

# **...These Truths...**

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# Agenda

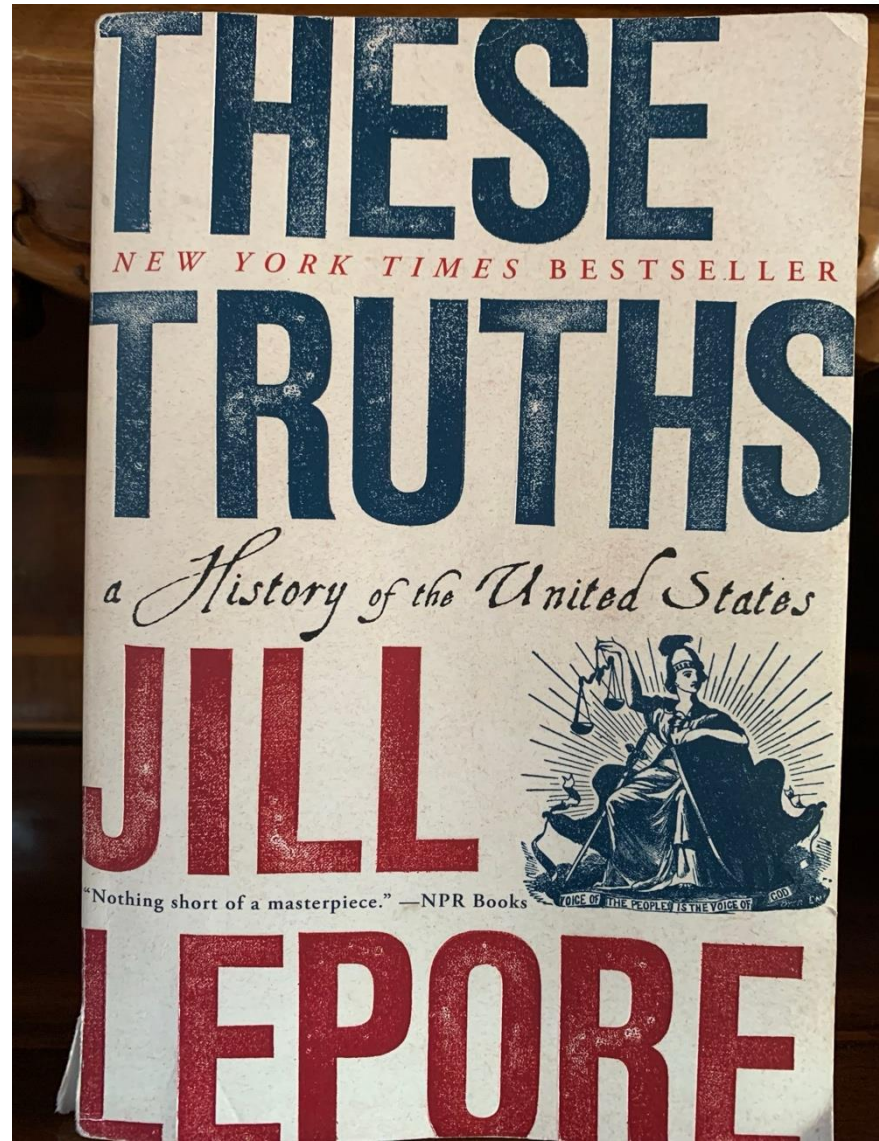
**Background**

**Brief History**

**Declaration of Independence**

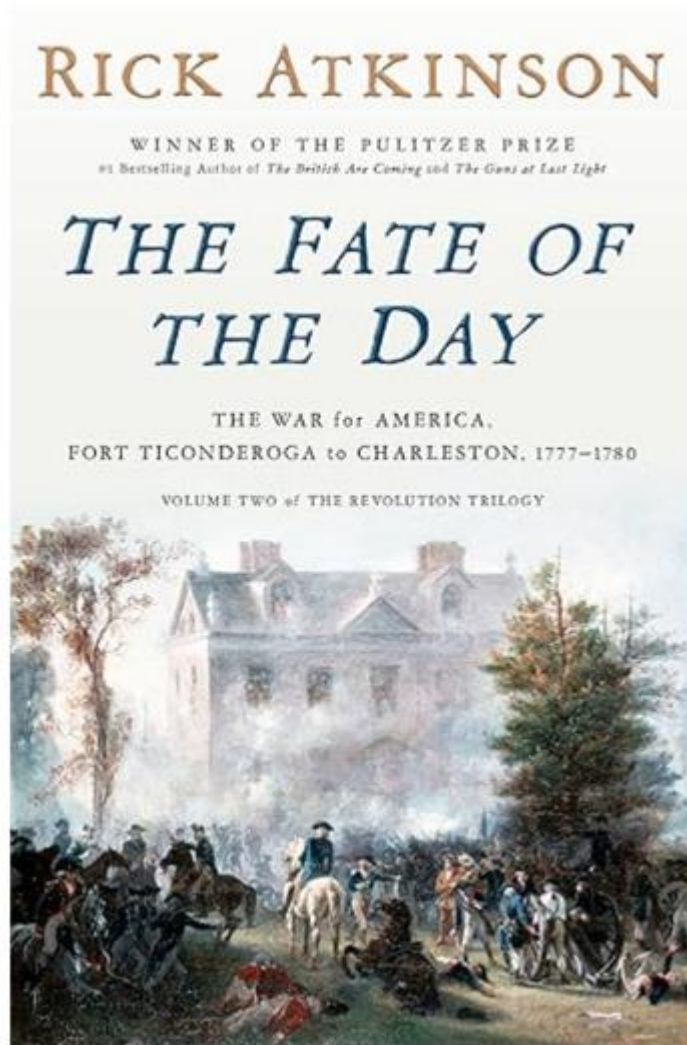
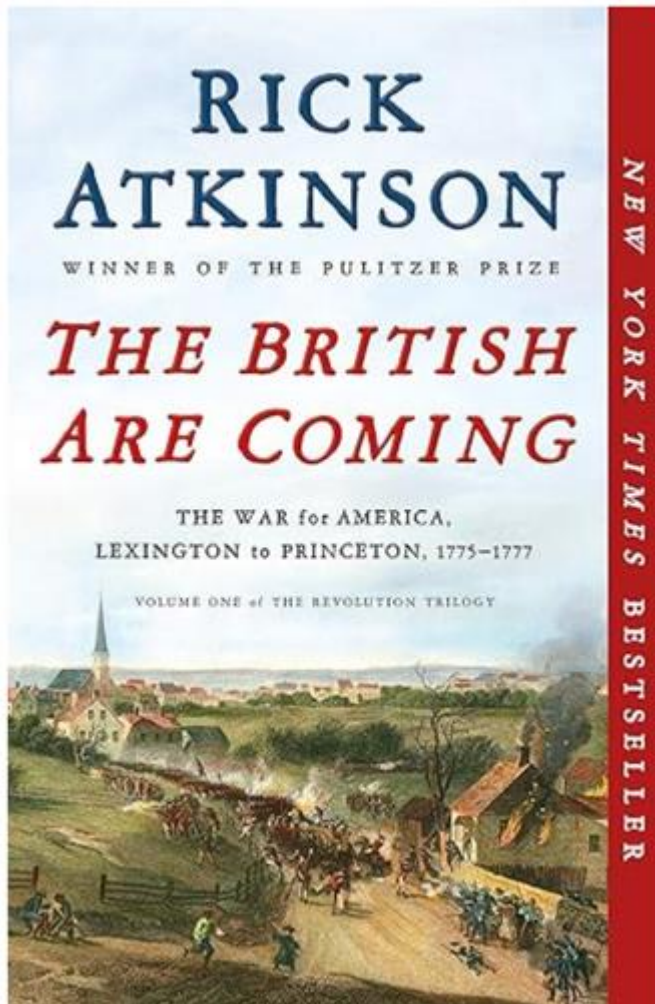
# Understand Where We've Come From

## Good, Bad, and Ugly



# Rick Atkinson

## Volumes One and Two of his Revolution Trilogy



# *Four score and seven years ago..*

*our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation,  
**conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men  
are created equal.***

*Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation,  
or any nation **so conceived and so dedicated**, can long endure.*

***It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished  
work** which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. –  
that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain  
– **that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and  
that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall  
not perish from the earth.***

# Key Dates

1756 - 1763 7 Years War / French and Indians War

5 March 1770 Boston Massacre

## ***We hold these Truths..***

19 APR 1775 *Shot heard 'round the world*

4 JUL 1776 Declaration of Independence

6 Feb 1777 Treaty of Alliance with France

17 OCT 1781 Yorktown

3 SEP 1783 Treaty of Paris

## ***We the People..***

17 SEP 1787 Constitution signed

21 JUN 1788 Constitution ratified (9/13 ratified)

4 MAR 1789 Congress met in New York; Constitution in effect

# John Locke

## 17<sup>th</sup> Century English Philosopher/Political Theorist

**Enlightenment:** a European intellectual movement of the 17th and 18th centuries; emphasized reason, individualism, and skepticism as pathways to knowledge and societal progress.

