

# AMERICA'S BEGINNINGS

## THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

# AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL BY RAY CHARLES (1972)



1:38-3:10

# POLITICAL EQUALITY

- To be free... WE MUST BE EQUAL
  - To honor AND fight for each citizen's freedom(s), we must share a bond with each other
- Engage ALL members of a town, state, country
  - How can I help my \_\_\_\_\_?
- To avoid domination by others?
  - Help build the structures of the world around us

The **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE** will build that foundation from which our political world was born



# THE WRITERS

# WHAT CAN THE WRITERS TEACH US?

## RESILIENCY

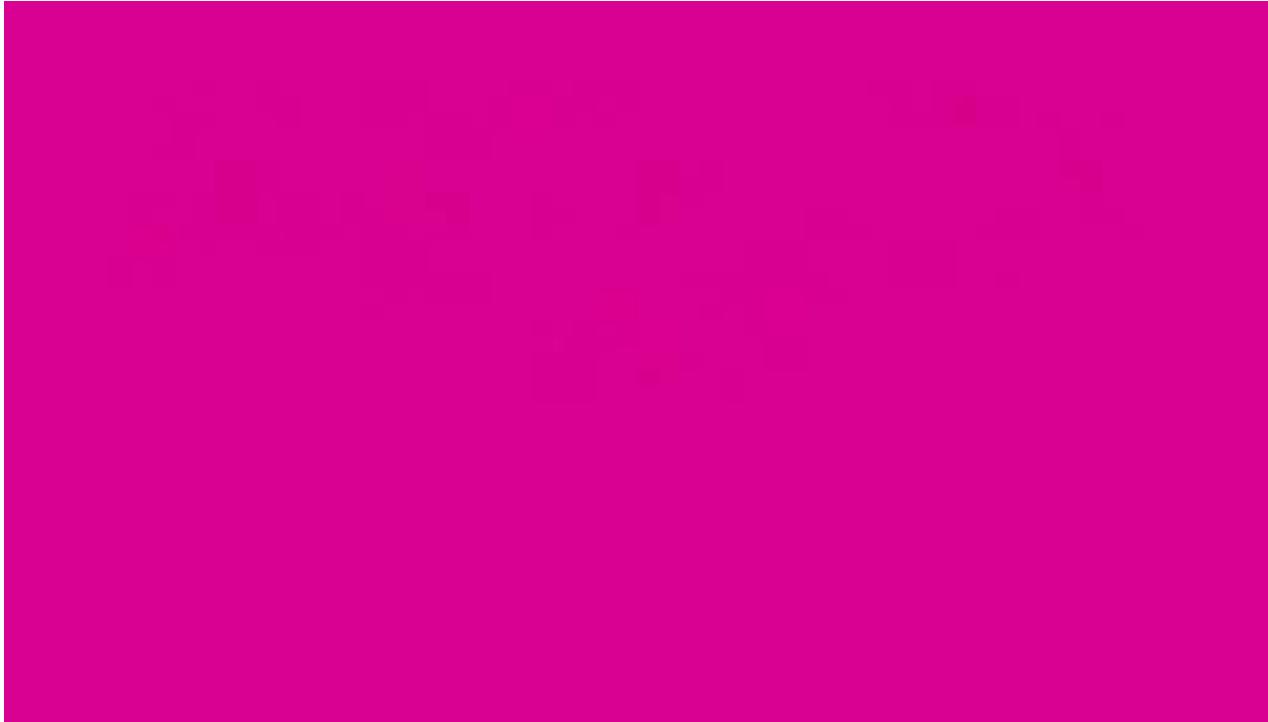
Once I laughed when I heard you saying  
that I'd be playing solitaire,  
uneasy in my easy chair.  
It never entered my mind.

Once you told me I was mistaken,  
that I'd awaken with the sun  
and order orange juice for one.  
It never entered my mind.



1:10-2:10

**HOW WOULD YOU KNOW THIS SONG ???**



:35-1:10

# WHAT CAN THE WRITERS TEACH US?

## SACRIFICE

### *JEPHTHAH*

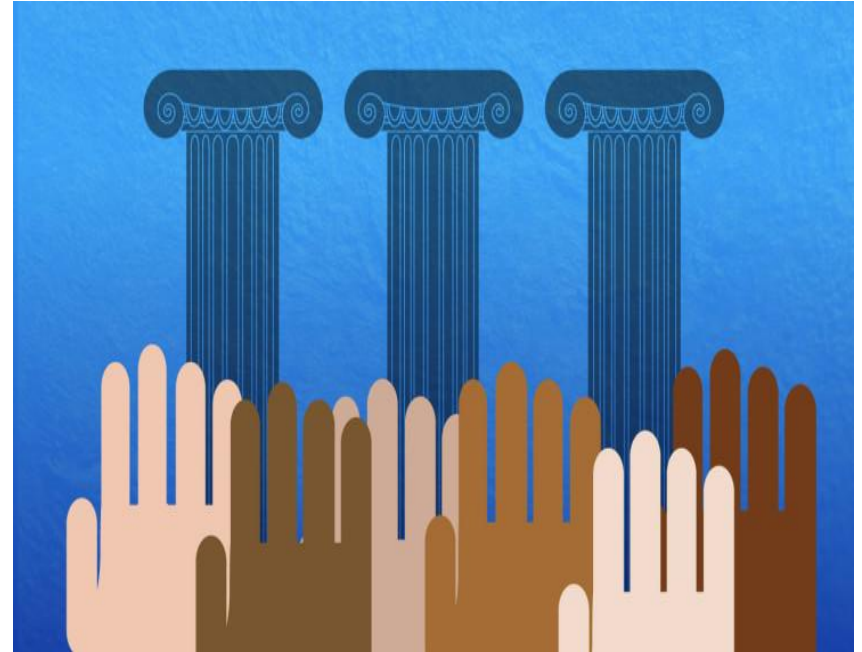
- **FAMOUS WARRIOR (in the Bible)**
  - **IF GOD GRANTED HIM VICTORY IN BATTLE, HE WOULD SACRIFICE THE FIRST THING HE SAW WHEN HE CAME HOME**
  - **HIS SACRIFICE???**



# WORKING TOGETHER

- Democratic Writing is a group effort
  - Individuals must learn how to “weave” the words which form that way of life

How much that you have accomplished has been “individual”??



# SEINFELD (“JERK STORE”)



1:00-2:19

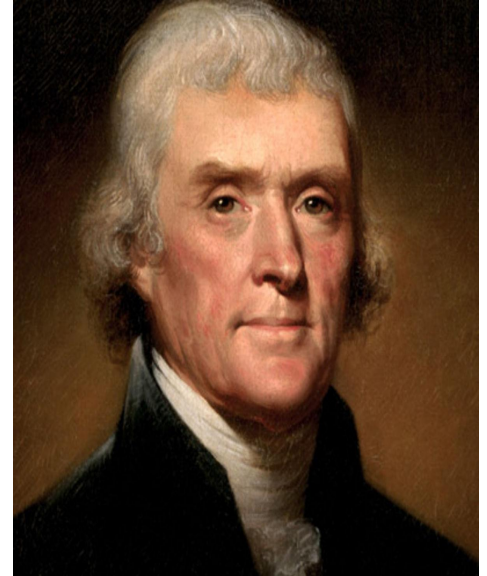
# THE THREE RADICALS



JOHN ADAMS



RICHARD LEE



THOMAS JEFFERSON

# AN UNLIKELY MATCH



# JUNE 1775

## FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

- Representatives from all 13 colonies gather in Philadelphia (PA)
- TOPICS?
  - Discuss issues involving unfair treatment by England
  - Methods of notifying King George III of colonial unrest



# JOHN ADAMS (2008)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GckRP2xRKNw>

0-1:20

# JEFFERSON'S SKILLS ARE DESIRED

- A MASTER OF THE WRITTEN WORD
  - JULY 1774: ***SUMMARY VIEW OF THE RIGHTS OF BRITISH AMERICA***
- HIS MESSAGE?
  - **INDEPENDENCE NOT RECONCILIATION!!!**
  
- ASKED TO WRITE "***DECLARATION OF THE CAUSES AND NECESSITY OF TAKING UP ARMS***"
  - **A LETTER TO KING GEORGE III TO EXPLAIN:**
    - **WHY THE COLONIES WERE FORMING MILITIAS**
    - **NEW TERMS OF GOVERNANCE**



# WHAT IS GOING ON?

- MONTHS PASS WITH NO RESPONSE!!!
  - WHAT DO YOU THINK KGIII'S RESPONSE WAS??
  
- FALL 1775: COLONIAL COASTAL TOWNS ATTACKED BY BRITISH NAVY
  - NEW HAMPSHIRE REQUESTS FCC HELP THEM FORM A STATE GOVNT.



# KING GEORGE III RESPONDS

- KING GEORGE III NEVER READS THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT
  - THE COLONIES WANT TO REBEL?... “SEND THE NAVY!!”
  - HOW WOULD YOU HAVE REACTED TO THIS LETTER?



