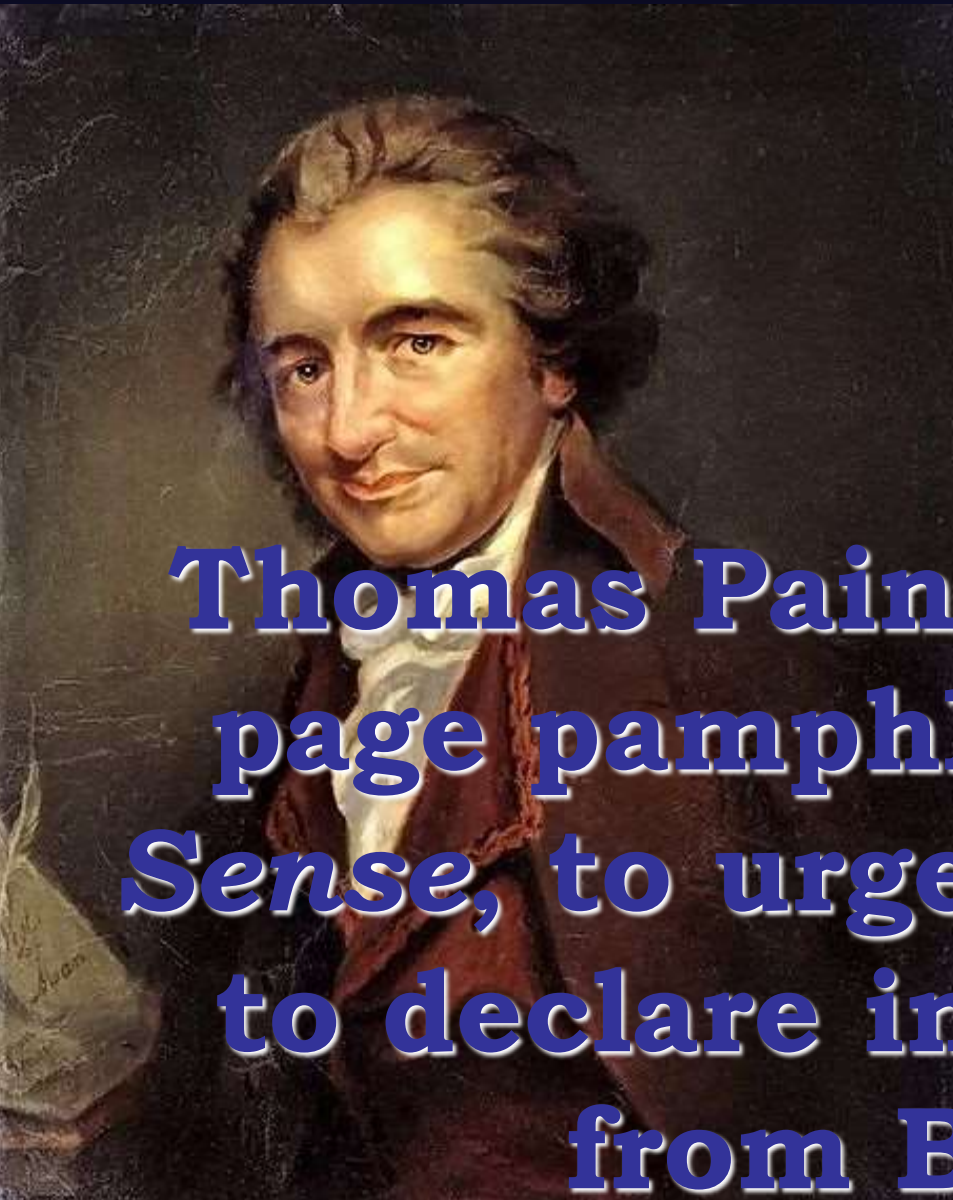


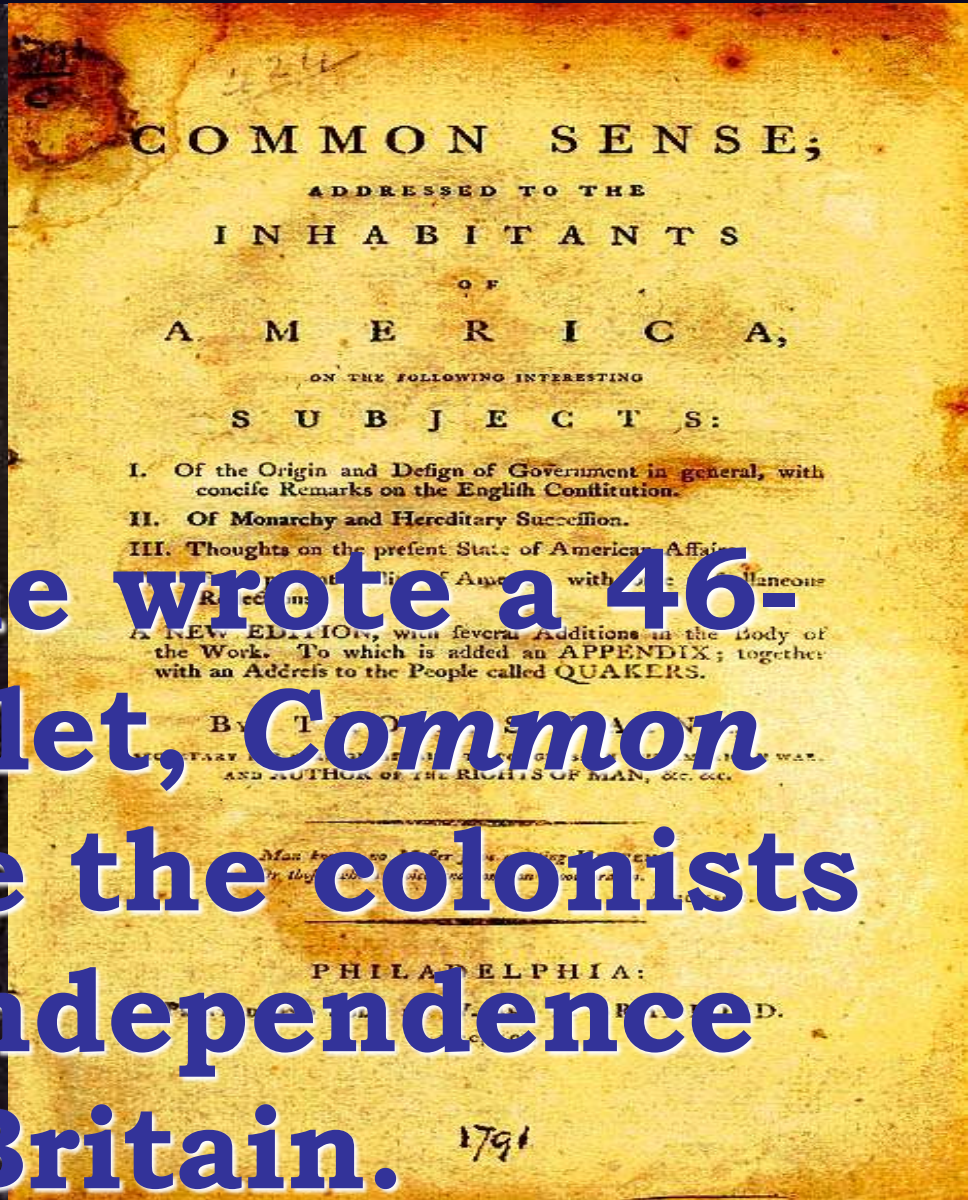



# The Declaration of Independence

**From Common Sense  
to a Common Cause**



**Thomas Paine wrote a 46-page pamphlet, *Common Sense*, to urge the colonists to declare independence from Britain.**



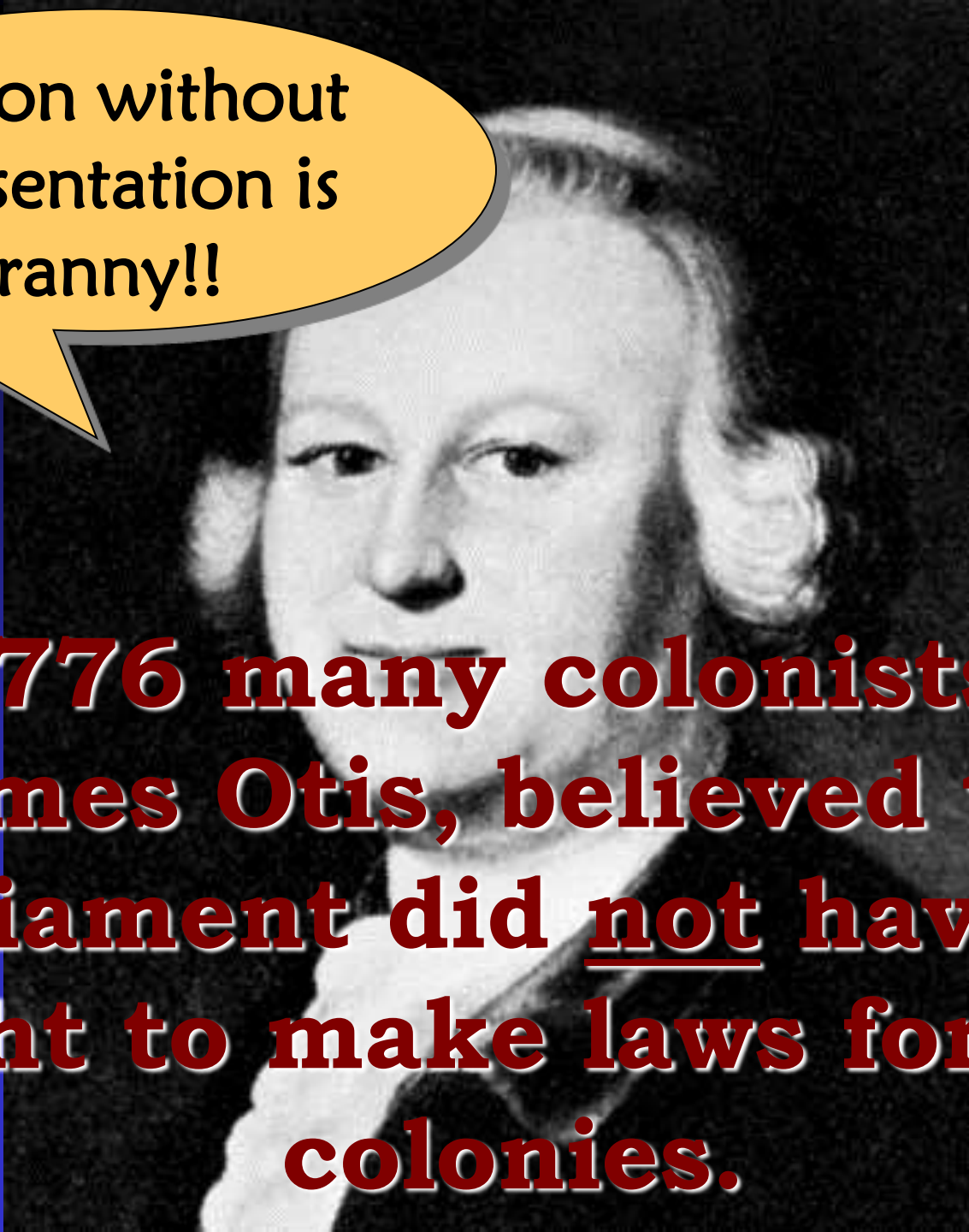


**Radicals—people who want to make drastic changes in society—began thinking of creating their own nation separate from Britain.**

A portrait of Thomas Paine, a man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a white cravat and a dark red coat. The portrait is set against a dark, textured background.

**YES!!!**

**So, was  
Thomas Paine  
a radical?**

A black and white portrait of James Otis, a prominent American lawyer and orator. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark coat and a white cravat. His hair is powdered and styled in a large, wavy wig. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the left of the viewer.

