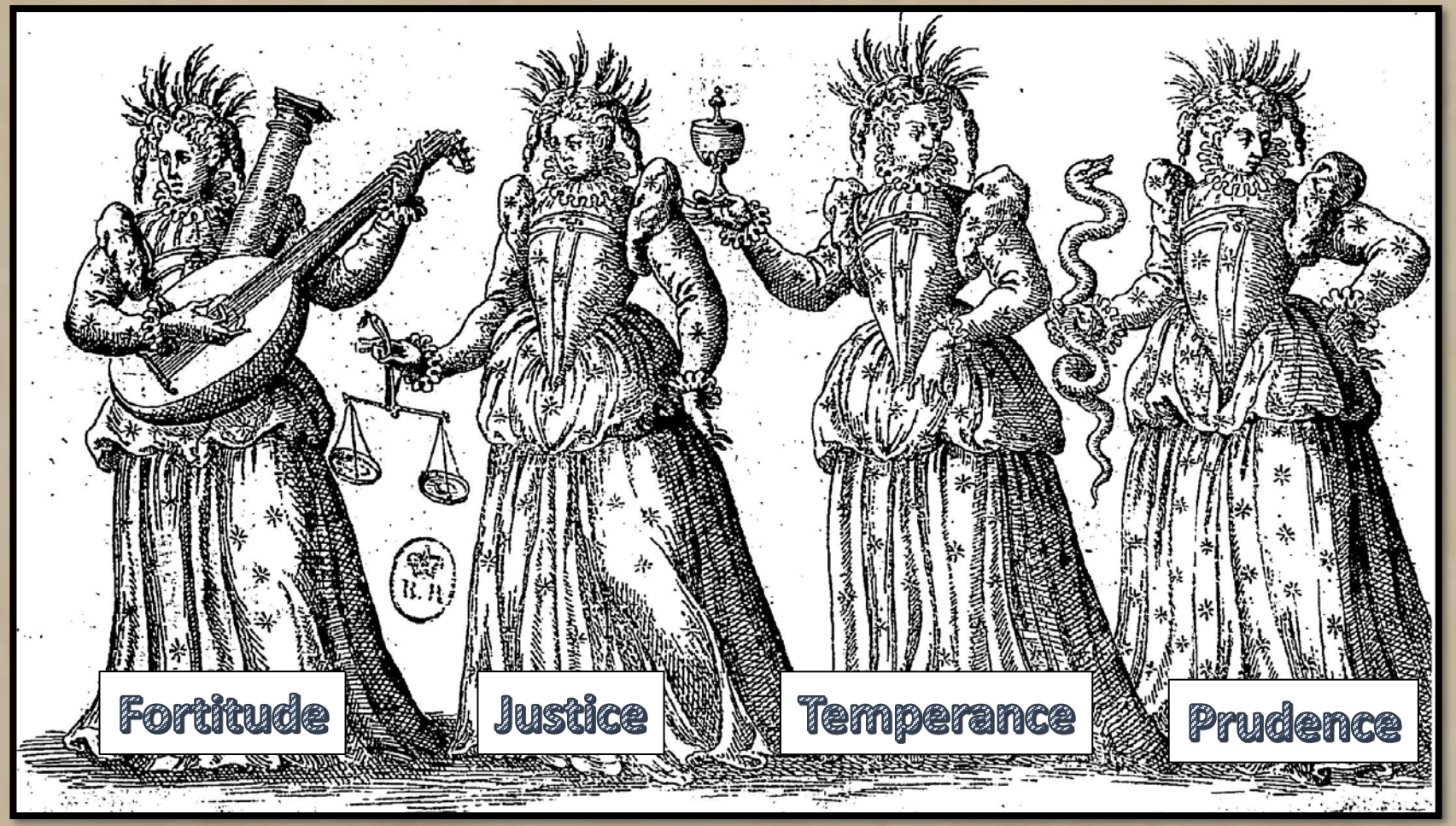


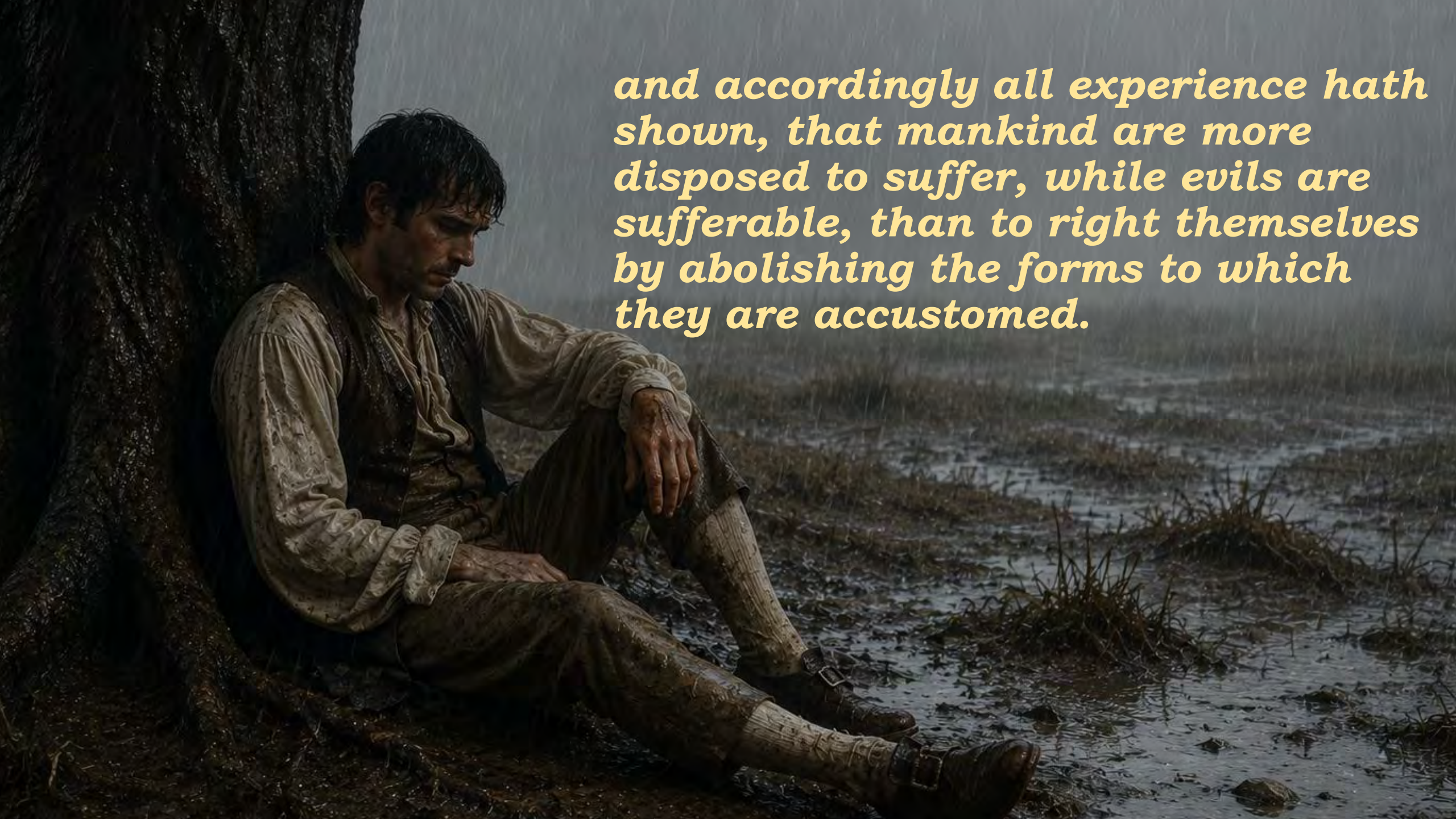
and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

