

Declaration of Independence by Tyler

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. ____ We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their **Creator** with certain unalienable rights; that among these are **life, liberty**, and the pursuit of Happiness__ That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security__ Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. ____ **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 invasions from without and convulsions within. ____ 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 migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands. ____ He has obstructed the administration of **Justice**,

by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.____He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.____He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.____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 offenses;____For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring 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, burned our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.____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.____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 insurrection among 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.____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 our 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 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**.

JOHN HANCOCK
JOSIAH BARTLETT,
WM. WHIPPLE,
MATTHEW THORNTON.
SAML. ADAMS,
JOHN ADAMS,
ROBT. TREAT PAINE,
ELBRIDGE GERRY
STEP. HOPKINS,
WILLIAM ELLERY.
ROGER SHERMAN,
SAM'EL HUNTINGTON,
WM. WILLIAMS,
OLIVER WOLCOTT.
WM. FLOYD,
PHIL. LIVINGSTON,
FRANS. LEWIS,
LEWIS MORRIS.
RICHD. STOCKTON,
JNO. WITHERSPOON,
FRAS. HOPKINSON,
JOHN HART,
ABRA. CLARK.
ROBT. MORRIS
BENJAMIN RUSH,
BENJA. FRANKLIN,
JOHN MORTON,
GEO. CLYMER,
JAS. SMITH,
GEO. TAYLOR,
JAMES WILSON,
GEO. ROSS.
CAESAR RODNEY,
GEO. READ,
THO. M'KEAN.
SAMUEL CHASE,
WM. PACA,

THOS. STONE,
CHARLES CARROLL of Carrollton.
GEORGE WYTHE,
RICHARD HENRY LEE,
TH. JEFFERSON,
BENJA. HARRISON,
THS. NELSON, JR.,
FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE,
CARTER BRAXTON.
WM. HOOPER,
JOSEPH HEWES,
JOHN PENN.
EDWARD RUTLEDGE,
THOS. HAYWARD, JUNR.,
THOMAS LYNCH, JUNR.,
ARTHUR MIDDLETON.
BUTTON GWINNETT,
LYMAN HALL,
GEO. WALTON.

Department of State

September 10 1817

The foregoing copy of the Declaration of Independence has been collated with the original instrument and found correct. I have myself examined the signatures to each. Those executed by Mr. Tyler are curiously exact imitations, so much so that it would be difficult to distinguish them were it not for the hand of time from the originals.

Richard Rush

Acting Secretary of State



Th. Jefferson
MONTICELLO