Enlightenment challenged traditional authority, particularly religious and political institutions, and championed ideas like liberty, constitutional government, and the separation of church and state.

John Locke refuted the divine right of kings.

He argued that all persons are endowed with natural rights of life, liberty, and natural property and that governments are established to protect these rights; And that rulers who fail to protect these rights may be removed by the people, by force if necessary.

# 13 Colonies



## 13 Colonies in Order

1. Virginia – 1607
2. New York – 1626
3. Massachusetts Bay – 1630
4. Maryland – 1633
5. Rhode Island – 1636
6. Connecticut – 1636
7. New Hampshire – 1638
8. Delaware – 1638
9. North Carolina – 1653
10. South Carolina – 1663
11. New Jersey – 1664
12. Pennsylvania – 1682
13. Georgia – 1732

# 7 Years War 1756-1763

## French and Indians War: 1754-1763

**7 Years War:** Franco-British fighting in North America, Europe, and India became the original “world war”.

Britain/Prussia/Hanover vs France/Austria/Sweden/Saxony + Spain; Portugal

**French and Indians War:** North American France-Britain border dispute; subset of the “world war”.

French & Indian allies vs British/Americans & Iroquois Confederation.

Result:

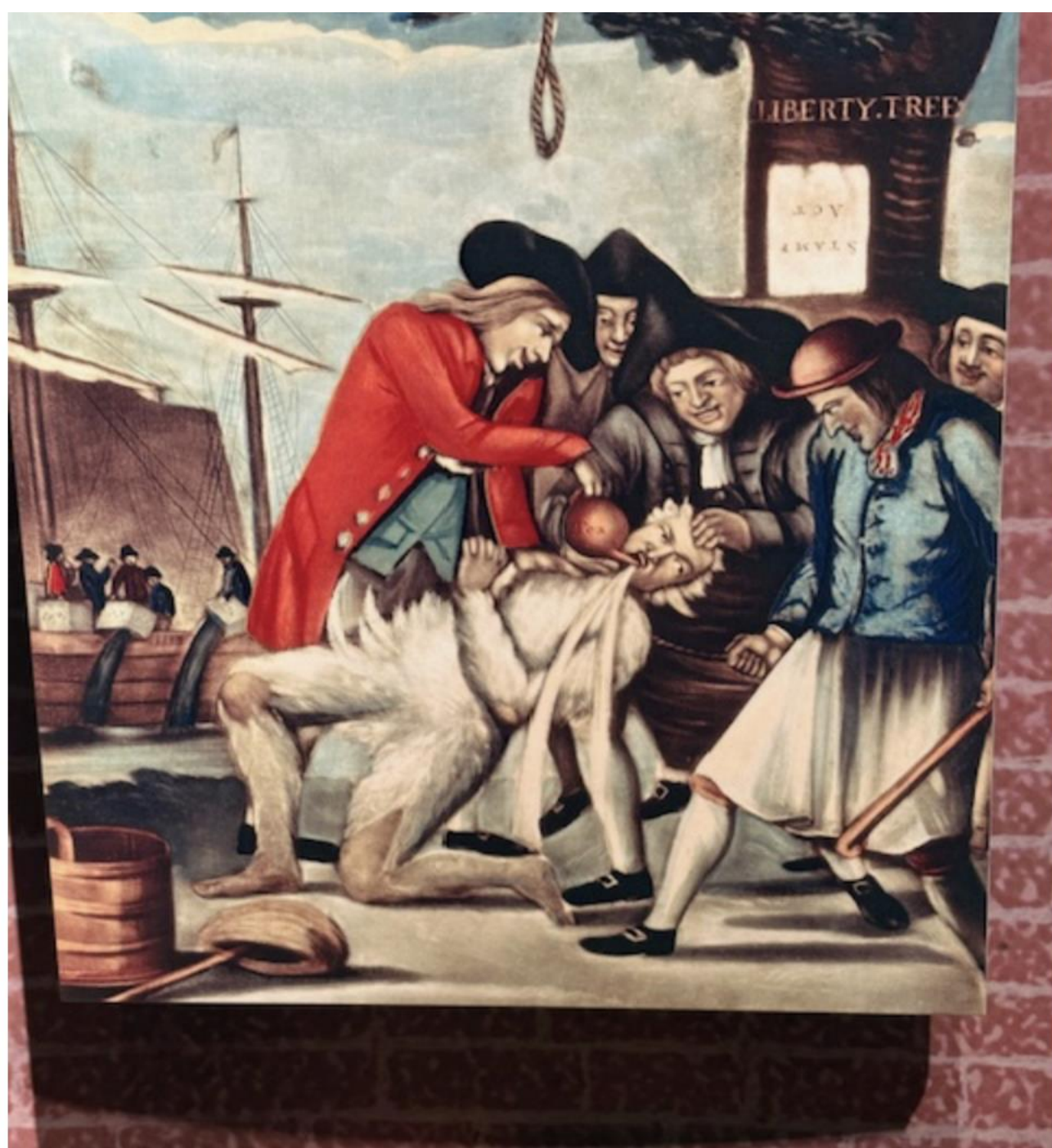
--1.0-1.4 M casualties worldwide;

-Britain's consolidated into the British Empire.