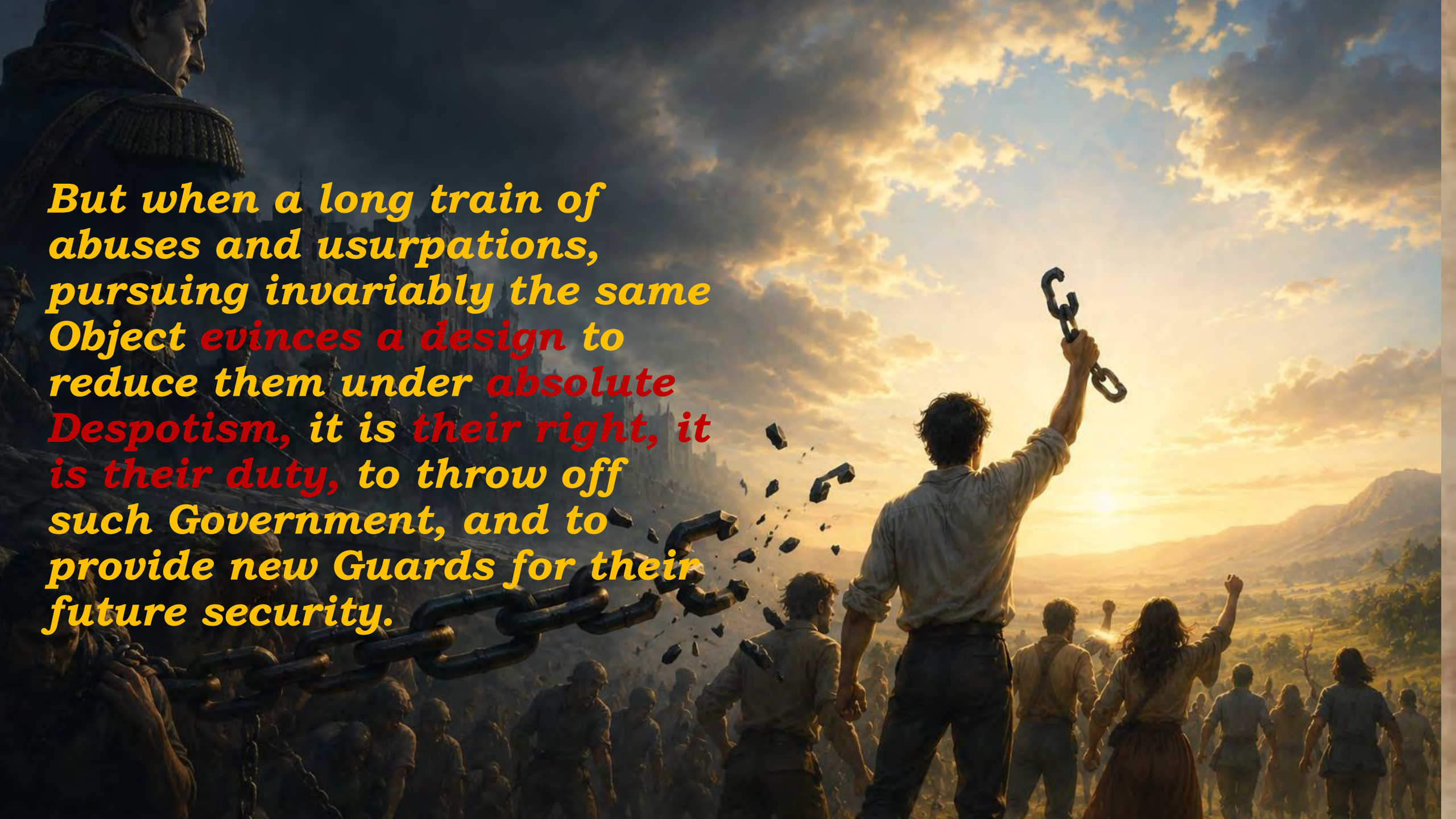
2nd Paragraph, 2nd Half

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.

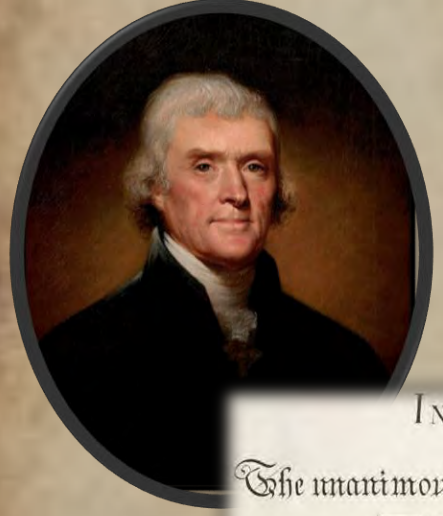
***Prudence*, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes**



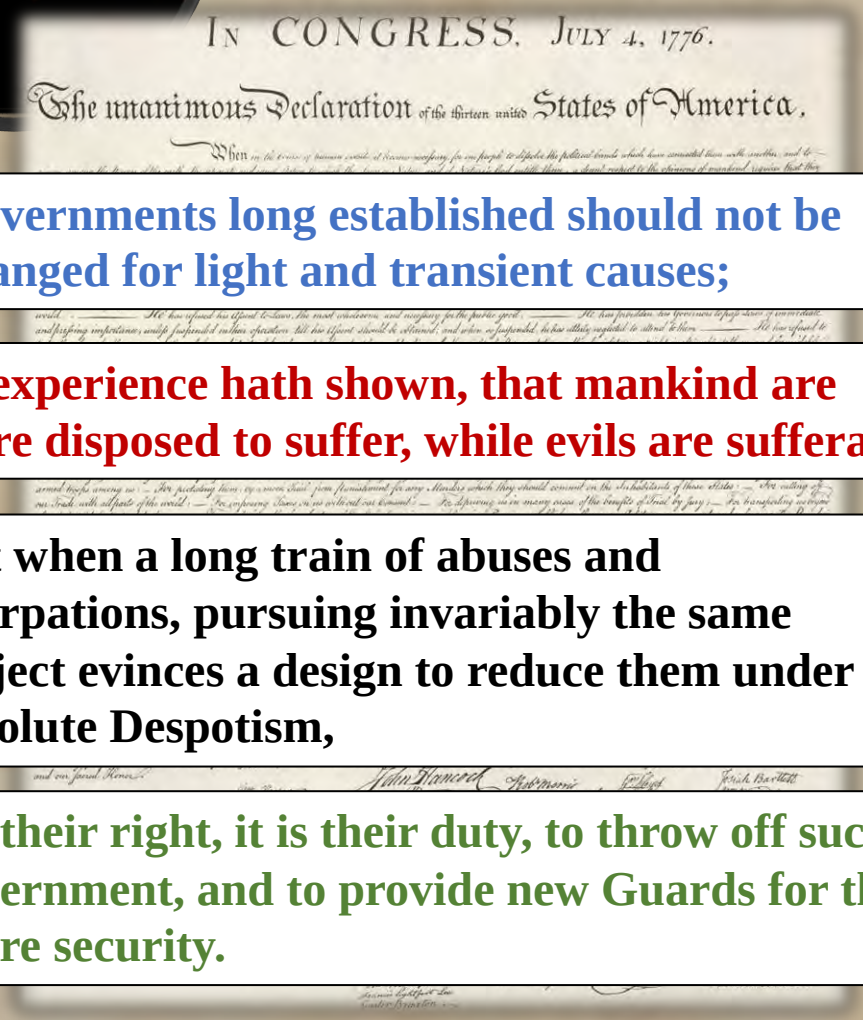

and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

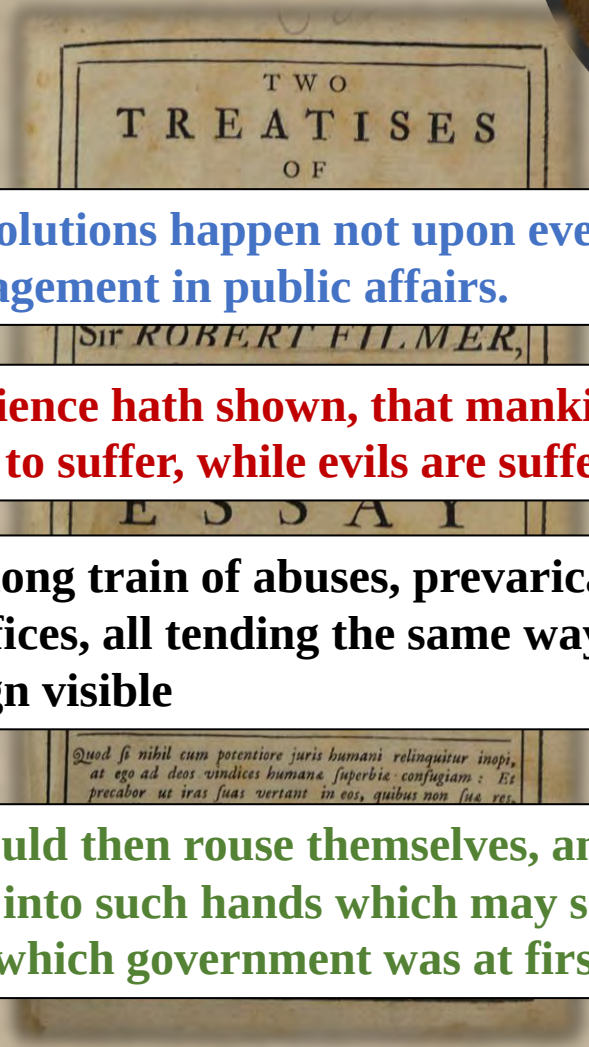

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

“not merely to say things which had never been said before”









Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes;

all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable

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 revolutions happen not upon every little mismanagement in public affairs.

all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable

But if a long train of abuses, prevarications, and artifices, all tending the same way, make the design visible

they should then rouse themselves, and endeavor to put the rule into such hands which may secure to them the end for which government was at first erected..

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.