# KING GEORGE III RESPONDS

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- **OCT.26,1775: KING GEORGE III INFORMS PARLIAMENT HE WILL SEEK FOREIGN AID TO END THIS REBELLION**
  - **NO TRADE WITH COLONIES**
  - **VA'S ROYAL GOVERNOR DECLARES MARTIAL LAW**
  - **ALL SLAVES AND SERVANTS WHO JOIN BRITISH ARMY WILL BE SET FREE**



# JOHN ADAMS (2008)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JTxVHQAp8w>

0-2:01

# WE ARE JUSTIFIED

- **HOW DO WE BREAK FREE FROM ENGLAND?**
  - **INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN FORCED UPON US**
  - **COLONIES NO LONGER PROTECTED BY ENGLAND**
  - **WE HAVE NO GOVNTS!!**

**ALL 13 COLONIES BEGIN PLANS FOR THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS!**



# EARLY 1776

- NEW HAMPSHIRE ESTABLISHES OWN CONSTITUTION
  - NC, NJ, VA REQUEST ADAMS'S HELP TO WRITE THEIRS AS WELL
- JOHN ADAMS WRITES "*THOUGHTS ON GOVERNMENT*"
  - "HAPPINESS OF SOCIETY IS THE END OF GOVERNMENT"
- RICHARD LEE CIRCULATES A REVOLUTIONARY POSTER
  - MAY 1776: LEE HAS TWO GOALS FOR THE VA COLONIAL CONVENTION
    - SET UP A CONSTITUTION
    - WRITE A PROPOSAL FOR INDEPENDENCE OF ALL COLONIES



# MAY-JULY 1776

## SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

- MAY 10: ADAMS (SUPPORTED BY LEE) PROPOSED TO CONGRESS THAT ALL COLONIES SHOULD ADOPT NEW GOVERNMENTS
- MAY 15: ALL COLONIES AGREE, FORM “STATE” CONSTITUTIONS

**TIME TO START WRITING A  
“DECLARATION... OF INDEPENDENCE”**



# THE ROAD TO THE DECLARATION



# MAY-JULY 1776

- EACH STATE HAD TWO MONTHS TO CONFER BEFORE VOTING IN JULY
  - ADAMS WANTED UNANIMOUS SUPPORT...  
**WHY?**
- JUNE 11, 1776:
  - **THE COMMITTEE OF FIVE**
    - **JOB? DRAFT A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**
      - BEN FRANKLIN (PA)
      - JOHN ADAMS (MA)
      - THOMAS JEFFERSON (VA)\*\*
      - ROGER SHERMAN (CT)
      - ROBERT LIVINGSTON (NY)



# JOHN ADAMS TO THOMAS JEFFERSON...

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***REASON 1ST. YOU ARE A VIRGINIAN AND A VIRGINIAN OUGHT TO APPEAR AT THE HEAD OF THIS BUSINESS. REASON 2ND. I AM OBNOXIOUS, SUSPECTED, AND UNPOPULAR, YOU ARE VERY MUCH OTHERWISE. REASON 3RD. YOU CAN WRITE TEN TIMES BETTER THAN I CAN.”***

# JOHN ADAMS IS AMERICA'S *DARK KNIGHT*



# THE DARK KNIGHT (2008)



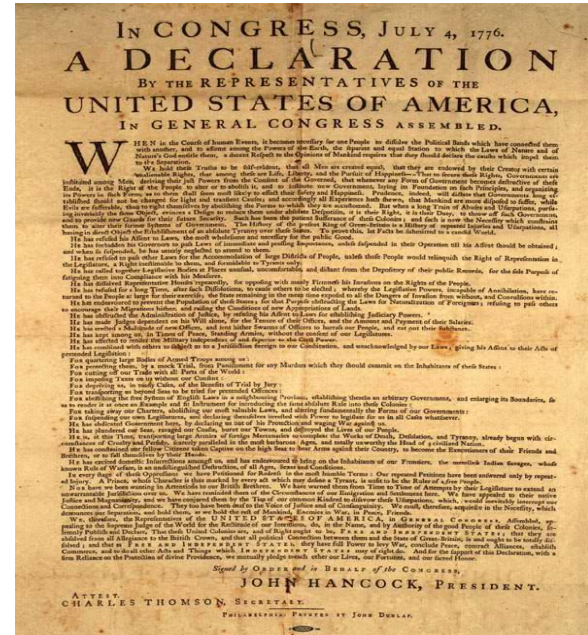
# IT'S READY!

**JUNE 28, 1776:**

**THE COMMITTEE OF FIVE PRESENTED A FINISHED DRAFT TO THE SCC**

**“WHERE DID JEFFERSON GET ALL OF HIS IDEAS FROM???”**

**AT THE SAME TIME... JEFFERSON IS WRITING THE VA STATE CONSTITUTION**  
**JEFFERSON BORROWS HEAVILY FROM TWO MEN... GEORGE MASON & JOHN ADAMS**



# A BILL OF RIGHTS

— — —

## GEORGE MASON DRAFTS VIRGINIA'S BILL OF RIGHTS

- INCLUDES THOUGHTS ON:
  - WHERE MAN'S RIGHTS COME FROM
  - WHICH RIGHTS ARE EVERY MAN ENTITLED TO
  - WHERE DOES POWER ORIGINATE IN GOVERNMENT
  - WHEN SHOULD PEOPLE REBEL AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT



**\*\*GROUP ACTIVITY: COMPARE DOCUMENTS\*\***

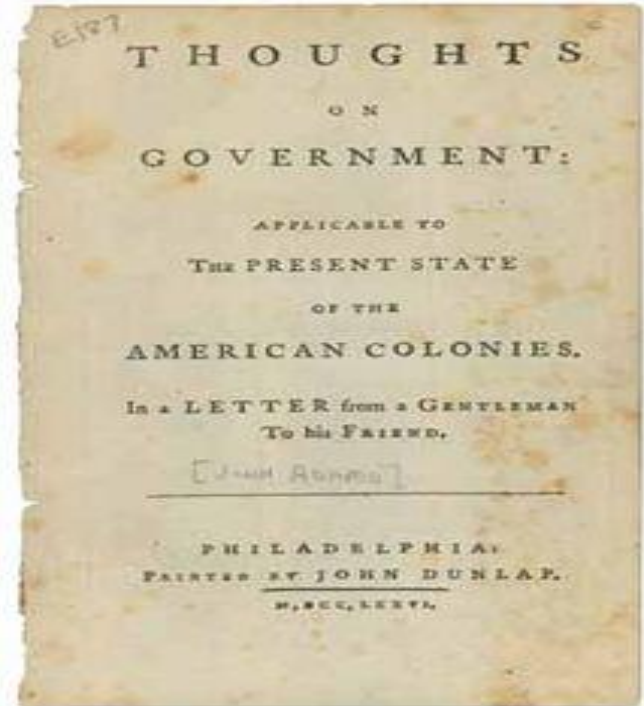
# JOHN ADAMS... THE INFLUENTIAL

## THOUGHTS ON GOVERNMENT

- **APRIL 1776**
- **REASONS WHY EACH COLONY SHOULD BREAK FREE OF ENGLAND'S CONTROL**
- **HOW TO SET UP THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS**

**\*\* WATCH "JOHN ADAMS" PART 3... 30:05 - 34:44 \*\***

**\*\*REVIEW DOCUMENT WITH CLASS\*\***



# ONE FINAL PLEA

BEFORE THE FINAL VOTE, JOHN ADAMS PLEADS THE CAUSE OF INDEPENDENCE... ONE LAST TIME

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUeOCjcgVsE>

0-2:37

land, with the appurtenances unto the said John Gra  
nd his heirs and assigns forever.

is whereof, the said John Adams,  
of America, hath caused the Seal of the United States to  
igned the same with his hand at Philadelphia the  
February in the year of our Lord one thousa  
and of the Independence of the United States

John Adams

By the President,

# THE “REAL” INFLUENCE ??

## ABIGAIL ADAMS

- HOMESCHOOLED
- **VORACIOUS READER**
- JOHN DESCRIBED ABIGAIL AS HIS “**BALLAST**”
  - **JOHN**: BRASH, ARGUMENTATIVE
  - **ABIGAIL**: INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE, GRACEFUL
- JOHN’S #1 SOUNDING BOARD FOR MANY OF HIS THOUGHTS, LETTERS, SPEECHES

<http://www.c-span.org/video/?c4285367/david-mccullough-describes-abigail-adams>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXQZIo6JN2Q>

# SEPTEMBER 30, 1764 *(JOHN TO ABIGAIL; 1 MONTH FROM WEDDING DAY)*

Oh my dear Girl, I thank Heaven that another Fortnight will restore you to me -- after so long a separation. My soul and Body have both been thrown into Disorder, by your Absence, and a Month of two more would make me the most insufferable Cynick, in the World. I see nothing but Faults, Follies, Frailties and Defects in any Body, lately. People have lost all their good Properties or I my justice, or Discernment.