Taxation without  
representation is  
tyranny!!

**By 1776 many colonists, like James Otis, believed that Parliament did not have the right to make laws for the colonies.**

**Paine set out to change the colonists' attitudes toward Britain and the king.**

**What did the colonists owe them?**

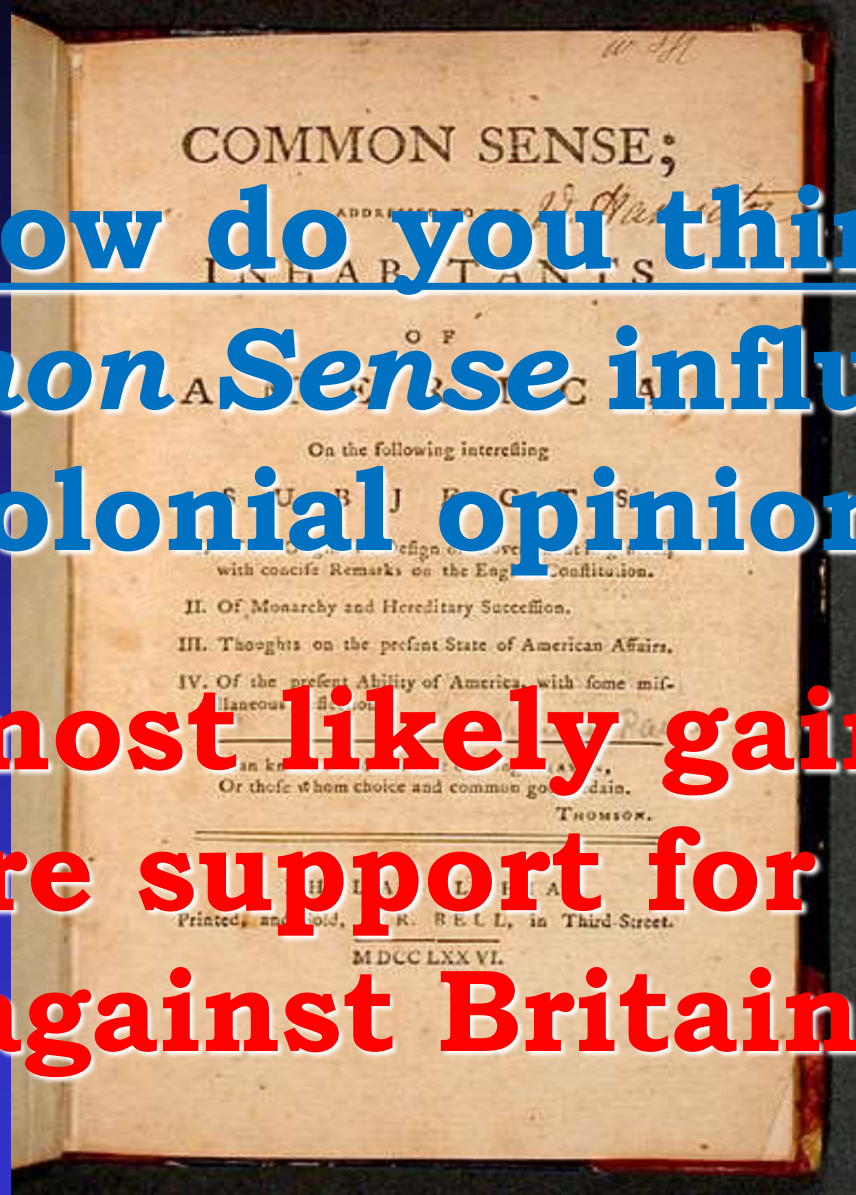
**Nothing—no loyalty to the king nor anything to Britain itself.**



How do you think

*Common Sense* influenced colonial opinion?

It most likely gained more support for war against Britain.



