





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, converging invariably to 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 obliges 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, 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 refused his Assent to Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation to the Legislature, a Right inalienable 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 making 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, turned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean Time exposed to the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsion within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States, for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass other Laws to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

We the People
 insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common
 and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Const
 Article 1.
 Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a
 of Representatives
 Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several
 in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.
 No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a C
 and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.
 Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, as
 Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to service for a Term of
 three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of
 Congress, and subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives
 shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand. But no State shall have less Representatives than the least State. New York
 shall have at least one Representative.
 The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of Congress, and subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives
 shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand. But no State shall have less Representatives than the least State. New York
 shall have at least one Representative.