But you who have always softened and warmed my Heart, shall restore my Benevolence as well as my Health and Tranquility of mind. You shall polish and refine my sentiments of Life and Manners, banish all the unsocial and ill natured Particles in my Composition, and form me to that happy Temper, that can reconcile a quick Discernment with a perfect Candour.

# SEPTEMBER 14, 1767 (ABIGAIL TO JOHN)

The Doctor talks of Setting out tomorrow for New Braintree. I did not know but that he might chance to see you, in his way there. I know from the tender affection you bear me, and our little one's that you will rejoice to hear that we are well, our Son is much better than when you left home, and our Daughter rock's him to Sleep, with the Song of "Come pappa come home to Brother Johnny." Sunday seems a more Lonesome Day to me than any other when you are absent, For tho I may be compared to those climates which are deprived of the Sun half the Year, yet upon a Sunday you commonly afforded us your benign influence. I am now at Weymouth. My Father brought me here last night. To morrow I return home, where I hope soon to receive the Dearest of Friends and the tenderest of Husbands, with that unabated affection which has for Years past, and will whilst the vital Spark lasts, burn in the Bosom of your affectionate.

**JUNE 26, 1776** (JOHN TO ABIGAIL)

The Congress have been pleased to give me more Business than I am qualified for, and more than I fear, I can go through, with safety to my Health. They have established a Board of War and Ordinance and made me President of it, an Honour to which I never aspired, a Trust to which I feel myself vastly unequal. But I am determined to do as well as I can and make Industry supply, in some degree the Place of Abilities and Experience. The Board sits, every Morning and every Evening. This, with Constant Attendance in Congress, will so entirely engross my Time, that I fear, I shall not be able to write you, so often as I have. But I will steal Time to write to you.

# ACTIVITY

REWRITE JOHN  
ADAM'S 1764 LOVE  
LETTER USING ONLY  
EMOJIS

- **AT LEAST 6  
SYMBOLS**



# THE VOTE

---  
JULY 2, 1776

- THE VOTE FOR INDEPENDENCE OCCURS
- FINAL TALLY:
  - 12 to 0 (NY ABSTAINS)

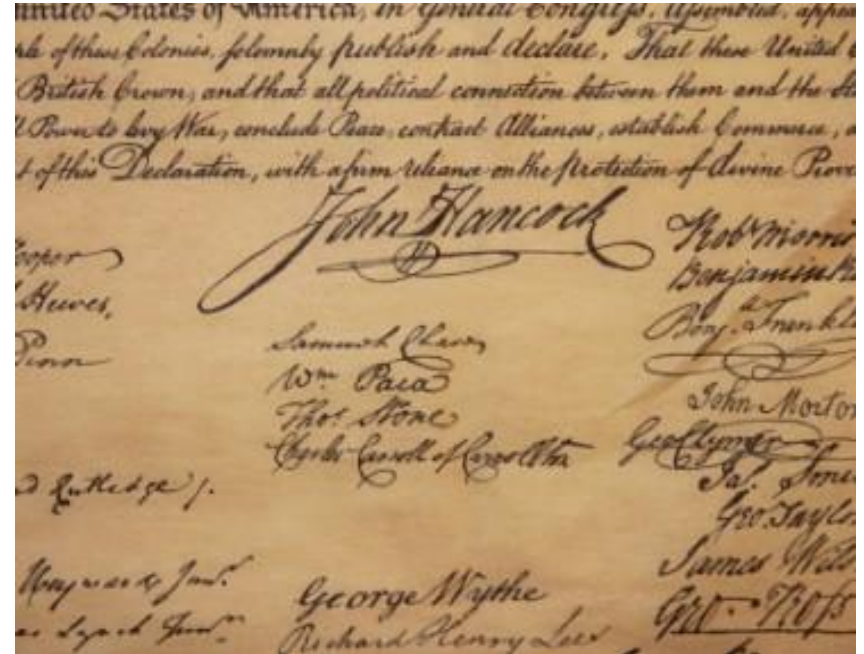


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrvpZxMfKaU>

# THE DATE YOU KNOW...

-----  
JULY 4, 1776

- THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS STILL BEING EDITED ON JULY 2
  - JULY 4 WAS THE DATE THE TEXT WAS APPROVED
  - OFFICIAL SIGNING: AUGUST 2, 1776



# JOHN ADAMS' VISION OF JULY 4TH

— — —  
JULY 3, 1776 (JOHN TO ABIGAIL)

“I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”



2:00 - 3:05

# ... BUT HE ALSO KNOWS THE TRUTH

“ You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. -- I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. -- Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not.”

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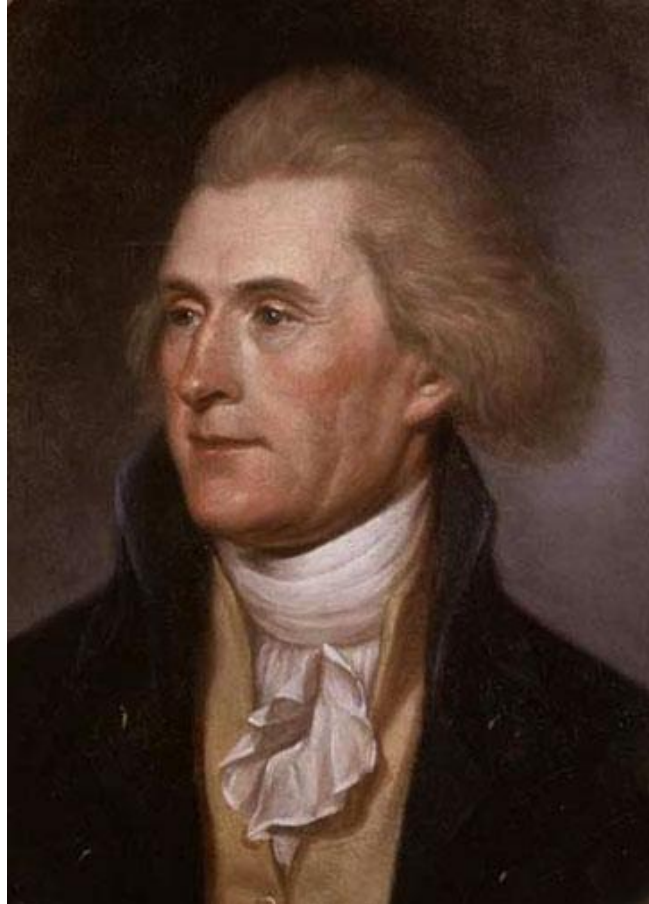
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# THE EDITORS

THE BIG QUESTION

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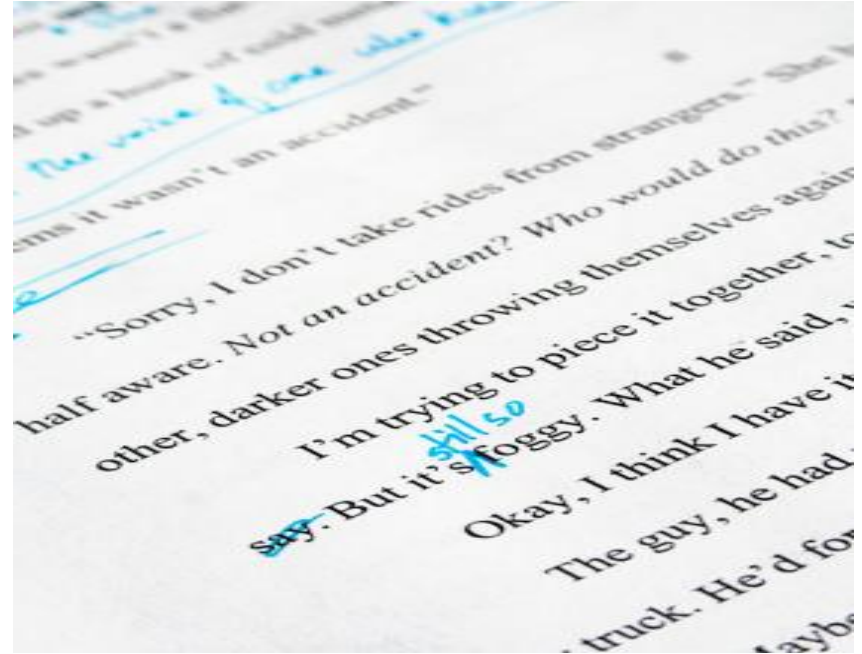
**WAS THOMAS  
JEFFERSON A  
CHEATER?**



# A FEW CHANGES

-----  
BETWEEN JULY 2 AND JULY 4...