→Britain was in debt;

-→Britain taxed the Colonies to help pay their debt;

-- **→Taxation without representation**



# Boston Massacre

## 5 March 1770

British soldiers were sent to control Bostonians protesting the Townsend Acts, a British tax on goods imported by the colonies.

British Soldiers and colonists clashed. Five colonists were killed.

Crispus Attucks, a freed slave, is thought to be the first American killed in the American Revolution.

John Adams served as defense attorney for the British soldiers. The soldiers were acquitted.

# Edenton Resolves

25 OCT 1774

Political protest organized by women in Edenton, North Carolina in response to the British Parliament's Tea Act of 1773.

Fifty-one women, led by Penelope Barker, signed a document and mailed it to England pledging to boycott British goods, primarily tea and cloth, to protest "*taxation without representation*".

Edenton Resolves is considered one of the earliest examples of political activism by women in the American colonies.

# Colonial Powers 1774



- British Empire
- Kingdom of France
- Spanish Empire
- Tsardom of Muscovy

# First Continental Congress

## SEP – OCT 1774

Met in Philadelphia in response to:

- British Navy blockade of Boston Harbor; and
- British Parliament's punitive Intolerable Acts in response to the Boston Tea Party.

12/13 colonies attended (Georgia); elected by the people of their respective colony or its legislature

Initially could not agree on the purpose of the Congress.

Eventually compromised/agreed to the Suffolk Resolves:

- declaration of grievances;
- called for a trade boycott of British goods; and
- urged each colony to set up and train its own militia.

**Agreed to meet the following year if needed...**

# Second Continental Congress

## 1775 - 1781

Convened in Philadelphia; 13/13 colonies attended

Governed during the Revolutionary War

Olive Branch Petition July 1775

Established our Army, Navy, and Marine Corps

Declaration of Independence

Alliances with France, Spain, Netherlands

Could not tax; but could borrow

Articles of Confederation

# Enlistment Oath

14 June 1775

"I \_\_\_\_\_ have, this day, **voluntarily enlisted myself**, as a soldier, in the American continental army, for one year, unless sooner discharged; And I do bind myself to **conform, in all instances, to such rules and regulations, as are, or shall be, established for the government of the said Army**".

Second Continental Congress Act which created our Army

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Our Army        | 14 JUN 1775 |
| Our Navy:       | 13 OCT 1775 |
| Our USMC:       | 10 NOV 1775 |
| Our PHS:        | 4 JAN 1889  |
| Our Air Force:  | 18 SEP 1947 |
| Our Space Force | 19 DEC 2019 |

Military Medicine: 27 JUL 1775

Chaplains: 29 JUL 1775

# **Revolutionary War Battles prior to 4 July 1776**

**Lexington and Concord (19 APR 1775)**

**Siege of Boston (19 APR 1775 - 17 MAR 1776)**

**Capture of Fort Ticonderoga (10 MAY 1775)**

**Invasion of Quebec (JUN 1775 - OCT 1776)**

**Battle of Bunker Hill (17 JUN 1775)**

**Sullivan's Island (28 JUN 1776)**

# COMMON SENSE

ADDRESSED TO THE  
INHABITANTS  
OF  
AMERICA

WRITTEN BY AN  
*ENGLISHMAN*

JANUARY 10, 1776

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THOMAS PAINE

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PRESENTED BY  
COVENTRY HOUSE PUBLISHING

# Common Sense

Thomas Paine, 10 January 1776

*In the following pages I offer nothing more than simple facts, plain arguments, and common sense: and have no other preliminaries to settle with the reader, than that he will divest himself of prejudice and prepossession, and suffer his reason and his feelings to determine for themselves:*

*But there is another and greater distinction for which no truly natural or religious reason can be assigned, and that is the distinction of men into KINGS and SUBJECTS....*

*To the evil of monarchy we have added that of hereditary succession; ...claimed as a matter of right, is an insult and imposition on posterity.*

*For all men being originally equals, no one by birth could have a right to set up his own family in perpetual preference to all others for ever....*

# Common Sense

Thomas Paine, January 1776

*We ought to reflect, that there are three different ways by which an independancy may hereafter be effected; and that one of those three, will, one day or other, be the fate of America, viz. By the legal voice of the people in Congress; by a military power; or by a mob*

*A situation, similar to the present, hath not happened since the days of Noah until now. The birthday of a new world is at hand*

# 7 June 1776

## 2cd Continental Congress

**The Lee Resolution:** formal motion introduced by Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee under instruction from the Virginia Convention.