*to come of the whole Congress to whom was referred the resolution and  
upon the Declaration respecting independence? 17*

**“Resolved, 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.”**

Richard Henry Lee's Resolution, June 1776



The Com<sup>rs</sup> of the whole Congress to whom was referred the resolution and  
agreed the Declaration respecting independence? 17

Resolved That these <sup>united</sup> colonies are and of right  
ought to be free and independant states;  
that they are absolved from all allegiance  
to the brit<sup>ish</sup> crown and that all political  
connections between them and the  
said crown are dissolved

# Independence!! Freedom!!

Resolved  
The resolution for  
independancy  
agreed to July 2, 1776

1776  
July 2  
The resolution for  
independancy  
agreed to July 2, 1776

1776  
July 2  
The resolution for  
independancy  
agreed to July 2, 1776

What is  
Richard Henry Lee  
asking for?



**What could happen to the delegates once they declared independence?**

**They could be hanged as traitors.**

# The committee to draw up a formal declaration of independence included...



**Roger  
Sherman**

**Benjamin  
Franklin**

**Thomas  
Jefferson**

**John  
Adams**

**Robert  
Livingston**

# Who actually wrote the document?



Roger  
Sherman

Benj  
Fran



Thomas  
Jefferson



John  
Adams

Robert  
Livingston

**On 2 July 1776,  
the Continental Congress  
voted that the thirteen  
colonies were...**



**“free and independent States”**



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds 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, and according to these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, or to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such other Bases, and so adjusting its Powers as to give them the most effectual Security for the Protection of their unalienable Rights. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Duty of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such other Bases, and so adjusting its Powers as to give them the most effectual Security for the Protection of their unalienable Rights. That the history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct or indirect purpose the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be remembered, which prove that King George the Third has by his Acts and Messages, in various other Instances, endeavored to bring on a State of War with these Colonies. That he has refused to assent to or to sign the Laws most wholesome and necessary for the public good. That he has forbidden his Governors to pass Acts of the most urgent Nature, unless they should first be referred to and approved by him, before they should have the Force of Laws. That he has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing to assent to Acts for the better Regulation of the Judiciary. That he has endeavored to bring on a State of War with these Colonies by exciting the same to Hostilities with the neighboring Kingdoms of France and Spain. That he has cut off our Trade with all Parts of the World except his Majesty's Colonies. That he has refused to accept of the Petitions of the Deputies chosen by these Colonies. That he has imposed Taxes on us without our Consent. That he has deprived us of our Charters, and taken away the most valuable of them, by declaring us separate Colonies, and by abolishing our most valuable Charters, and by dissolving the Representative Assembly in Philadelphia, and by declaring that the Colonies were dissolved, and that the Colonies were to be governed as conquered Provinces. That he has refused to assent to Acts for the better Regulation of the Judiciary. That he has endeavored to bring on a State of War with these Colonies by exciting the same to Hostilities with the neighboring Kingdoms of France and Spain. That he has cut off our Trade with all Parts of the World except his Majesty's Colonies. That he has refused to accept of the Petitions of the Deputies chosen by these Colonies. That he has imposed Taxes on us without our Consent. That he has deprived us of our Charters, and taken away the most valuable of them, by declaring us separate Colonies, and by abolishing our most valuable Charters, and by dissolving the Representative Assembly in Philadelphia, and by declaring that the Colonies were dissolved, and that the Colonies were to be governed as conquered Provinces.

**The Declaration of Independence**  
**was adopted by the Continental**  
**Congress on 4 July 1776**

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

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 first declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, 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 connections between them and that Kingdom, are and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent States, they have full power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, enter into Commercials, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, we have subscribed our names, and the united Declaration of the Representatives of the thirteen united States of America.

Who signed the Declaration first?

John Hancock

President of the Continental Congress

**Let's take a closer  
look at the document  
some refer to as our  
"Foundation of Freedom"**

JULY 4, 1776.

CONGRESS  
States of America

Declaration

When in the course of human events... 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... We have to protest 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...