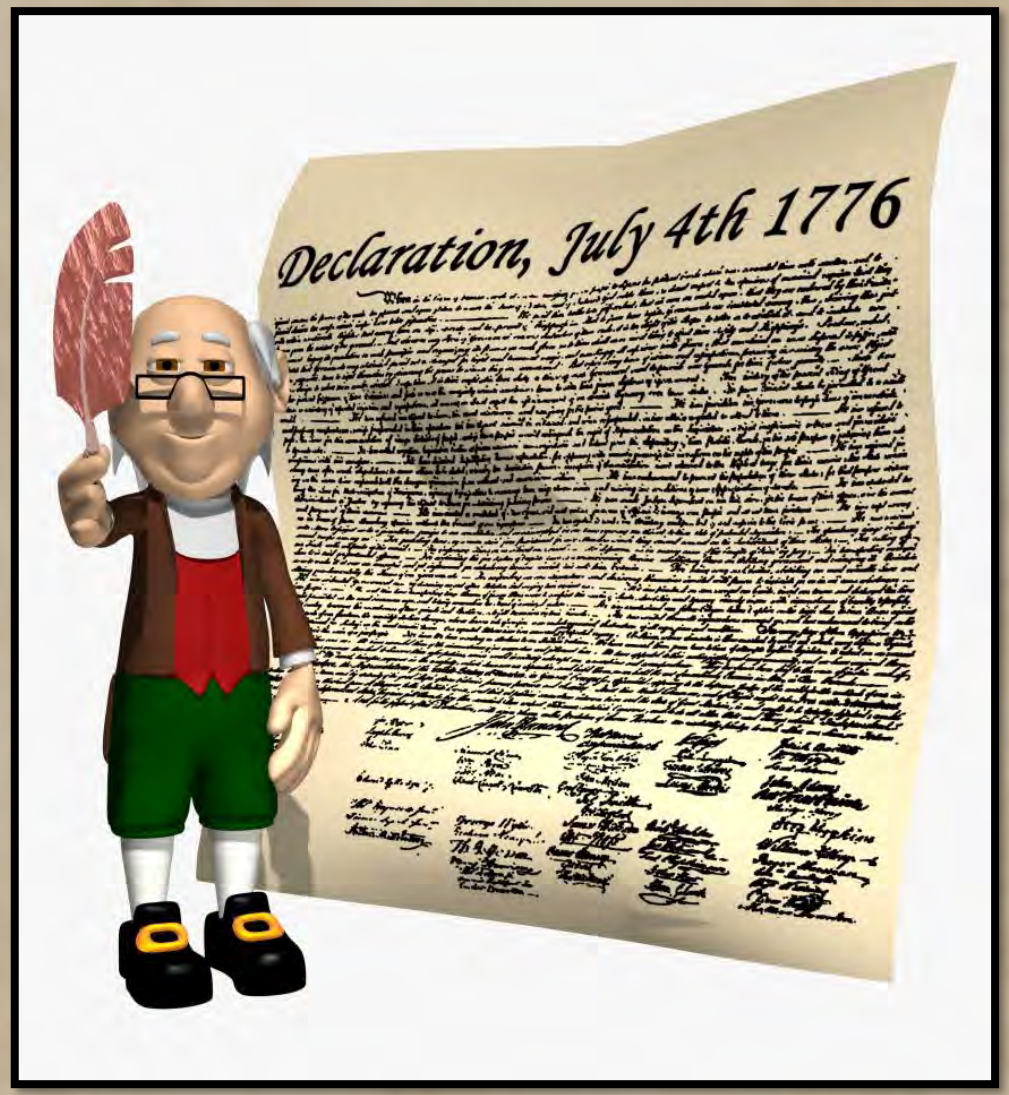
The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.

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



The Declaration of Independence

Dr. Heather Dudley



The Grievances

1) **Abuses of Executive Power**
2) **Constitutional Abuses**
3) **The king was an evil man**



Abuses of Executive Power

1. **He has refused** his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and ***necessary for the public good.***
2. **He has forbidden** his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance…
3. **He has refused** to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation…a right inestimable to them and formidable to ***tyrants*** only
4. **He has called** together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant…
5. **He has dissolved** Representative Houses repeatedly…
6. **He has refused** for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected…
7. **He has endeavored** 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…
8. **He has obstructed** the Administration of Justice…
9. **He has made** Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices…
10. He has erected a ***multitude*** of New Offices, ***and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance***.
11. **He has kept** among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.
12. **He has affected** to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.
13. **He has combined** with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution…

Unconstitutional Measures

1. **For quartering** large bodies of armed troops among us:
2. **For protecting** them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:
3. **For cutting** off our Trade with all parts of the world:
4. **For imposing** Taxes on us without our Consent:
5. **For depriving** us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury:
6. **For transporting** us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:
7. **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
8. **For** away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:
9. **For suspending** our own Legislatures…

The king is violent and cruel

1. He has abdicated *Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.*

2. He has plundered *our seas,* ***ravaged*** *our Coasts,* ***burnt*** *our towns, and* ***destroyed*** *the Lives of our people.*

3. He is *at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete 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.*

4. 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.*

5. He has *excited* ***domestic insurrections*** *amongst us, and has endeavored 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.***

The Deleted Slavery Clause

He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian King of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where Men should be bought & sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or restrain this execrable commerce. And that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them, by murdering the people on whom he has obtruded them: thus paying off former crimes committed again the Liberties of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.



The Ultimate Grievance

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.

Olive Branch Petition (July 1775)

- **MOST EXCELLENT SOVERIEIGN: We your Majesty's faithful subjects of the colonies …entreat your Majesty's gracious attention to this our humble petition…**
- **The union between our Mother Country and these colonies, and the energy of mild and just government, produced benefits so remarkably important…**
- **At the conclusion therefore of the late war…your loyal colonists having contributed to its success, … were alarmed by a new system of Statutes and regulations adopted for the administration of the colonies, that filled their minds with the most painful fears and jealousies…**
- **Attached to your Majesty's person, family and government with all the devotion that principle and affection can inspire…we solemnly assure your Majesty, that we not only most ardently desire the former harmony between her and these colonies may be restored…**
- **We therefore beseech your Majesty, that your royal authority and influence may be graciously interposed to procure us relief from our afflicting fears… and to settle peace through every part of your dominions, with all humility submitting to your Majesty's wise consideration…**





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.*



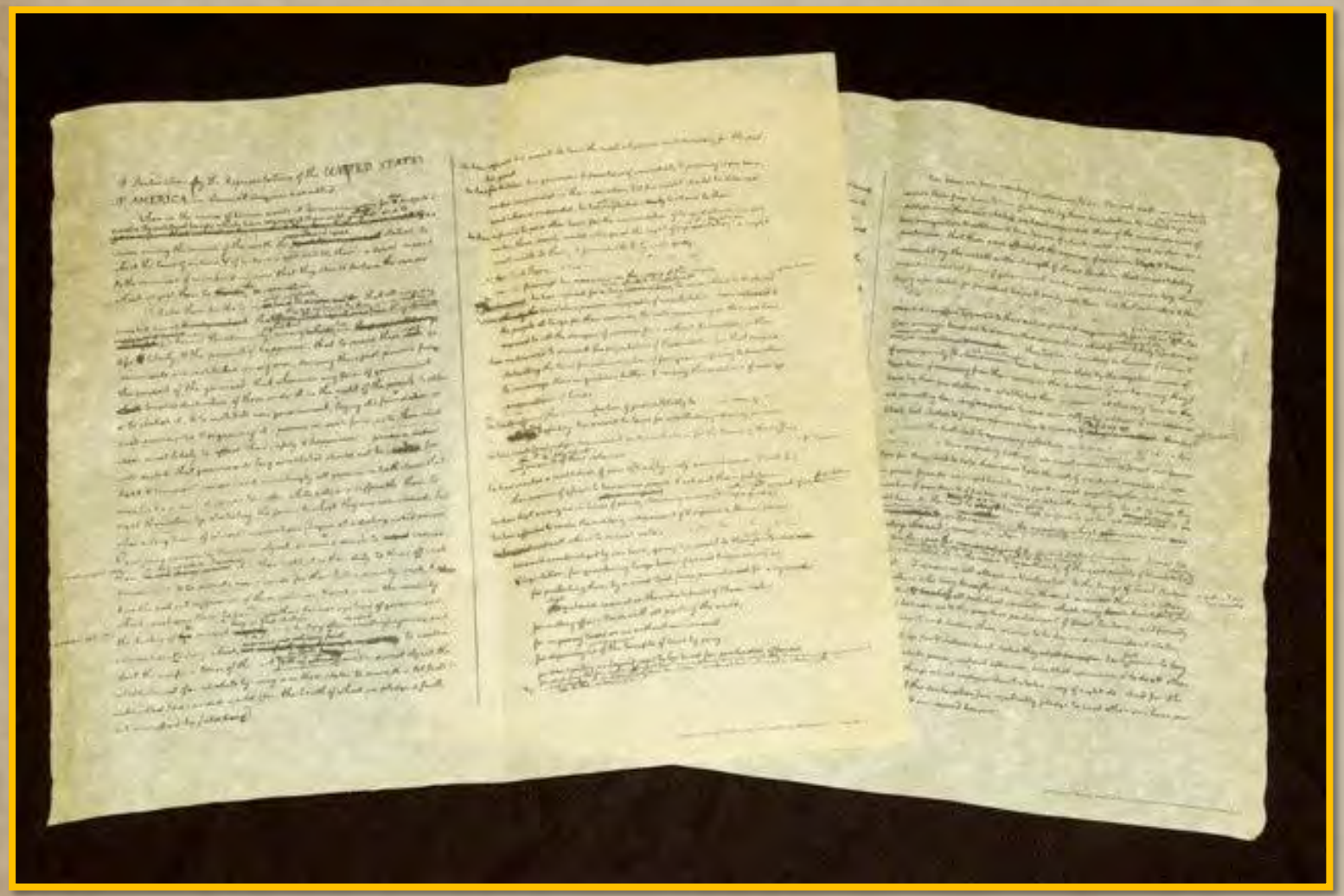
Jefferson's Original Draft

these facts have given the last stab to agonizing affection, and manly spirit bids us to renounce for ever these unfeeling brethren. we must endeavor to forget our former love for them…