CLOSE TO 25% OF JEFFERSON'S ORIGINAL DRAFT HAD BEEN REMOVED BY THE Cof5 and THE SCC



A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

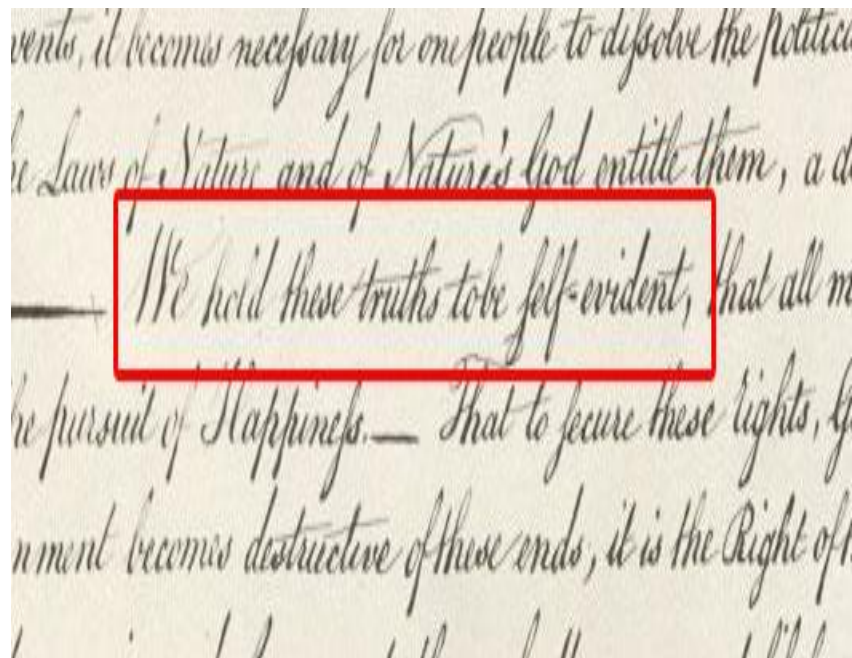
When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for <sup>the</sup> people to  
~~dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to~~  
~~assume among the powers of the earth the~~ <sup>separate and equal</sup> ~~position~~ station to  
which the laws of nature & of nature's god entitle them, a decent respect  
to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes  
which impel them to ~~take~~ <sup>the</sup> separation.

We hold these truths to be <sup>self-evident</sup>, that all men are  
created equal, that they are <sup>endowed by their creator with</sup> certain unalienable  
rights, that among these are <sup>life, liberty, & the pursuit of happiness</sup>, 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  
~~shall~~ becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter  
or to abolish it, & to institute new government, laying its foundation on  
such principles & organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall  
seem most likely to effect their safety & happiness. prudence indeed  
will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for  
light & 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 & usurpations [begin at a distinguished period,  
& pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce  
them <sup>under absolute Despotism</sup>, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such  
government, & to provide new guards for their future security. such has  
been the patient sufferance of these colonies; & such is now the necessity  
which constrains them to <sup>alter</sup> ~~change~~ their former systems of government.  
the history of the present <sup>King of Great Britain</sup> is a history of <sup>repeated</sup> injuries and  
usurpations [among which, <sup>appears no solitary fact</sup> ~~appears no solitary fact~~ to contra-  
dict the uniform tenor of the rest, <sup>in these</sup> ~~in these~~ have in direct object the  
establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. to prove this, let facts be  
submitted to a candid world, for the truth of which we pledge a faith  
not unswerving by falsehood.]

## A BETTER START...

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“WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE  
~~SACRED AND UNDENIABLE...~~”

“WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE  
SELF-EVIDENT...”

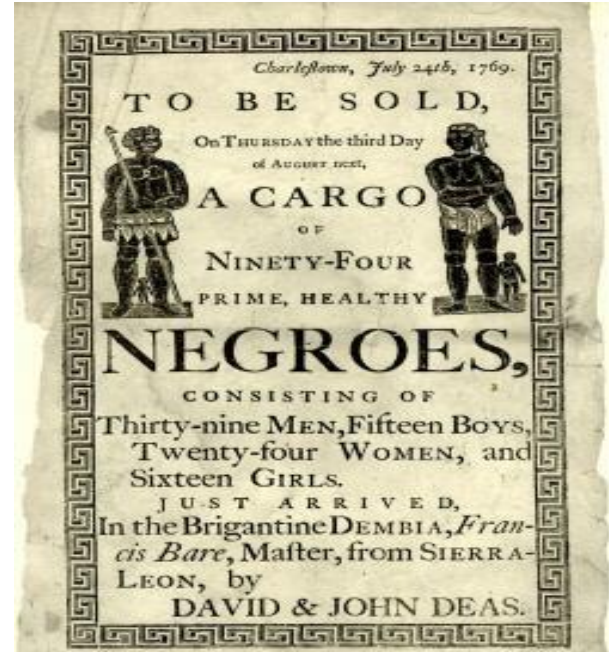


# WHAT TO DO ABOUT SLAVERY?

JEFFERSON HAD A LARGE SECTION OF HIS ORIGINAL DRAFT DETAILING THE ILLS OF SLAVERY **REMOVED**

“HE (King George III) HAS WAGED CRUEL WAR AGAINST HUMAN NATURE ITSELF, VIOLATING IT’S MOST SACRED RIGHTS OF LIFE & LIBERTY IN THE PERSONS OF A DISTANT PEOPLE WHO NEVER OFFENDED HIM...”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UO\\_3KzuYuh0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UO_3KzuYuh0)



# SEPARATION OF CHURCH & STATE

---  
JEFFERSON'S ORIGINAL DRAFT BARELY  
MENTIONS GOD OR A GOD

- JEFFERSON WANTED TO MAKE THE D of I AS  
PEOPLE-CENTRIC AND SECULAR AS POSSIBLE

THE Cof5 AND SCC WOULD ADD TERMS  
SUCH AS:

- "SUPREME JUDGE OF THE WORLD"
- "CREATOR"
- "DIVINE PROVIDENCE"



# SOME SELECTED PRINTERS

- 1) JOHN DUNLAP
  - a) COPIED D of I INTO A POSTER FOR NEWSPAPERS TO PRINT
- 2) CHARLES THOMSON
  - a) MADE A COPY FOR THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE SCC
- 3) MARY KATHERINE GODDARD
  - a) MADE 13 COPIES OF THE D of I FOR EACH STATE

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- **EACH PRINTER MADE SUBJECTIVE ALTERATIONS TO THE TEXT**
  - CAPITALIZATION, PUNCTUATION, PERIODS, DASHES
  - **WHY? PRIOR TO 1800'S, RULES OF GRAMMAR WERE NOT FIXED... CHANGED WITH REGIONAL DIALECTS AND PERSONAL THOUGHTS**



# A MASTER “WRITER”

---

## TIMOTHY MATLACK

- OFFICIAL SCRIBE OF THE SCC
- REWRITES D of I... TURNING IT INTO AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT
  - FORMAL
  - NO MISSPELLINGS OR EDITS
  - ELEGANT HANDWRITING





**THE PEOPLE**

# “COLLABORATION IS THE BEATING HEART OF COOPERATION”

---

- COUNTLESS CONVERSATIONS AND COMMITTEES MADE THIS MOMENT A REALITY
- LIKE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT... DEMOCRATIC WRITING IS SLOWER BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS IS HIGHER!
  - **EX: HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS**
    - **HOW DOES EVERY DECISION GET MADE???**



# MORAL SENSE

— — —  
\*\* REFER TO FINAL SENTENCE IN PART 2 \*\*

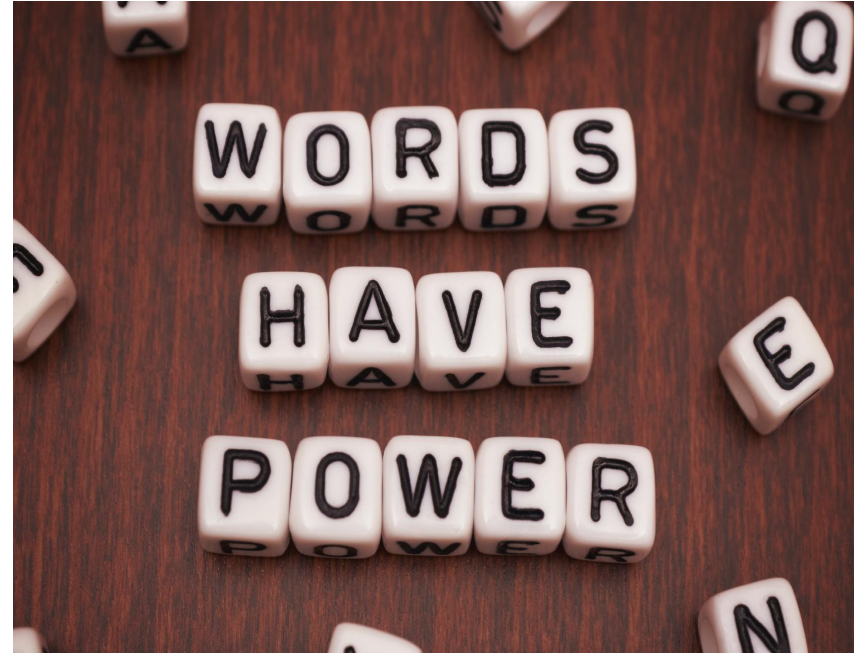
- “LET FACTS BE SUBMITTED TO A CANDID WORLD.”
  - CANDID MEANS?
    - THE WRITERS ASSUME EACH READER IS HONEST, RATIONAL, MORALLY SENSIBLE
      - EACH READER IS A “JUDGE”
    - WE ARE ALL EQUAL IN THE ABILITY TO JUDGE WHAT IS RIGHT



# CHANGING OUR LIVES

WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO ALTER OUR WORLD

- 1) HOW COULD SAYING “I DO” CHANGE YOUR WORLD EMOTIONALLY? LEGALLY?
- 2) *ODDLY...* THE D of I READS LIKE A DIVORCE!
  - a) LAST PARAGRAPH... “THAT THESE UNITED COLONIES ARE, AND OF RIGHT OUGHT TO BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES...”
  - b) TWO KEY WORDS?
- 3) IN THE END... THE COLONIES WANT TO GET REMARRIED TO EACH OTHER
  - a) “... WE MUTUALLY PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES, AND OUR SACRED HONOR.”