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

**W**HEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

**PREAMBLE**

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, and that any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, when it fails to protect them, and when it attempts to extend its Power beyond the Bounds, prescribed by the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God, 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 Manner, as to them shall seem most likely to promote their Safety and Happiness. In all these Cases, the Principles, in which they are established, should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experiments have been endeavored to be retained as long as possible, and according to the Course of Principles, and the Principles of Liberty, which have been tried, and which have proved to be inadequate to these Ends, it is the Duty of the People to throw off such Government, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Manner, as to them shall seem most likely to promote their Safety and Happiness. The History of the United States is a History of repeated Injuries and Oppressions, all tending to the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

**NATURAL RIGHTS**

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most equitable and necessary, which have passed the Legislature of the United States, unless he should first assent to a Declaration, that he would suspend the Execution of the same, until he should see fit to order a new Congress to be chosen, and when it is dissolved, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

**BRITISH WRONGS**

He has refused to assent to Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in 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 fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures. He has refused to assent to Laws, the most equitable and necessary, which have passed the Legislature of the United States, unless he should first assent to a Declaration, that he would suspend the Execution of the same, until he should see fit to order a new Congress to be chosen, and when it is dissolved, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to assent to Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in 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 fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures. He has refused to assent to Laws, the most equitable and necessary, which have passed the Legislature of the United States, unless he should first assent to a Declaration, that he would suspend the Execution of the same, until he should see fit to order a new Congress to be chosen, and when it is dissolved, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

(Notice how most of this document is a listing of grievances against the king!)

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**INDEPENDENCE**

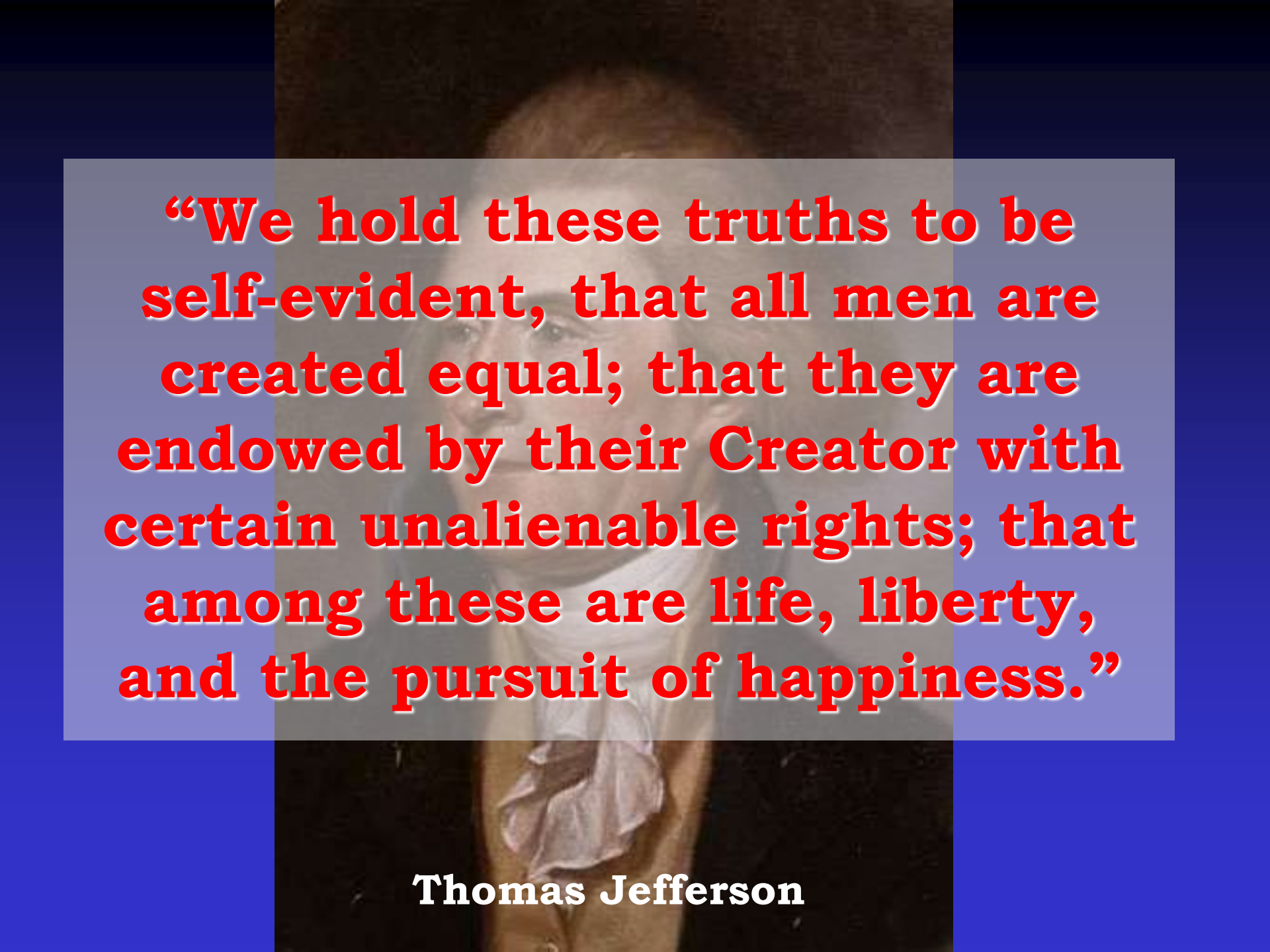
That the United Colonies by the Declaration of Independence, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, do hereby Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown; that all former Connections and Ties, which have bound them to Great-Britain, are and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free, Bold, and Loyal Subjects of the Emperor of Great-Britain, they have assumed the sole and exclusive Power, Authority, and Jurisdiction, in and over themselves, in the full and complete Sense in which those Words are understood by the People of all Kingdoms; and that all future Intercourse with Great-Britain, shall be on equal Terms with Friends, and not on a dependent or subordinate Basis.