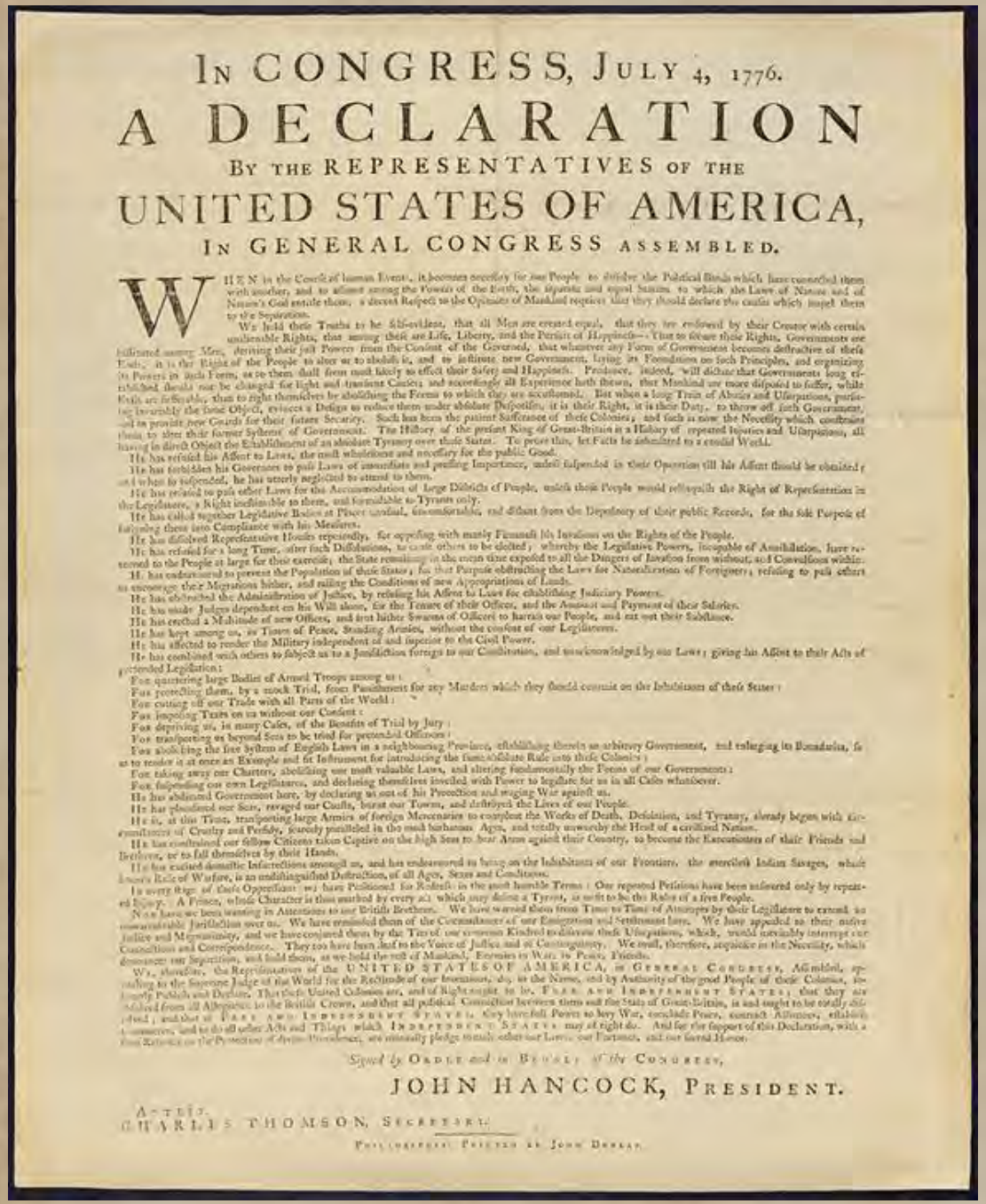
we might have been a free & a great people together; but a communication of grandeur & of freedom it seems is below their dignity. be it so, since they will have it: the road to glory & happiness is open to us too; we will climb it in a separate state, and acquiesce in the necessity which pronounces our everlasting Adieu!

Conclusion

*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**.*



- Jefferson's rough draft held at Library of Congress
- "Clean copy" lost



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

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 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.

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 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 harass 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.

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.

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 Brothers, 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 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 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.

Signed by ORDER *and in behalf of the* CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

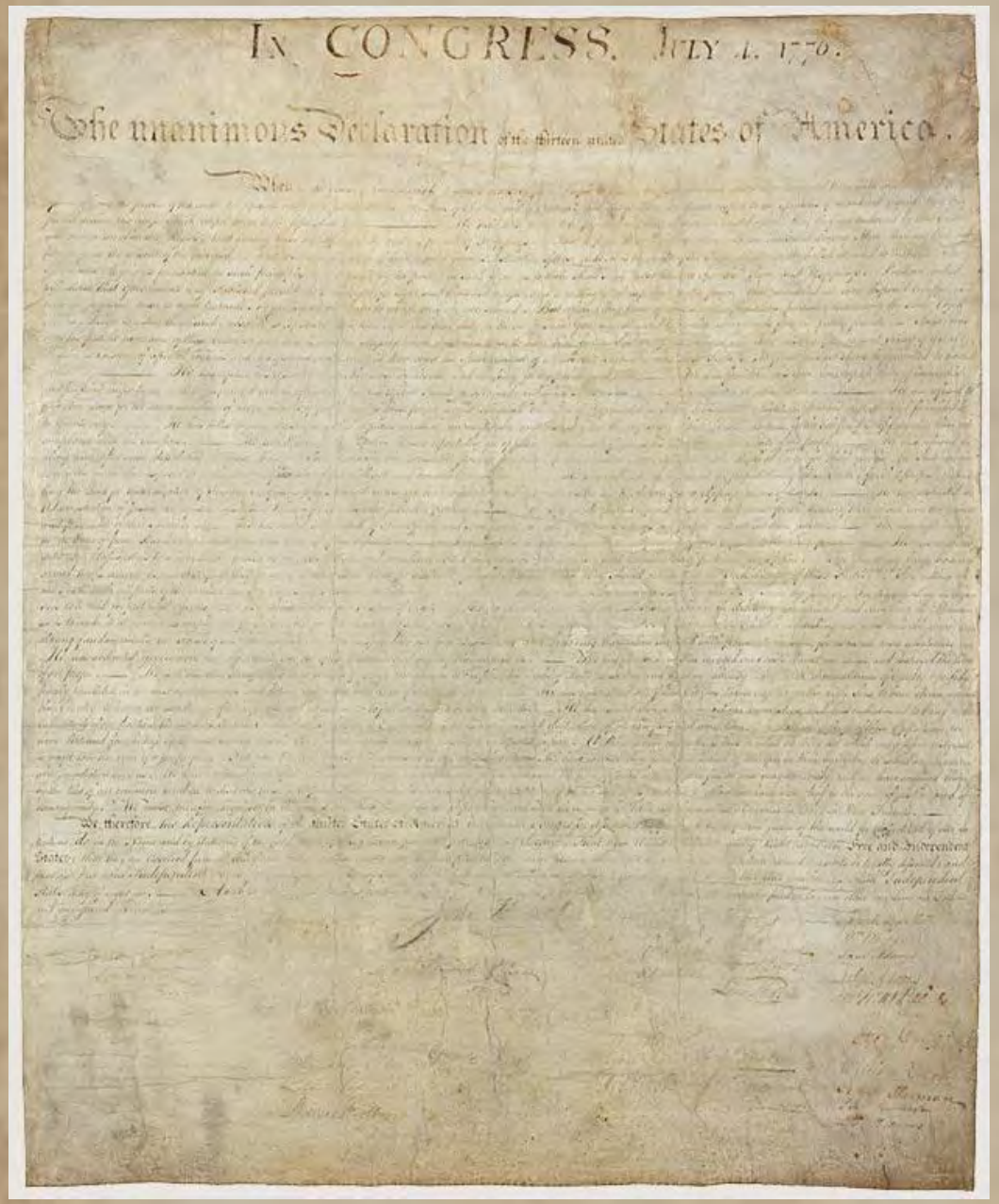
ATTEST.

CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

PHILADELPHIA: PRINTED BY JOHN DUNLAP.