***...that these united colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states...***

The full motion consisted of three parts:

- **Independence:** Declared that the colonies were "free and independent States" completely absolved of all allegiance to the British Crown.
- **Foreign Alliances:** Called for taking immediate measures to secure foreign allies.
- **Confederation:** Urged the preparation of a plan for colonial confederation.

Several colonies were not yet authorized to vote in favor of independence; Congress delayed the vote to ensure unanimity.

# 11 June 1776

## 2cd Continental Congress

Committee to draft a Declaration of Independence:

|                    |          |               |
|--------------------|----------|---------------|
| Thomas Jefferson.  | Author   | Virginia      |
| John Adams.        | Editor   | Massachusetts |
| Benjamin Franklin. | Editor   | Pennsylvania  |
| Roger Sherman.     | Reviewer | Connecticut   |
| Robert Livingston. | Reviewer | New York      |

*We hold these truths sacred and undeniable..*

Jefferson

*We holds these truths to be self-evident..*

Franklin

# Declaration Committee

- **John Adams:** our 1<sup>st</sup> VP and 2cd President.
- **Thomas Jefferson:** our 2cd VP and 3rd President.
- **Benjamin Franklin:** only person to sign the [Declaration of Independence](#), [Treaty of Alliance with France](#), [Treaty of Paris](#), and [U.S. Constitution](#)
- **Richard Sherman:** the only person to sign all four of the U.S. state papers: the [Continental Association](#), the [Declaration](#), the [Articles of Confederation](#), and the [Constitution](#).
- **Richard Livingston:** did not sign the [Declaration](#); served as the first [US Secretary of Foreign Affairs](#), administered the [presidential oath of office](#) at the [first inauguration of George Washington](#) and negotiated the [Louisiana Purchase](#) as the minister to France.

# **Declaration of Independence**



# Declaration of Independence

## 2cd Continental Congress

*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 declare the causes which impel them to the separation.*

# Declaration of Independence

4 July 1776

*We hold these Truths to be self evident that all Men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights 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 hold these Truths to be self evident that**

***all Men are created equal,  
endowed by their Creator with certain  
inalienable Rights 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 abolish it..***

*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...it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government...*

*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*

*Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies*

*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.*

***...let Facts be submitted to a candid world.***

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for public good.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

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 affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

# ...let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

*For Quarters large bodies of armed troops among us;*

*For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;*

*For depriving us in many cases, the benefits of Trial by Jury;*

*For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.*

***...let Facts be submitted to a candid world.***

*He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, destruction and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages.*

*He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose know rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.*

# ***Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren.***

*We have warned them for time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarranted 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 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, therefore, the Representatives of the  
united States of America...solemnly publish and declare*

*that these United Colonies are, and **of Right ought to be Free and Independent States**; that they are absolved of all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is an 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.*

# Declaration of Independence

## original parchment

*1776: Rolled up and stored by the 2nd Continental Congress Secretary*

*Moved from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey*

*1785: New York (US capital)*

*1790: Philadelphia (US capital)*

*1800: Washington, DC (US capital)*

*1841: Public display in the US Patent Office*

*1876: Independence Hall, Philadelphia*

*1924: Library of Congress*

*1952: National Archives, under armed guard*

# Our Declaration of Independence

4 July 1776

**The Declaration did not create a nation.**

***It created only the idea of a nation,* and that idea, as its scope and meaning have evolved over time, is what we annually pay our respects to. All who live here are equal. All who live here have the same rights. None who lives here is above the law. In some years, loyalty to those principles seems like something we can take for granted....**

Louis Menand

# Questions? Thoughts?

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# AMERICAN STRUGGLE

DEMOCRACY, DISSENT, AND THE  
PURSUIT OF A MORE PERFECT UNION

AN ANTHOLOGY

## JON MEACHAM

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

SIGNED  
COPY



# Dr Martin Luther King, Jr

***The arc of the moral universe is long, but it  
bends towards justice.***

# Dr Martin Luther King, Jr

***The arc of the moral universe is long, but it  
bends towards justice.***