# IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

# The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of Homerica.

<u></u>	0				
space sweng the flewers of the early the februs	bert in the lower of human or ate and equal flation to which the	Low of Nature and of Natur	is God netitle them, a de	ant respect to the opinions of	mankend requires that may
thenid declare the confes which impat them to	the phasalien .	- We peld these traths to	he felf-eredent, that all m	on an enough report; that the	y air endourie by inin culture
with within unaturate Aights, that among	t there are day, Larrely and the	c fixesmal of Stappings As	at to grown these region, of	LACTURAL CONTRACTOR OF THE	any chan, morning and
power from the consent of the goouned , - In	at sciences any drom of Genera	ment becomes distructive of the	ic rends , it is the stight of t	ne cregne is also or so account	phinele Produce whet.
Gernament , laying its foundation on such fit	maples and organizing its fl	overs in ouch form, as to them	Strate sum more way to	the Marine Mad mankind a	y more Subout tolution while
will stictate that Governments long established for our fulfacible, than to right themselves by	aceta not of enangor pretiget abelieking the forms to which	they are accustomed. But	chen along train of abusi	s and u fur pations, pursuing	invariably the same Object
evines a disign to reduce them under absolute	Despotion , it is their right , it	is their daty , to the ow of such	Government , and to pro	vide new Guards for their for	there family - Such has
bun the palant fufferance of these believes; as	ed fuch is now the necessity who	ich constrains them to alter the	a former Systems of Gover	ument. The history of	the present King of Great
evines a long to reduce him under absolub Despektion, it is him right, its hair duly, is there of such become of your and to provide now funds for their federic federics, and fach is never the newfield which constrous them to alter than former displants of General more fine history of the present. Sing of Great Biddin is a history of a protect injuries and apprehens, all having in duct object the effectionment of an absolute Tyranny over these states. So from the let state to formatted to a similar world.  It has footiden his threat to lower, the most which some and majoring to the partie good.  It has footiden his free format to love from the title of the effect of the state of more than the footiden in the control of the surface to the surface of more than the footidents. It is not the surface to the surface to the surface to the surface of the surface to the surface of the surface to the surface to the surface of the surface to the su					
would . He has refused his theat to low, he most whatever and reciprograph for furthe good . He has produced no to good was a grap store of months and reciprograph for the first to the state of the st					
and personal importance unity imperiod in the operation the host freque would element and win a paper of Representation in the Legislature, a right in flumba tellum and farmedable paper this summer of the grant of large districts of flexible, unlife them and farmedable and the summer of the summer of the property of					
to becaute whe . He has called broulen broaders at blaces univered, encountertable, and distint from the eleboration of their Mubble Records, in the sets Runfrow of subject of the sets Runfrow of subject of the sets Runfrow of subject of the sets					
compliance with his margines . Me has dispersed Republisher House repeatedly, for opposing with many famous his invasions on the rights of the people . He has reposed for					
along time after wach depolation, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative flower, in expable of Uninhalation, have retiremed to the Coople at large for their servine; the state remain					
compliana with his margare.  Ite has dispersed Republishive House repeatedly, be appointing with manly framely his warpens on the night of the footh. Ite has referred for a long time, ofter such dispersion, to cause often let for front account the holes remaining in first warmen ing in the man time capacity that danger of locarion from without, and convaisons within.  Ite has indexward to provent that the frequential of them details for that purpose within a first has indicated from the frequent of the frequential of them details for the forested his line of the state of the frequents of the frequents of the day of the first forested his line and the first forested from the first forested for the first forested from					
Abunimitation of Junton by refusing his Upart to Saw for establishing Juliences Jewes — He has made Judges dependent on his that show, for the beaver of their opens, since the amount and frayment of their reduces — He has restricted a multitude of New Offices, and west helper juvames of Offices to have for the soul and out that frontions — He has restricted as made for the formation of frame standard of the local frame of the has contained a surface of the soul of the s					
as in towns of from Manching Assence without the bownet of our legislatures. He has agriced to under the Williams independent of and superior to the Cert forward. He has among					
with thus to fujured as to a junishaben faming to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Ufficial tellion Utility of probable dequilation. — In Granking large bodies of armed brooks among as :— For protecting them, by a more thind from It anishment for any Mandre which they should commit on the Inhabitants of how estates — For conting of our Trake with all parts of the worlds of Foreign James on an earlie out our world out our known! — In depressing we in many count, the brought of train by fary — For inhabitang the few desires of English classes in a might using Personal, absolution of the brought of trains of the boundary government, and intergrap its Boundary or or transfer and supplies of the suppli					
armed troops among is - For protesting the	em, by a mock third, from flun	ishmint for any Munders wh	ick they should commit i	on the Inhabitants of these	dates :- der calling of
our Frak with all fraits of the world : - For	imposing James on us with on	tour Connent: _ Sa deprin	Pring wo many cases, of	the verifies of Just by jusy	- In transporting us vegos
on toward if stone on somble and lit in	thousand by introducing the six	me shoolate rale outs then be	lonies : For taking	array our Charles , abolishing	ng our most valuable Lows, and
altering fundamentally the Frame of our Good	nments - For suspending .	our own Legislature, and dea	aring themselves involve	I with prover to legislate for	as in all cares wholever
althing fundamentally the Fams of our Specaments — Fee suspending our own Legislature, and declaring themselves involved with forces to legislate for us in all cause whatevoor — Me has abdicated Government has by declaring us out offer Relative and waging this against us . — He has plunteed on was consigle on boots, based on trans, and deshroud the lines					
All has arbitrated becomment has by historing as out office Relation and arraging this against as . — The has pluntered on some carraged one broads, board our tricers, and deskriged the laws of our friends. — He is at this him transporting large Union of friends of funding Unionality of flavored of lands, about this contains and destroyed began with insumations of breakly of prophy					
facility paralleled in the most backarow ages and betalig invariety the Need of a civilized native. ——He has constrained our fallow betazine taken begit in which high sless to bear Arms against their bounds; to become the according between the according from the parallel and Bulkaro, arts full themselves by their Hands . — He has centrallel elements informations amongst yes and has endowward to bring on the					
there boundary, to become the accordinary of these par	nds and Diction, octofall the	land of min Stands 0	te has ainted commone in	Landitine Observe	Men althou Ostralions 142
inhestered of our freshins, the meralife butwar elavages, whose known rate of war fars is an underlyguished blassation of all ages from and conditions. In course flags of three Oppositions 102- have Political for Pedists in the most humble terms. Our reported Political have been consecuted by topolide injury. A Pena, whose character is bleve marked by every and which may define a Tyronds, is unfet tible the order of a few freeface. Note have lite home wanting in national war on Belitish brilliam. We have warmed them from time telius of alterifie by their depolation to active an universal.					
is wefit tobe the order of a fee freple . Not his	in the bun wanting in attention	w to our Billish bothen . We	have warmed them from tim	a betieve of altempts by their l	ogiolatus to extend an universal
- Ale unisdiction over us . We have remended the	m of the circumstances of our end	gration and fellament here . 1.	t have appealed to these na	the puriod and magnanisming	e, and we have terywise them.
by the ties of our common kindred to disavour !	hose is fen frátiens, which, would	snewlatig mirright our conn	etliens and correspondence	Skey too have been deaf	to the very of justice and of
consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce	us of the united States of	Emerica in General bong	the alternated, appending	to the Supreme Judge of the	world for the westitude of our in .
De Bertove, the Representatives of the until States of Memerica, in General Congreps, Alembid, appoiling to the Superna Judge of the world for the restaints of our in Sations, ele, in the Name and by stationity of the good Right of the following friends of the Congression and States of the S					
States; that Hay are theoload from all allegiance to the British brown; and that all political consistion between them and the destroy by freed British; is and ought to be testily deposed; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Bounds boy Has, conclude Bows, exclude Alliances, establish by monores, and be do all other Ald and Things which Independent					
that as Free and Independent States, the	y have full Power to boy War, to	nclude Peace, contract Allianous,	establish Commerce, and	to do all other Add and The	inge which Independent
States may of right do And for and our faceed Honor I	the fupport of this Declaration	with a fum whance on the fire			
and our justice others.	gra Morpers	John Hancock	- Nob Morris Benjamintin	, Killeyst	prink Bartlett
	Implettures,	1-0	Bunjaminkie	n Chi Lington	Tan Adams
Button Gunerally	John Pinn	Samuel Cherry	Boy Trunklin	San! Linu	11 1.
Syman Hall.	year Cinn	10th Paras	of the Hot	Twis Morris	John Adams
GeoWallow.		The Stone Gudt of Corollin	Sohn Morton		att Travalante
	Edward gattedge 1.	Gir and Honelly	Golymer Smith	in;	1 " 0"
	. //		gro Jaylor (	A'18A	Step Hopkins
W. A STORES AN WORLD	That May were fout	0 11:11	James Willed	n tout Souther	William Ellery 5
	Thomas Lyand for	George Wythe Richard Henry Lee	910-710/5	In Withenpart	Roger Sherman
			Cour Range,	Frat Olephinson,	Proger Sherman
	Ather Middleton	Theyenn.	Garage	Ister Hent	Mr. Hilliams
	1	Bong Harrisons The Nelson for Francis lightfort Lew	The In France	Atra Clark	Oliver Water
		Francis light foot Lee	,	0	De General Con Systems Property