Dunlap Broadsides

- 200 copies printed
- 26 copies known to exist



Parchment Copy
24” x 30”

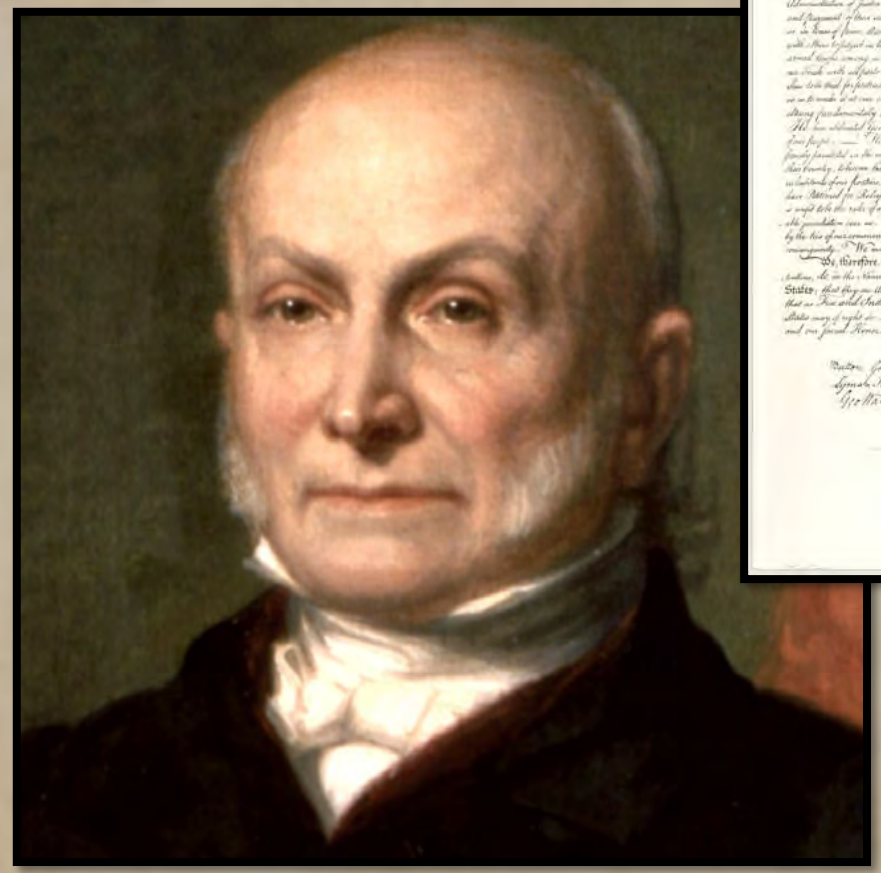
- **July 19, 1776 Congress asked Timothy Matlack to create the engrossed copy**
- **Changed the title**
  - **<u>Original</u>: Declaration of the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.**
  - **<u>New:</u> The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America**
- **Delegates signed August 2nd – November**

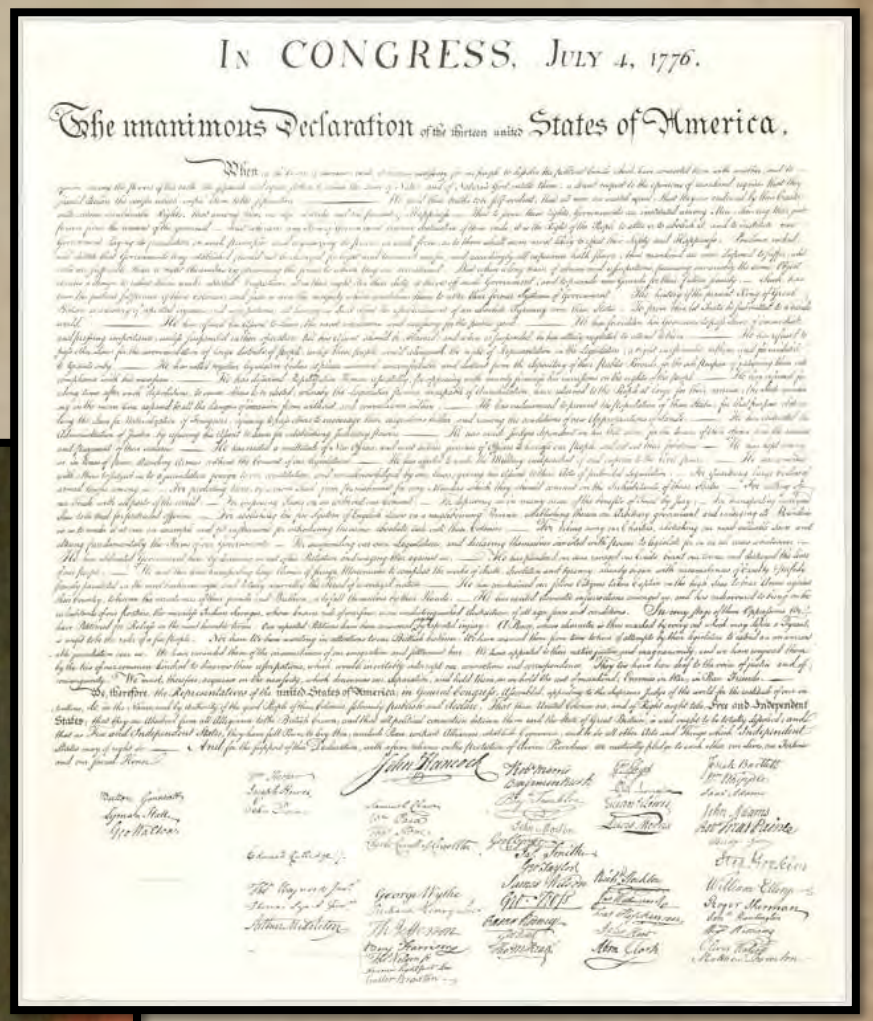


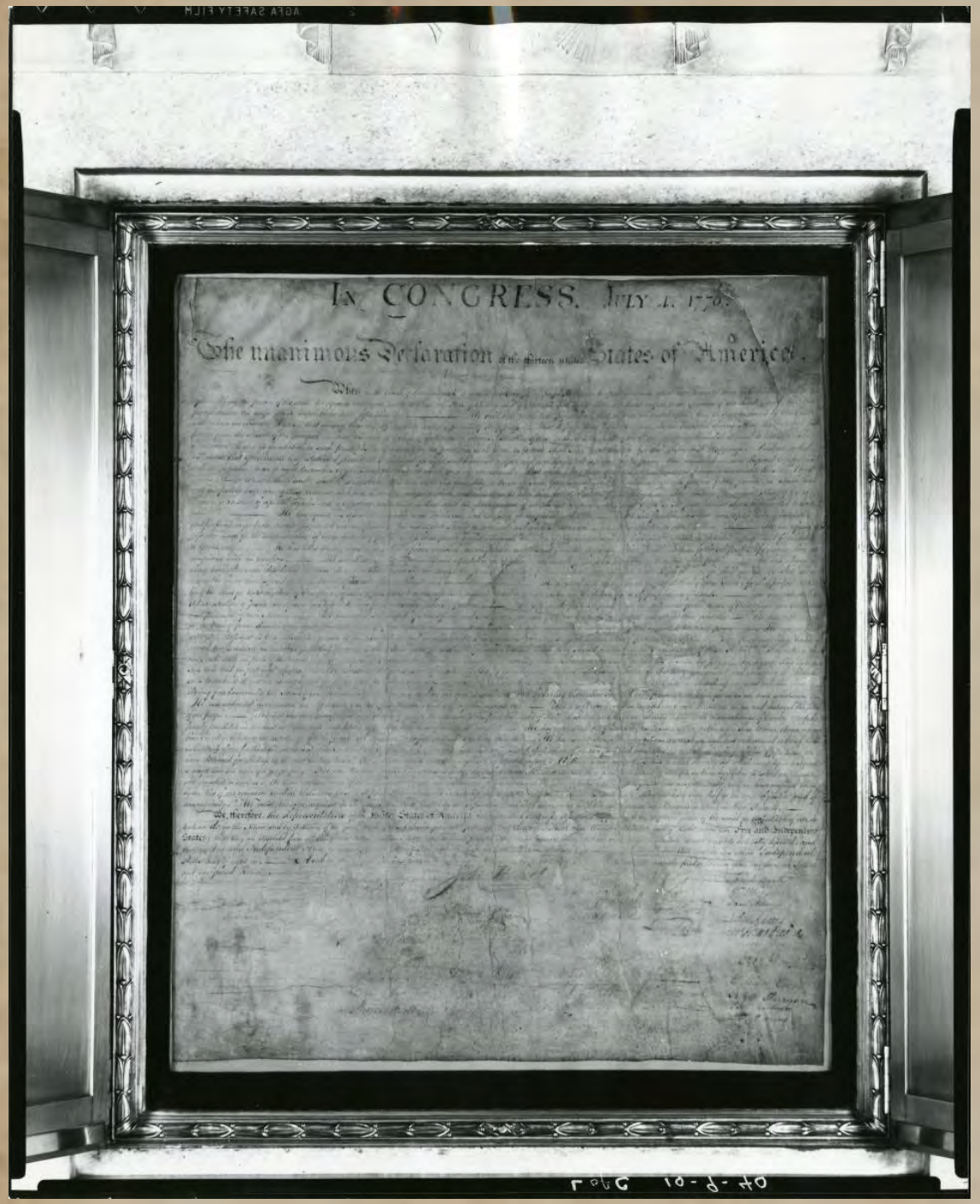
- Rolled up and moved with Congress during the Revolutionary War
- 1789 State Dept took custody
- 1841 hung on a wall in the Patent Office
- 1877 moved to a building shared by State & War Dept
- 1892 in such poor condition it was taken out of public view

The Stone Engraving (1823)

- 200 copies made
- Perhaps caused more damage to the original?
- Fewer than 50 copies known to exist today.