Signed by Order and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,  
**JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.**  
ATTEST.  
**CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.**  
PHILADELPHIA: PRINTED BY JOHN DONLAK.

# The Declaration of Independence

## Natural Rights



A portrait of Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, is shown in the background. He is wearing a white cravat and a dark coat. The portrait is centered and slightly faded to allow the text to be read clearly.

**“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.”**

**Thomas Jefferson**

An aerial photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The building is a large, white, neoclassical structure with a prominent dome. It is surrounded by green lawns and other government buildings. The city's grid pattern is visible in the background.

**According to the Declaration, why do people form governments?**

**In order to protect their natural rights & liberties.**





**How can  
governments exist?**

**Only if they have the  
“consent of the governed.”**



**What if government fails to protect the rights of its citizens?**

**It is the people's "right [and] duty to throw off such government...."**



# The Declaration of Independence

British Wrongs

A full-length portrait of King George III in royal attire, standing in a grand room with classical architecture. He is wearing a white powdered wig, a white ermine-trimmed cape over a blue and gold patterned coat, and a white cravat. He is looking slightly to the right.

**Why did Jefferson  
condemn King George III?**

**For disbanding colonial  
legislatures and for  
sending troops to the  
colonies in peacetime.**

**King George III**

A black and white portrait of King George III, shown from the chest up. He is wearing a dark coat over a white waistcoat and a white cravat. The portrait is set within an octagonal frame. The background of the slide is blue, with a white vertical band behind the portrait.

**Jefferson listed two additional complaints:**

- 1. Limits on trade**
- 2. Taxes without representation**

**King George III**



**How did the colonies  
try to correct these  
injustices?**

**They had petitioned  
the king.**

**Olive Branch Petition**

The image features the Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom as a background. It is a shield divided into four quarters. The top-left quarter is red with a white lion passant guardant. The top-right quarter is white with a red lion passant guardant. The bottom-left quarter is blue with a white harp. The bottom-right quarter is red with a white lion passant guardant. In the center is a shield with a white horse. Above the shield is a crown. The shield is supported by a lion on the left and a unicorn on the right.