**\*\* CLASS WEDDING\*\***

# WHAT ABOUT PERMISSION?

— — —  
IN A WEDDING, CONSENT MUST BE GIVEN

- FATHER GIVES AWAY THE BRIDE
- “SPEAK NOW OR FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE”

WHAT ABOUT DIVORCE?

- KGIII: SENT SHIPS TO ATTACK COLONIES
- COLONIES: WRITING A D of I

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IS A SEARCH FOR CONSENT FROM ALL WHO READ IT... THE SIGNERS WANTED THE PERMISSION OF ALL PEOPLE!!



SWEETCAROLINEPHOTO



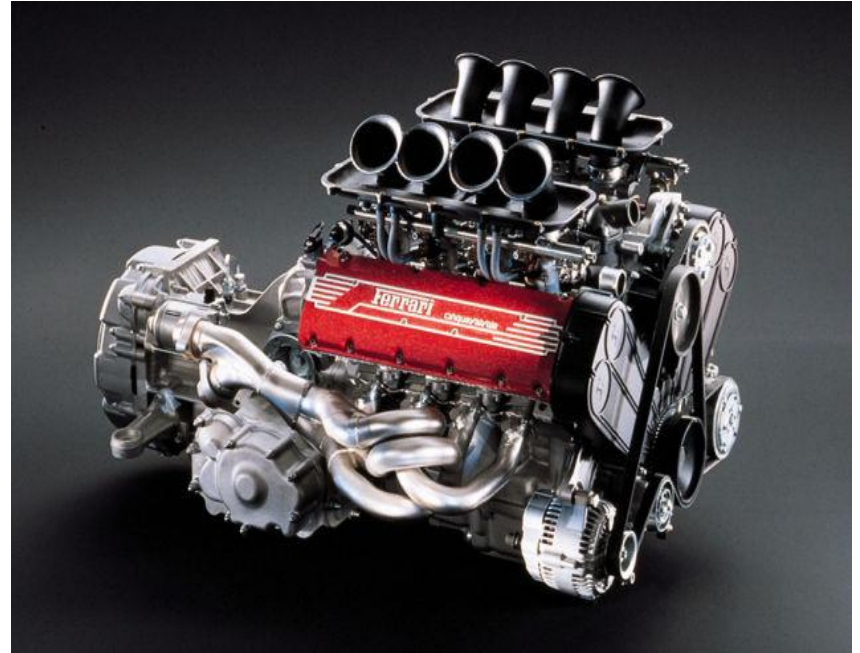
:52-2:01

# THE REAL REASON

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THE DECLARATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE WAS MEANT TO  
CREATE THE WILL TO REVOLT

- THE ENGINE IN A POWERFUL  
MACHINE WHICH COULD  
CHANGE THE WORLD



# WORDS AND POWER

COMING TO A CONSENSUS IS MESSY AND HECTIC

- <http://classroom.monticello.org/kids/gallery/image/91/Jeffersons-Rough-Draft-of-the-Declaration-of-Independence/>

WHOMEVER COULD MASTER THE WRITTEN WORD... HAD  
THE POWER!

- **EX: JAMES MADISON**
  - HELPED DRAFT THE CONSTITUTION
  - THE FEDERALIST PAPERS
  - WASHINGTON'S FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS
  - CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE
  - WASHINGTON'S RESPONSE TO CONGRESS



“THE EARLY HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY  
WAS MAINLY JAMES MADISON TALKING TO  
HIMSELF.”

# DEMOCRATIC WRITING

— — —  
THE PRESSURE OF WRITING THE D of I WAS  
MONUMENTAL BECAUSE...

EVERY WORD HAD TO BE PURPOSEFULLY  
CHOSEN

THIS DOCUMENT REPRESENTED “WHO”  
AND “WHAT” AMERICA WAS AND IS

THIS DOCUMENT DETERMINED HOW THE  
REST OF THE WORLD WOULD JUDGE US



# READING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

# WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

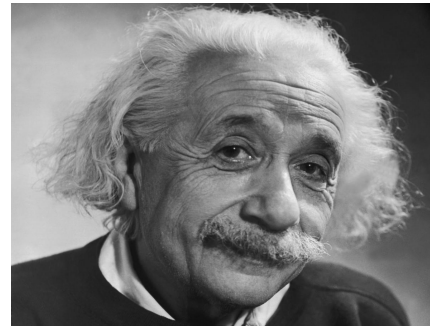
— — —  
TWO CORE IDEAS: EQUALITY, FREEDOM

- “ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL” ...????
- **EQUAL DOES NOT MEAN SAME**

THE SIGNERS' ARGUMENT

- **EQUAL IN THAT WE ARE ALL HUMAN BEINGS**

***EQUALITY IS THE FOUNDATION OF  
FREEDOM***



# THE INTRODUCTION IS EVERYTHING!!



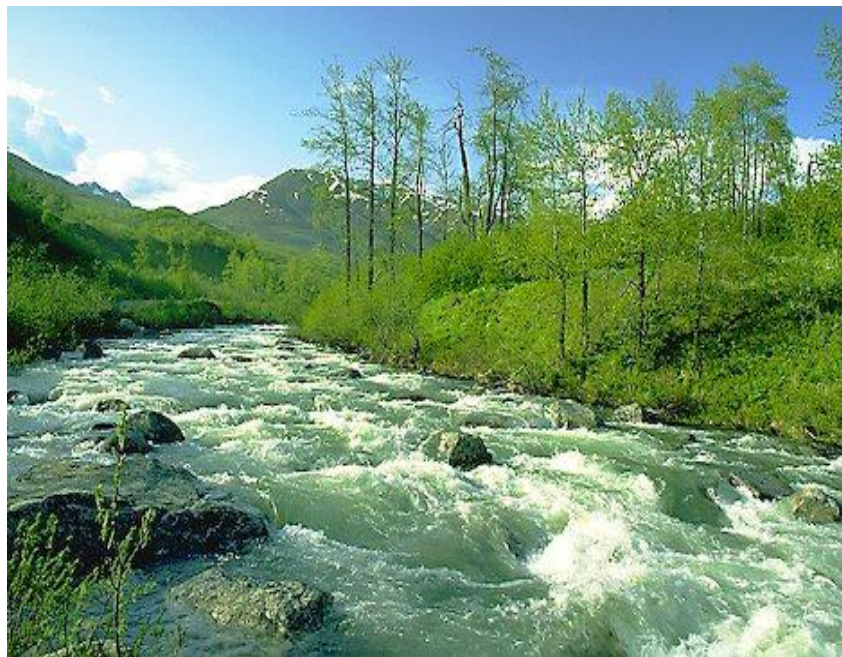
Start: 1:00

# JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR RIVER...

— — —  
\*\* READ “When in...” to “...with another.”

WHY BOTHER WITH “IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS”??