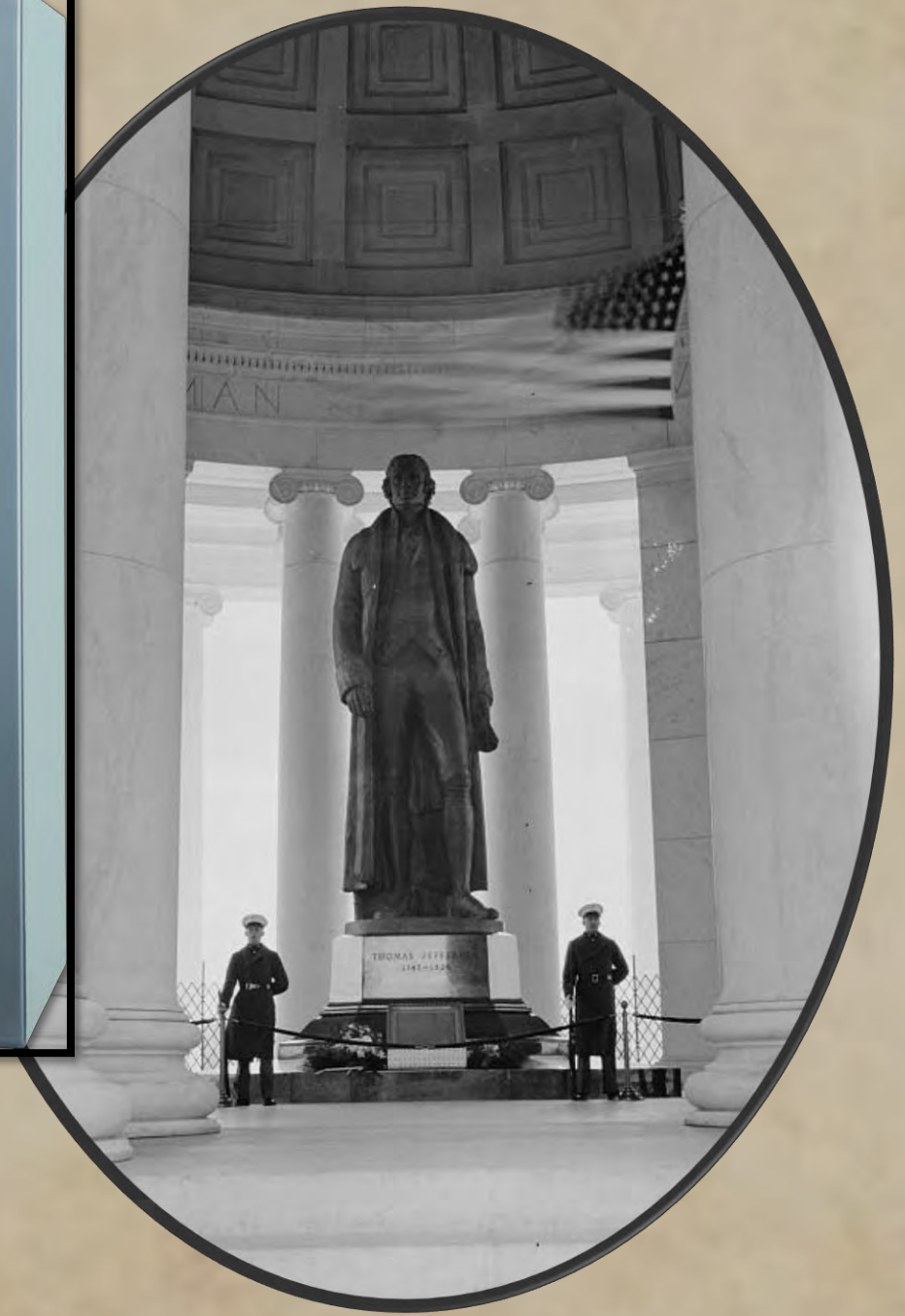




Moved to the Library of Congress (1921)

- Uncontrolled humidity causing tears
- Insects in the display case





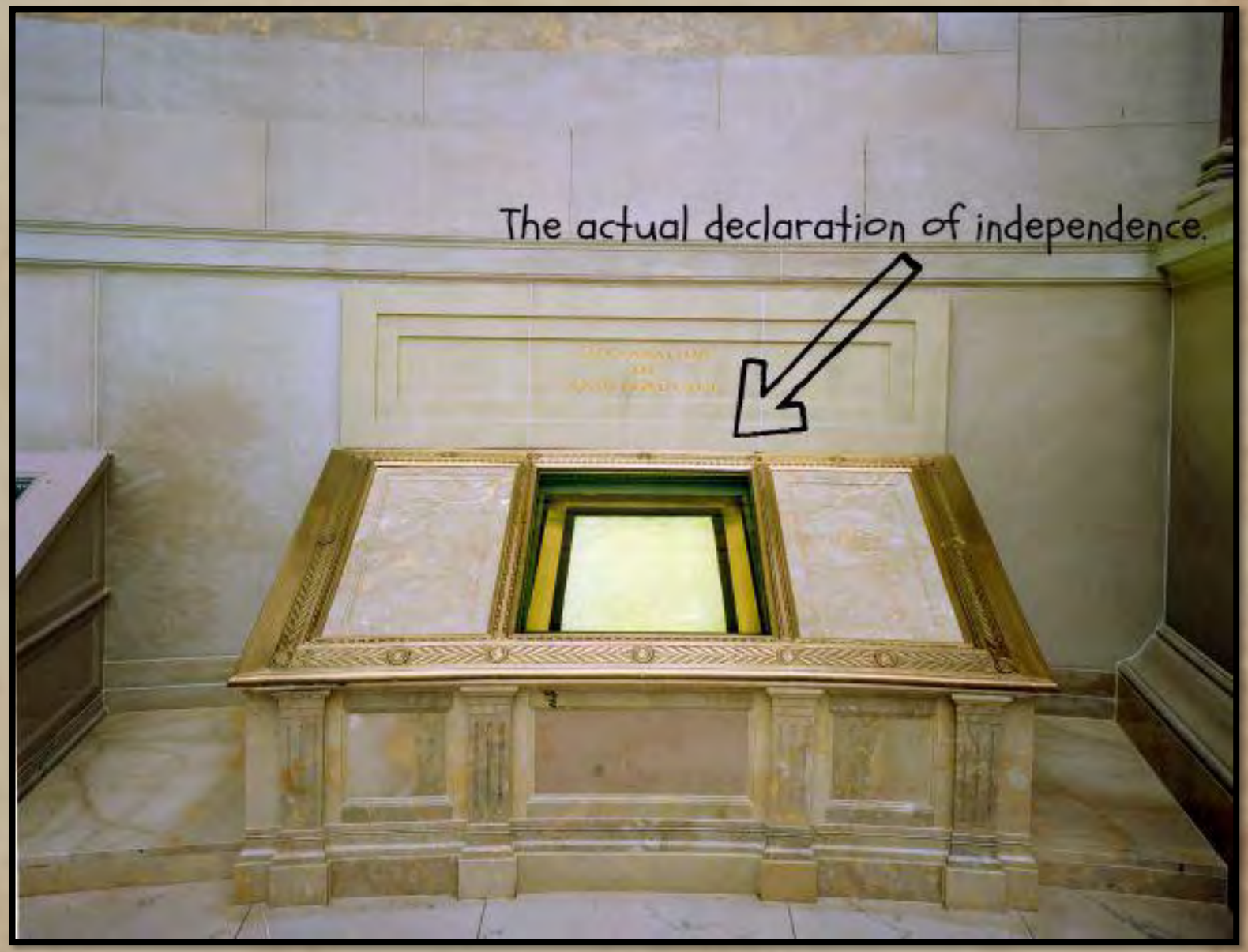
- **WWII moved to Fort Knox**
- **1943 put on display for the dedication of the Jefferson Memorial**


Handprint?



Moving Day 1952

- **2001 still fading. New encasement made of titanium, aluminum, filled with argon gas**
- **2003 reopened exhibit at National Archives**





- Mid-August: Appears in London newspapers
- Mid-Sept: Florence and Warsaw
- October: German translation appeared in Switzerland
- November: Arrived in France (1st copy sent was lost)
- The Spanish-American authorities actively banned its distribution.