**What was Jefferson's  
bold conclusion about  
King George III?**

**He was a tyrant and  
not fit to rule.**

# The Declaration of Independence

# Independence



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

**The last part  
of the Declaration  
announces what?**

**That the  
colonies are the  
United States  
of America.**

ATTEST.  
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

PHILADELPHIA: PRINTED BY JOHN DONLAK.



**What has happened  
to all of our political  
ties with Britain?**

**All political ties  
with Britain have  
been cut.**

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with red and white horizontal stripes and a blue canton containing white stars. The text is overlaid on this background.

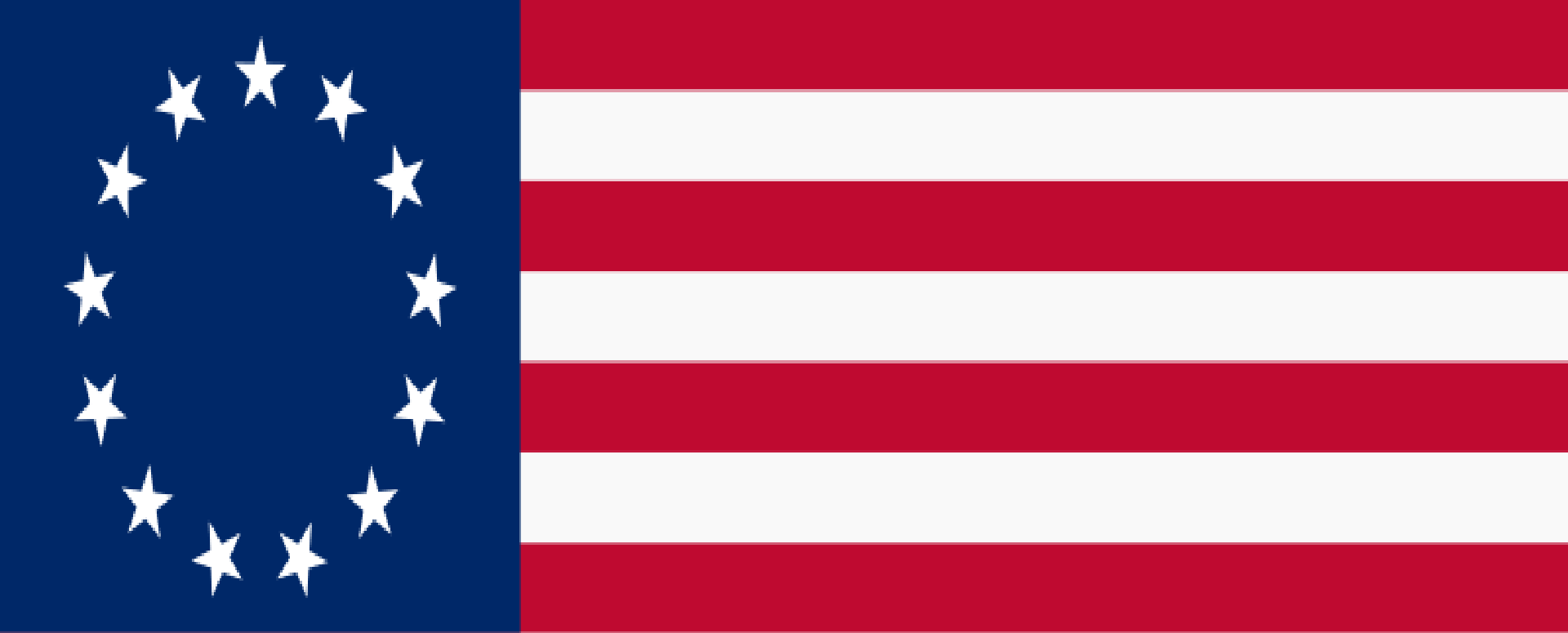
**As a free and independent nation, the United States has the full power to do four activities:**

- 1. levy war**
- 2. conclude peace**
- 3. contract alliances**
- 4. establish commerce**

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with red and white horizontal stripes and a blue canton with white stars. The text is overlaid on this background.

**The signers closed with this  
solemn pledge:**

**“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.””**



[A Reading of the Declaration of Independence \(2000\)](#)