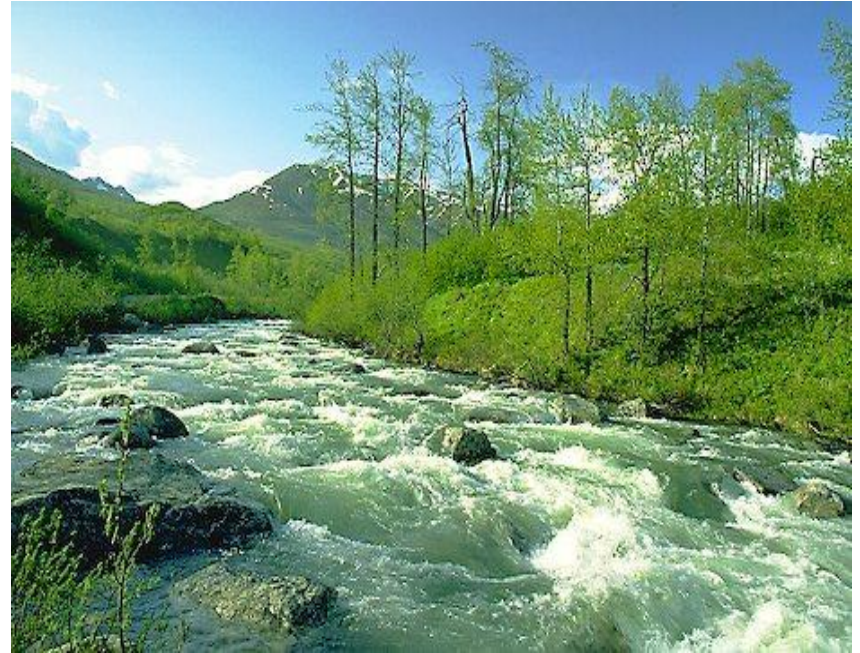
- LIKE A RIVER'S FLOW, HUMAN EVENTS CAN BE ALTERED
- “WHEN IN THE COURSE...” TELLS THE READER THIS DECLARATION WAS NOT DONE ON A WHIM
  - PAST EVENTS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT
  - THIS KNOWLEDGE FORCED THE SIGNERS TO CUT A NEW PATH



# JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR RIVER...

— — —  
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

It is our job as citizens to recognize when “the river” (a.k.a. human events) **MUST BE ALTERED** thus avoiding being controlled



# ONE PEOPLE...

— — —  
QUITE AN ODD CHOICE OF WORDS: “...IT BECOMES NECESSARY  
FOR ONE PEOPLE...”

HOW ARE WE “ONE PEOPLE”??

- FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF EUROPE
- SOME WANTED RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, JOBS, ESCAPE THE LAW, ETC.
- OUR HISTORY IS “ENGLISH”
  - LANGUAGE
  - RELIGION
  - FOOD
  - DRESS
  - EDUCATION



# GETTING DRESSED FOR SCHOOL IS TOUGH!



# ONE PEOPLE...

— — —  
HOW COULD THE SIGNERS BELIEVE THE COLONISTS WERE “ONE PEOPLE”??

- ACCORDING TO THINKERS OF THE PAST (JOHN LOCKE, THOMAS HOBBS, ETC.), POLITICAL RULE IS ONLY NEEDED BECAUSE INDIVIDUALS UNITE UNDER COMMON POLITICAL BELIEFS
- THE AMERICAN STATES ARE **ONE PEOPLE** BECAUSE THEIR BELIEFS ARE UNITED

**WE ARE NO LONGER LITTLE BROTHER!**



# WE ARE YOUR EQUALS... ?????

— — —

**\*\*READ “To dissolve the political bands...of Nature’s God entitles them.”**

- **England:**
  - 3 x the population of the American Colonies
  - #1 Navy in the world
  - One of the wealthiest nations in the world
  - Army was littered with experienced soldiers and schools of war
  - The British govnt. and legal system dates back to 1066
- **Colonies:**
  - CC had no power to tax citizens to raise \$\$
  - No national army existed yet (local militias)
  - No national system of laws existed till 1783 (each colony had their own laws)



# WE ARE YOUR EQUALS...???

---  
**\*\*IN YOUR MIND, WHAT CAN MAKE YOU INDEPENDENT?\***

**HOW COULD THE SIGNERS HAVE POSSIBLY BELIEVED THE AMERICAN COLONIES WERE EQUAL TO ENGLAND?**

- not based on wealth, territory, etc.
- The same as England... colonists have shown the ability to become a self-organizing, individual political unit (EX: colonial conventions, Continental Congresses)
- **No longer “colonies” BUT “states”** (states do for themselves, colonies DO NOT)
- **WE ARE EQUAL IN THE POWER TO ORGANIZE POLITICALLY ... WE ARE NOT THE SAME IN ALL THINGS ADMITTEDLY**



# QUICK REVIEW

DECLARATION  
OF  
INDEPENDENCE

BASED ON THE  
SELECTED WORDS  
OF SENTENCE  
#1...WHAT  
MESSAGES WERE  
THE WRITERS  
CONVEYING?

---

# “LIKE” CAN BE UNLIKEABLE



# THE POWER OF ONE WORD

— — —

## \*\* RE-READ THE SAME SENTENCE\*\*

WHICH PHRASE IN THAT SENTENCE WILL SHAPE AMERICAN SOCIETY IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY?

- BY USING THE WORD “AND”, THE STATES CLEARLY STATED THEIR INTENTION TO BE COMPLETELY FREE
- BY CHANGING ONE WORD... WE CHANGE HISTORY



# SEPARATE “BUT” EQUAL



0-2:42

# SEPARATE “BUT” EQUAL

— — —  
“BUT” WAS A WORD USED TO:

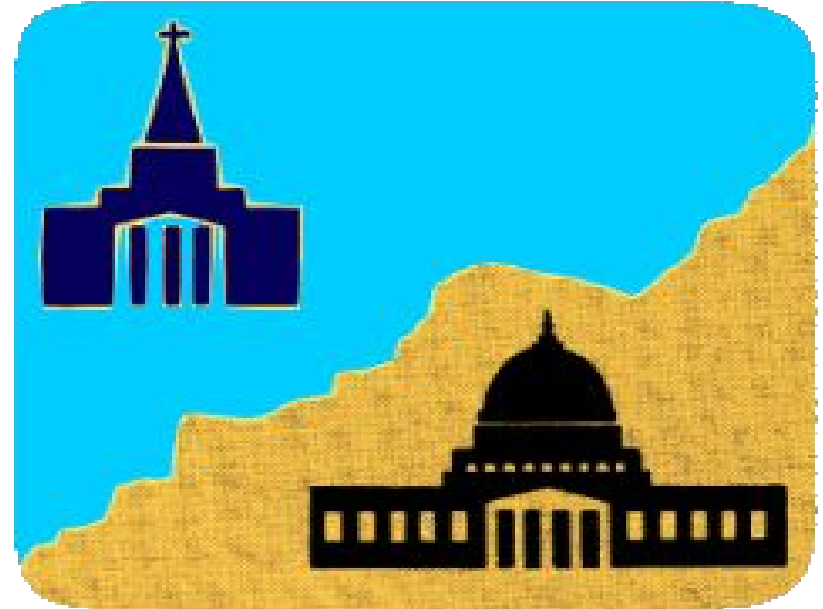
- CONTROL COLORED CITIZENS
- KEEP THEM DEPENDENT ON A RULING CLASS

**\*\*ONE WORD CAN BE VERY POWERFUL\*\***



# AND WHAT OF “GOD”?

- SENTENCE #1... “NATURE’S GOD” IS THE ONLY TIME “GOD” IS MENTIONED
  - JEFFERSON BELIEVED “A” GOD PUT NATURE IN ORDER... NOT JUST A CHRISTIAN GOD
  - “SACRED AND UNDENIABLE” HAD TOO MUCH OF A RELIGIOUS UNDERTONE... **CHANGED**
- WHY?
  - THE SIGNERS AND THEIR ARGUMENTS come from a place and person who is beyond the limits and imaginations of man... A Supreme Organizer who guides man and nature... NOT JUST CHRISTIANS



# TRUST IN THE PEOPLE

— — —

READ “... a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

THE SIGNERS ARE CONFIDENT ENOUGH IN MANKIND'S ABILITY TO JUDGE FAIRLY AND MORALLY THAT THEY WILL STATE THE REASONS WHY THEY ARE BREAKING FREE OF ENGLISH CONTROL

- WOULD KGIII HAVE EXPLAINED HIS DECISIONS TO HIS SUBJECTS?



# TRUST IN THE PEOPLE

— — —  
“Mr. Verch... that is crazy! There are a lot of dumb people in this world!!”