The Official Response

King George III (October 31, 1776)

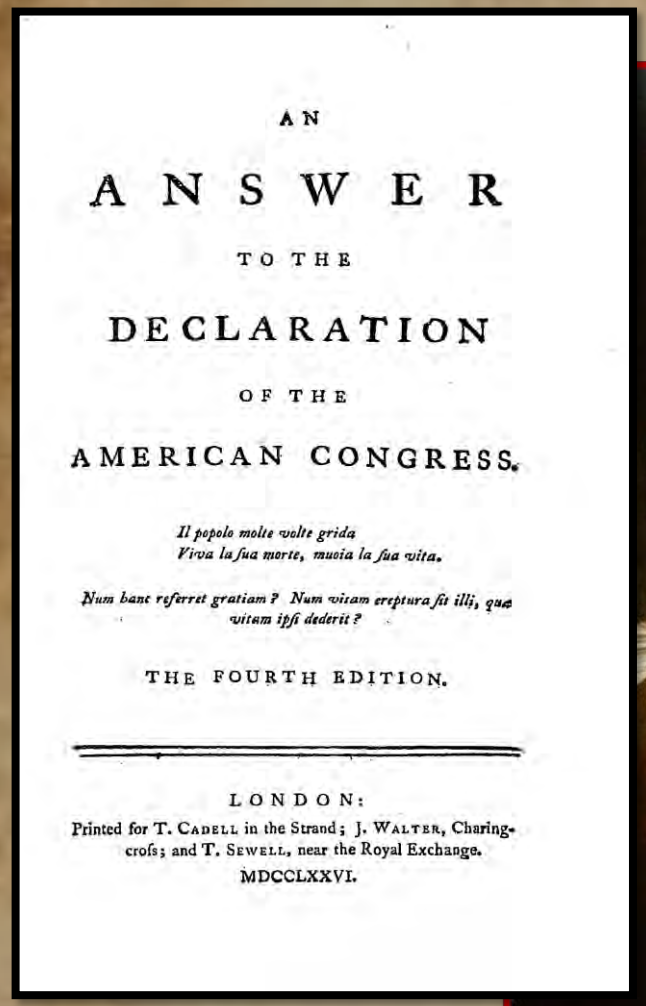
- “For daring and desperate is the spirit of those leaders, whose object has always been dominion and power, that they have now openly renounced all allegiance to the crown, and all political connection with this country.”

Marquis of Rockingham (leader of the opposition in Parliament)

- “I ask them [the ministers) in the course of their experience, whether they ever heard, or can now be persuaded to think, that a whole people, so numerous, and living under so many different forms of government . . . Ever unanimously confederated to join in a revolt, under a mild, wise, and equitable administration of public affairs?'

John Lind was commissioned to write the official response





AN

ANSWER

TO THE

DECLARATION

OF THE

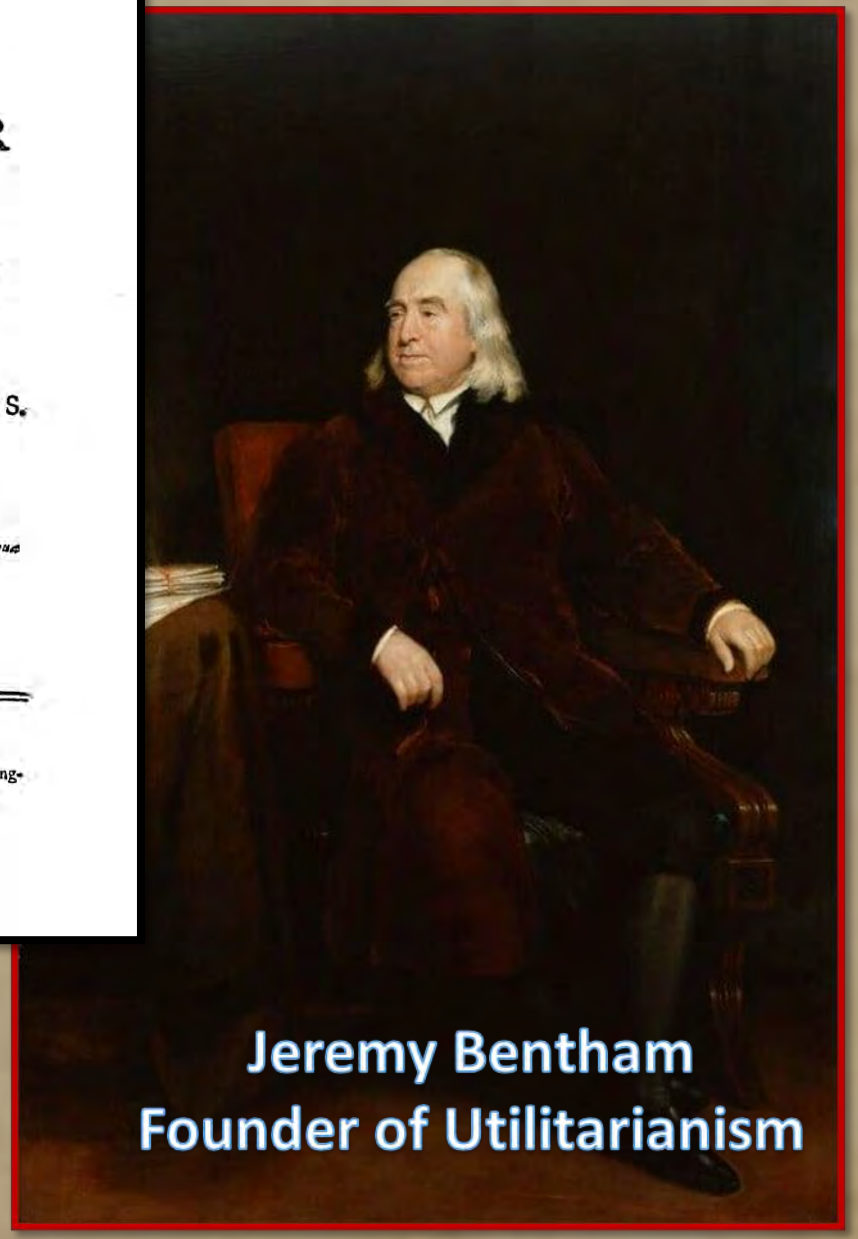
AMERICAN CONGRESS.

Il popolo molte volte grida
Viva la fua morte, muoia la fua vita.

Num hanc referret gratiam? Num vitam ereptura fit illi, quæ vitam ipfi dederit?

THE FOURTH EDITION.

LONDON:
Printed for T. CADELL in the Strand; J. WALTER, Charing-croſs; and T. SEWELL, near the Royal Exchange.
MDCCLXXVI.



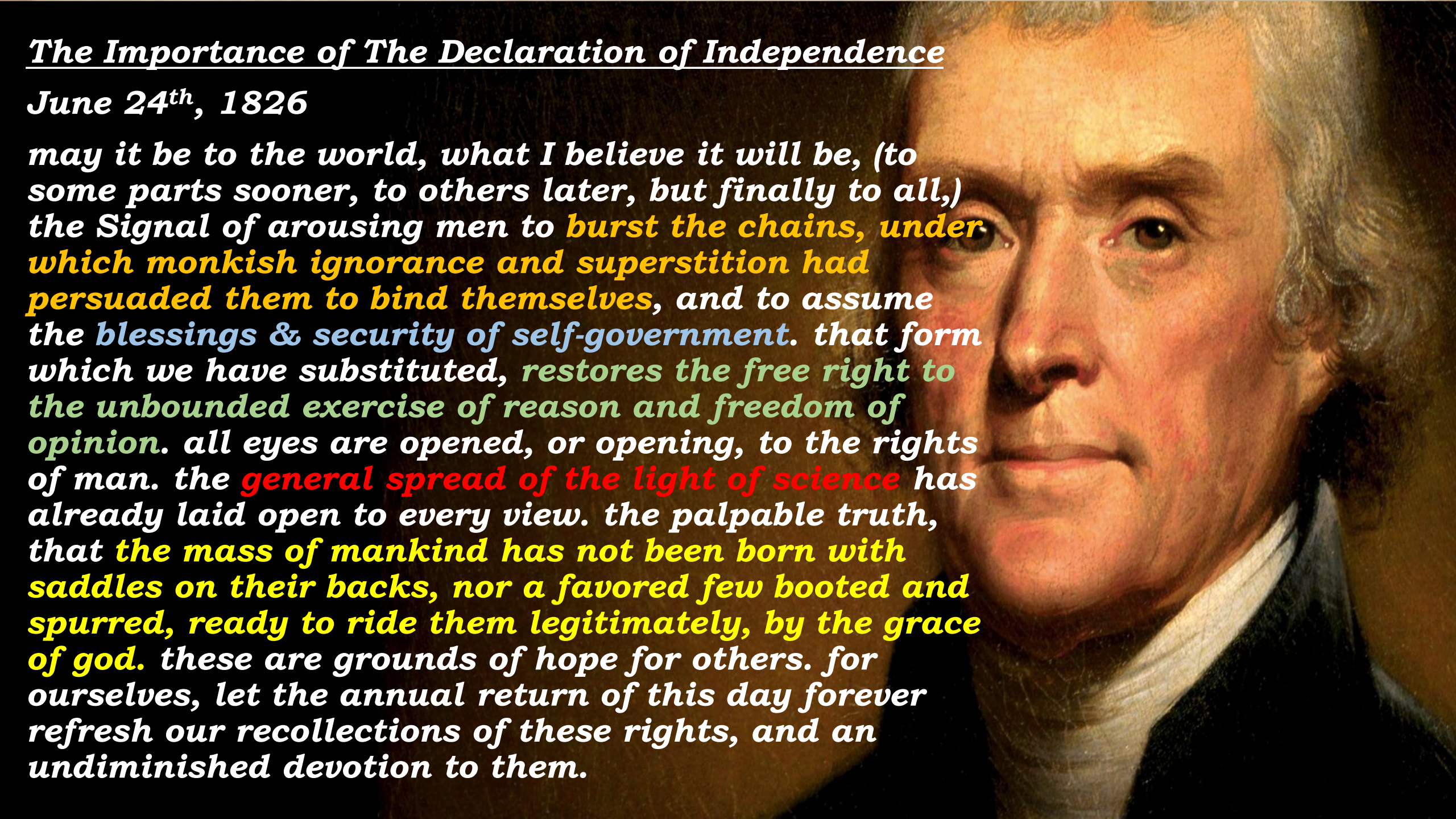
- **"Of the preamble I have taken little or no notice. The truth is, little or none does it deserve. The opinions of the modern Americans on Government… would be too ridiculous to deserve any notice… if they had not led to the most serious evils."**
- **"Nonsense upon stilts" "Hodge-podge of confusion and absurdity"**
- **"All men," they tell us, "are created equal." This rarity is a new discovery"**
- **"Calling rights 'unalienable' is dangerous because governments clearly do limit rights"**