## **Declaration of Independence of the United States of America**

### 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.

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 harrass 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 & 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 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 Brittish 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.

Georgia

Button Gwinnett Lyman Hall George Walton

#### North Carolina

William Hooper Joseph Hewes John Penn

### South Carolina

Edward Rutledge Thomas Heyward, Jr. Thomas Lynch, Jr. Arthur Middleton

#### Massachusetts

John Hancock

#### Maryland

Samuel Chase William Paca Thomas Stone

Charles Carroll of Carrollton

#### **Virginia**

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Thomas Jefferson
Benjamin Harrison
Thomas Nelson, Jr.
Francis Lightfoot Lee
Carter Braxton

#### Pennsylvania

Robert Morris
Benjamin Rush
Benjamin Franklin
John Morton
George Clymer
James Smith
George Taylor
James Wilson
George Ross

#### **Delaware**

Caesar Rodney George Read Thomas McKean

#### New York

William Floyd Philip Livingston Francis Lewis Lewis Morris

#### New Jersey

Richard Stockton John Witherspoon Francis Hopkinson John Hart Abraham Clark

#### Massachusetts

Samuel Adams John Adams Robert Treat Paine Elbridge Gerry

#### **Rhode Island**

Stephen Hopkins William Ellery

#### Connecticut

Roger Sherman Samuel Huntington William Williams Oliver Wolcott

#### New Hampshire

Josiah Bartlett
William Whipple
Matthew Thornton