JEFFERSON AND THE OTHER SIGNERS BELIEVED (AT A BASIC LEVEL) EVERYONE HAS A MORAL SENSE... TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A LEGITIMATE NATION... THE WORLD MUST ACCEPT THIS DECLARATION



# REVIEW OF SENTENCE #1

— — —

- The Signers looked at the scope of human history and its events
- The decision was made to alter the path (current) which the American Colonies were on
- The Colonists became a separate people from England because of different political beliefs
- The Colonies were EQUAL to England because of the ability to become a self-organized political unit thus defend itself from outside domination
- The Colonists are entitled to this equality by Nature's God, a power beyond man himself (like gravity; equality JUST is)
- The Signers placed a certain level of trust in readers to judge them fairly for their actions by feeling it proper to explain WHY they are declaring their independence

\*\*\*PREP STUDENTS FOR "WRITE OWN DEC. OF INDEP. ACTIVITY"\*\*\*

## SECTION 2

**“WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS...”**

# LYING IS PART OF GROWING UP



# FINDING THE TRUTH

-----  
**99.9% OF THE TIME... THE TRUTH IS THE  
BEST CHOICE**

**IN SECTION 2... WE FIND THREE TRUTHS  
ABOUT:**

- **HUMAN BEINGS**
- **GOVERNMENT**
- **REVOLUTION**



# TRUTH #1

— — —  
**\*\* READ FIRST SENTENCE\*\***

- **AT EVERY HUMAN'S CREATION, THE SAME RIGHTS ARE ACQUIRED**
  - TO SURVIVE
  - TO BE FREE FROM DOMINATION
  - TO BE HAPPY
- **“MR. VERCH... WHAT ABOUT ANIMALS?”**
  - DOES YOUR PET WANT THE SAME?? YES

**“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...”**

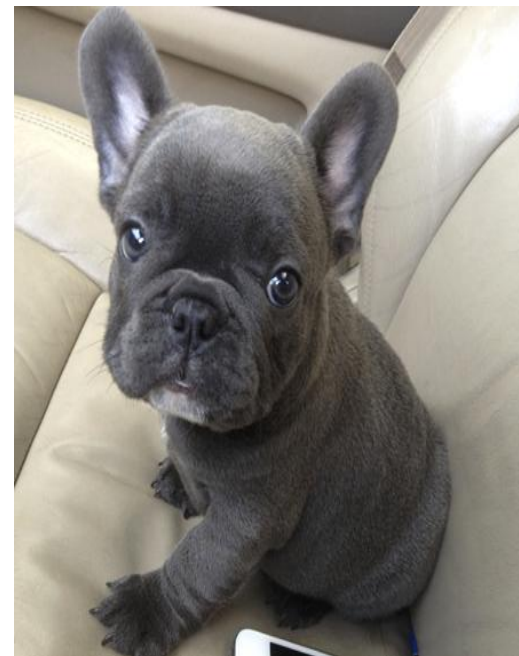
# THE ANIMAL KINGDOM



# THE DIFFERENCE: MAN V. ANIMAL

— — —  
\*\* READ "THAT TO SECURE... OF THE GOVERNED."

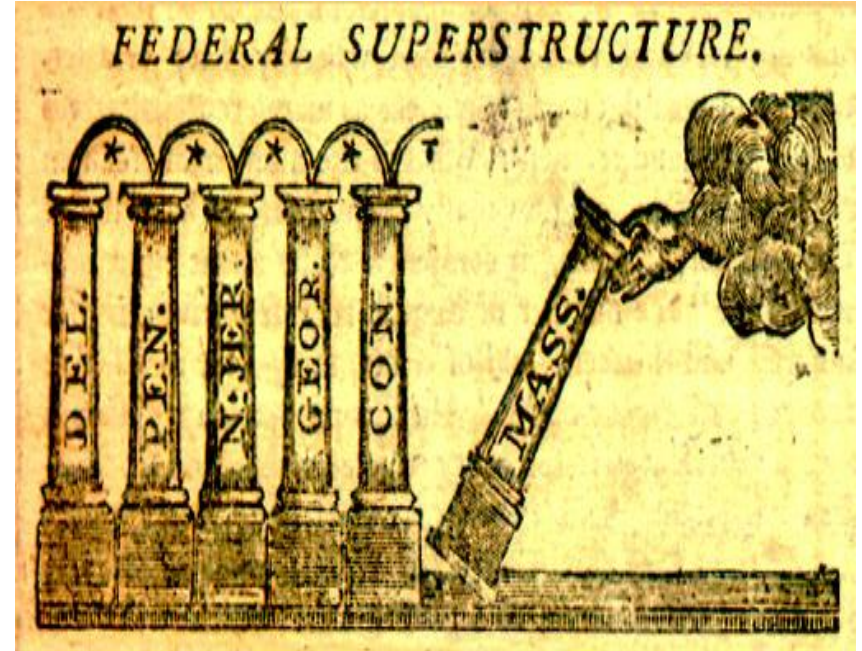
- THERE ARE NO GOVERNMENTS AMONGST ANIMALS
  - OWN HIERARCHIES, SURVIVAL METHODS
- MAN SECURES THESE INALIENABLE RIGHTS BY WAY OF ????????



# TRUTH #2

## GOVERNMENT

- THE TOOL WHICH MAN USES TO PRESERVE THE RIGHTS OF LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS



# TRUTH #3

---  
**\*\* READ "THAT WHENEVER ANY  
FORM...SAFETY AND HAPPINESS."**

- **IF A GOVERNMENT DOES NOT  
PRESERVE THE RIGHTS OF ITS  
PEOPLE... THE PEOPLE MUST ACT AND  
CREATE NEW GOVERNMENT**

**\*\*REVOLUTION\*\***



# EVERYTHING HAS A BEGINNING



# A “CREATOR”

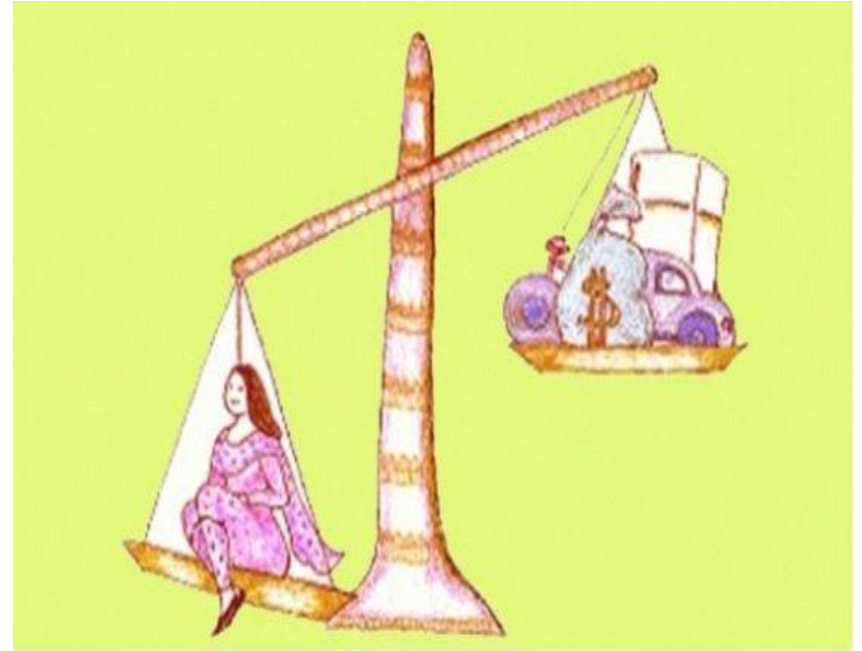
---  
\*\*\* READ “WE HOLD THESE...  
UNALIENABLE RIGHTS”

- WHAT ROLE DOES A  
“CREATOR” PLAY IN OUR  
POSSESSING CERTAIN  
UNALIENABLE RIGHTS?



# TO BE “ENDOWED”?

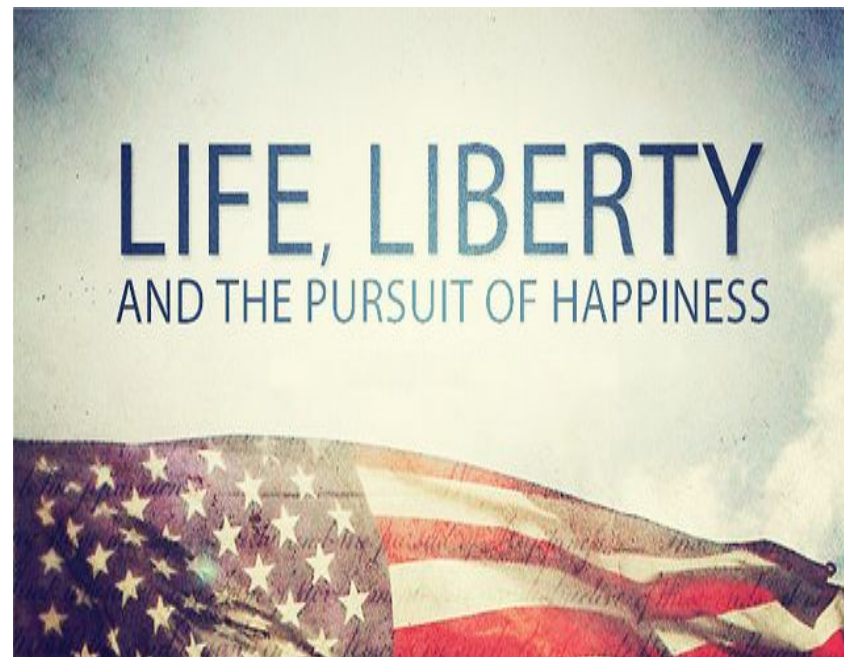
- FROM LATIN WORD “DOTO” ... GIVING A DOWRY TO A BRIDE TO BE MARRIED
  - FROM MEDIEVAL TIMES... A FAMILY PROVIDES THE BRIDE WITH MONEY GOING INTO THE MARRIAGE
  - INCREASES DESIRABILITY OF BRIDE WITH POTENTIAL SUITORS
  - WIFE WILL ALWAYS HAVE A FINANCIAL SUPPORT... NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
  - **DOWRY CANNOT BE TAKEN FROM THE BRIDE**



# TO BE “ENDOWED”?

- THESE UNALIENABLE RIGHTS ARE PROPERTY THAT WE GET FROM NATURE’S GOD (CREATOR)
- THIS PROPERTY CAN NEVER BE TAKEN AWAY FROM US... THE RIGHT TO:
  - LIVE
  - BE FREE
  - PURSUE HAPPINESS

**\*\*TRY TO TAKE THEM AWAY? ROB MAN OF HIS HUMAN PROPERTY**



# THE PROTECTOR

---

**GOVERNMENT...**

**WILL PREVENT OUR RUIN AS A  
PEOPLE AND AS A COUNTRY**



# OUR GREATEST GIFT

---

## THE DESIRE FOR PEACE...

IS THE DOWRY GIVEN TO US BY  
OUR CREATOR....