- *[What is surprising] is that they should advance maxims so incompatible with their own present conduct. If the right of enjoying life be unalienable… If the right of pursuing happiness be unalienable, how is it that so many others of their fellow-citizens are by the same injustice and violence made miserable, their fortunes ruined, their persons banished and driven from their friends and families?*
- *Has his Majesty cut off their trade with all parts of the world? They first attempted to cut off the trade of Great Britain. Has his Majesty ordered their vessels to be seized ? They first burnt the vessels of the King. Has his Majesty sent troops to chastise them? They first took up arms against the authority of the King. Has his Majesty engaged the Indians against them? They first engaged Indians against the troops of the King.*



“The nation [Britain] will unite as one man, and teach this rebellious people, that it is one thing for them to say, the connection, which bound them to us, is dissolved, another to dissolve it; that to accomplish their independence is not quite so easy as to declare it… We too, I hope, shall acquiesce in the necessity of submitting to whatever burdens, of making whatever efforts may be necessary, to bring this ungrateful and rebellious people back to that allegiance they have long had it in contemplation to renounce, and have now at last so daringly renounced”



The Importance of The Declaration of Independence

June 24th, 1826

may it be to the world, what I believe it will be, (to some parts sooner, to others later, but finally to all,) the Signal of arousing men to burst the chains, under which monkish ignorance and superstition had persuaded them to bind themselves, and to assume the blessings & security of self-government. that form which we have substituted, restores the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. all eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man. the general spread of the light of science has already laid open to every view. the palpable truth, that the mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few booted and spurred, ready to ride them legitimately, by the grace of god. these are grounds of hope for others. for ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them.

Biblical Overtones of “He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.”

Exodus 10: *“The ground was completely covered, black with locusts. They ate everything…*

Psalms 53:4: *"the workers of iniquity . . . who eat up my people as they eat bread,"*

Deuteronomy 28:51: *An enemy nation "shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land until thou be destroyed”*



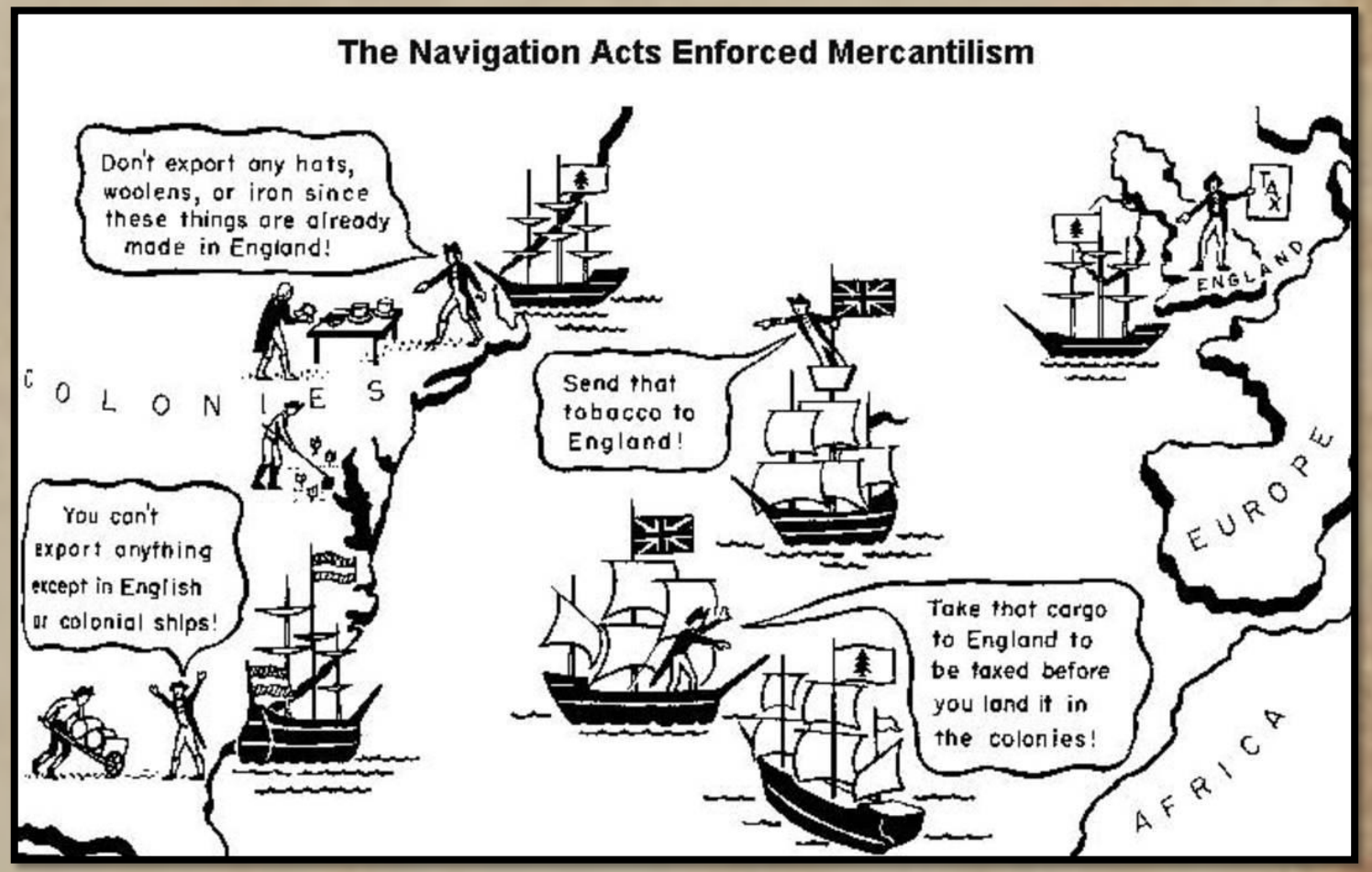
- HMS Gaspee, patrolling the waters of Narragansett Bay, off Rhode Island
- Local vessel lured Gaspee into shallow waters
- Sons of Liberty from Newport boarded the ship, wounded the captain, captured the crew, looted and burned the vessel
- Local courts refused to charge the attackers
- Parliament ordered perpetrators to be brought to England for trial
- Nothing came of it



- End of French & Indian War England took control of Canada from the French
- Act extended the province of Quebec into land Americans thought belonged to them
- Quebec Act instituted new policies
  - ✓French language could be used in civil proceedings
  - ✓Traditional system of French civil law could be continued
- Guaranteed religious freedom for Catholics. Restored their rights to participate in government
- Triggered anti-Catholic hysteria in New England
  - "Idolatrous" (saints, relics, rituals)
  - Corrupt and unbiblical



- Mercantilism: Dominant economic theory 1500-1800
- **Wealth was measured by gold and silver.**.
- **A country should export more than it imports.** Selling goods abroad brought wealth into the nation, while imports sent wealth out.
- **Colonies existed to benefit the mother country.** Colonies supplied raw materials and served as captive markets for finished goods.
- **Government should actively manage the economy.** Tariffs, trade regulations, monopolies, and navigation laws were used to strengthen national power and economic self-sufficiency.



Lord Dunmore's Proclamation (1775)

"And I do hereby further declare all indentured Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms,"



By His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN Earl of DUNMORE, His Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the same.

A PROCLAMATION.

As I have ever entertained Hopes, that an Accommodation might have taken Place between Great-Britain and this Colony, without being compelled by my Duty to this most disagreeable but now absolutely necessary Step, rendered so by a Body of armed Men unlawfully assembled, firing on His Majesty's Tenders, and the formation of an Army, and that Army now on their March to attack His Majesty's Troops and destroy the well disposed Subjects of this Colony. To defeat such traitorous Purposes, and that all such Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Justice, and that the Peace, and good Order of this Colony may be again restored, which the ordinary Course of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, hereby declaring, that until the aforesaid good Purposes can be obtained, I do in Virtue of the Power and Authority to me given, by His Majesty, determine to execute Martial Law, and cause the same to be executed throughout this Colony: and to the End that Peace and good Order may the sooner be restored, I do require every Person capable of bearing Arms, to resort to His Majesty's STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His Majesty's Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty the Law inflicts upon such Offenders; such as Forfeiture of Life, confiscation of Lands, &c. &c. And I do hereby further declare all indented Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His Majesty's Troops as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty, to His Majesty's Crown and Dignity. I do further order, and require, all His Majesty's Liege Subjects, to retain their Quintents, or any other Taxes due or that may become due, in their own Custody, till such Time as Peace may be again restored to this at present unhappy Country, or they shall receive Directions for the same Necessary Purposes, by Officers properly authorized to receive the same.

GIVEN under my Hand on board the Ship WILLIAM [illegible], the 7th Day of November, in the [illegible] Year of His Majesty's Reign.

DUNMORE.

GOD save the KING.