**NATURE'S GOD**



# FUN TO BE A KID



0-3:12

# BEAUTIFUL OPTIMISM

THE GREAT “BEAUTY” OF THE TEXT ARISES FROM HOW THE IDEAS ARE COMBINED WITH PROCESS...

- ALL PEOPLE HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL ACCESS TO PROTECT IT
- IN SECTION 2, WE SEE A SUBLIME OPTIMISM ABOUT HUMAN POTENTIAL







2:46-3:25

# HAVE A LITTLE FAITH

— — —  
READ “THAT WHENEVER...SAFETY AND HAPPINESS”

- **FUNDAMENTAL OF EQUALITY: NO ONE CAN JUDGE YOUR HAPPINESS LIKE YOU!!**
- **EVERY PERSON CAN PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS BECAUSE EACH OF US IS THE BEST JUDGE OF OUR HAPPINESS**
  - **TRUST IS PLACED IN THE PEOPLE TO ALWAYS BE EVALUATING THEIR OWN LIVES**
  - **THE SIGNERS TRUST THAT PEOPLE WILL RESPOND WHEN THEIR RIGHTS ARE STOLEN**



# THE POWER TO JUDGE

— — —  
READ “BUT WHEN A... SYSTEMS OF  
GOVERNMENT”

**BASED ON OUR PRESENT... WE JUDGE THE  
FUTURE**

- EVERY PERSON MAKES THESE DECISIONS EVERY DAY
- WE ARE ALL EQUAL IN OUR ABILITY TO JUDGE... **NOT EQUAL IN OUR ABILITY TO BE RIGHT**

**\*\* THE SIGNERS HAD TOTAL OPTIMISM IN MAN'S  
ABILITY SEE THE PRESENT AND JUDGE FUTURE EVENTS**

- **EX: REVOLT AGAINST A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS DENYING OUR  
UNALIENABLE RIGHTS**



# THE VALUE OF COMMUNICATION

- THINK ABOUT HOW THE D of I WAS WRITTEN...
  - COMMITTEES
  - MEETINGS IN EACH COLONY
  - 1ST, 2ND CONTINENTAL CONGRESSES
- OUR COUNTRY BEGAN WITH CONVERSATIONS... SHARING OUR FEELINGS OF HAPPINESS
- EVERY PERSON DESERVES EQUAL ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT... WHICH PROTECTS HAPPINESS



## SECTION 3

“HE HAS REFUSED...”

# THE HEART OF THE DECLARATION

— — —  
END OF SECTION 2:

“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.”

- ALL READERS ARE ASKED TO BE JUDGES
- THE FACTS MUST PROVE KING GEORGE IS A TYRANT



# PROOF OF INTENT

— — —  
WHAT DOES “INTENT” MEAN?

- THE SIGNERS MUST DISPLAY FACTS THAT SHOW KGIII INTENDED TO SECURE DOMINATION OVER THE COLONIES... NOTHING WAS AN ACCIDENT



# A REPEATED HISTORY

— — —  
“THE HISTORY OF THE PRESENT KING OF GREAT BRITAIN IS A HISTORY OF REPEATED INJURIES AND USURPATIONS...”

- ANOTHER DEFINITION?
- SIGNERS WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW AMERICANS CAN SEE THE PRESENT AND PROPERLY JUDGE THE FUTURE

**IMAGINE YOU ARE THE SIGNERS...AND YOU BELIEVE EVERYTHING WAS PLANNED... WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS FOR REACTION??**



# THE ONLY CHOICE... IS TO FIGHT!



0:41

# SECTION 4

**“IN EVERY STAGE OF THESE OPPRESSIONS...”**

# HOW DO YOU DEFINE THE “SOUL”?



0-1:19

# HOW DO YOU DEFINE THE “SOUL”?



0-1:15

# HEART AND SOUL

IN SECTION 3, THE GRIEVANCES AGAINST  
KGIH ARE THE HEART OF THE D OF I

- THE D OF I NEEDED THE GRIEVANCES FOR THE COLONISTS TO CLAIM THEIR FREEDOM

IN SECTION 4, THE DIRECTION FOR WHAT  
AMERICA BELIEVES IT CAN BE WAS  
WRITTEN

... THE SOUL



# THE BIRTH OF A FREE PEOPLE

— — —  
**\*\* READ SEC.4, SENTENCE 1 &2\*\***

**WHAT DOES “REDRESS” MEAN?**

**RE-READ SENTENCE 2... WHAT DEMAND IS MADE?**

- **AS ONE PEOPLE, SEPARATE AND EQUAL, WE REQUIRE SPECIAL TREATMENT AND KGIII IS NOT PROVIDING IT**



# SPECIAL TREATMENT

AMERICANS NEED A LEADER WHO CAN  
PROVIDE:

- FREEDOM
- PROTECTION
- MATERIAL PROSPERITY
- JUSTICE
- PEACE

THIS IS WHAT A “FREE PEOPLE” DESERVE!



# ONE WORD AFFECTS THE FUTURE

“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.”

- WHICH WORD WOULD SET A TONE OF UNITY THEN AND NOW?

**THIS IS OUR FIRST ACTION AS A FREE PEOPLE!!**



# INABILITY TO LEAD

---  
KGIII CHOSE TO IGNORE THE COLONISTS...  
TO TRY TO DOMINATE THEM

IF KGIII IS NOT PROVIDING FREEDOM, WHAT  
IS HE? *(IN THE EYES OF THE SIGNERS)*

SENTENCES 1 & 2 DEFINE WHAT KIND OF  
TREATMENT THE COLONISTS EXPECT

**EQUALITY = FREEDOM**



# SIBLING “LOVE”



# OUR BROTHERS...OUR ENEMIES

## SECTION 4 PART 2:

*“Nor have We been wanting in 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 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 ARE (STILL?) A FAMILY

---

## CONSANGUINITY

- FROM LATIN
- MEANS “A BLOOD RELATIONSHIP, SHARING A LINEAGE OR ANCESTRY WITH.”

WHY DO THE SIGNERS CARE TO EVEN MENTION THEIR  
“BLOOD RELATIONSHIP” WITH THE BRITISH PEOPLE???



# WE ARE (STILL?) A FAMILY

---  
**\*\* MOST EDITED SECTION IN ENTIRE D of I\*\***

- THE COLONISTS ISSUES ARE WITH KGIII... NOT THE BRITISH PEOPLE
- THE COLONISTS HAVE LOOKED TO THEIR BRETHREN TO SUPPORT THEIR VIEWS AS FAMILY WOULD
- ATTEMPTED TO DIVIDE THE BRITISH PEOPLE AND KGIII
  - DO YOU SUPPORT US, BROTHER?
  - DO YOU SUPPORT US, SISTER?



# LOVE...BETRAYED

— — —

## FROM SIGNERS' VIEWPOINT:

- WE WERE FORCED TO SEPARATE FROM KGIII (WE DID NOT WANT TO)
- OUR BRETHREN DID NOT FOLLOW US IN THE DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE (BETRAYAL !!)
- WE DID NOT WANT TO FIGHT AND MAKE ENEMIES... **BUT WE HAVE NO CHOICE**

“Enemies in War, in Peace  
Friends.”



# OUR FINAL ACTION

## SECTION 4 PART 3:

“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...”

**THE COLONISTS ARE DIVORCING FROM KGIII AND ENGLAND...  
JUST LIKE A REAL DIVORCE... WHOSE PERMISSION DID THEY  
NEED?**

**HOW DO THE COLONISTS KNOW IF THEY WERE GRANTED THIS  
DIVORCE?**



# I HAVE HEARD THIS BEFORE!

— — —

“...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...”

- JEFFERSON DID NOT WANT TO USE THESE WORDS... THE SCC HAD HIM ADD THIS
- JEFFERSON ACCEPTED THAT HIS JOB WAS TO PUT INTO WORDS HOW THE SIGNERS FELT... THESE WORDS WERE PERFECT

DEMOCRATIC ART!!



# THE END OF THE BEGINNING

“... and that as Free and Independent , 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.”

**WHATEVER OCCURS FROM THIS POINT...**

**WE EXPERIENCE AS ONE NATION!!!**



# THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER (SUPER BOWL XXV)



:38-3:15