

# The Declaration of Independence

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# The five facets of equality presented in the Declaration

- *The ideal of equality requiring freedom from domination*
- *Equality of opportunity to access the tool of government*
- *The use of egalitarian methods to generate collective intelligence*
- *The equality of involvement achieved through practices of mutual benefit*
- *Equality as co-creation and co-ownership of our shared world*

# The First Sentence

*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.*

## And the Next...

*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.*

# In Contrast, Confederate Cornerstone Speech

*Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite ideas: its foundations are laid, its cornerstone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery is his natural and moral condition. This, our new government, is the first, in the history of the world based upon this great...truth.*

Confederate Vice President Alexander H. Stephens

# Colonists' Gauges of their Government

- *Do our leaders pursue the common good?*
- *Do they support the rule of law and the sovereignty of the people?*
- *Do they cultivate material prosperity and growth?*
- *Do they ensure access to justice?*
- *Do they ensure access to security?*
- *Do they ensure access to peace?*



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Personal Filter Bubble



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

[illegible]

Wm Rogers  
Joseph Hewes  
John Pown  
Edward Rutledge  
Barton Grinneth  
Lyman Hall  
Geo Wallcut.

Tho<sup>o</sup> Wynn Jones  
 Thomas Lynch Jun<sup>r</sup>  
 Arthur Middleton

Wm. Harrison  
The Nelsons  
Francis Lightfoot Lee  
Charles Braxton

John Hancock  
Samuel Chase,  
Wm. Paro  
Thos. Stone  
Cyrtus Court of Pines & Co.

George Wythe  
Richard Henry Lee  
Th Jefferson

Wm Harrison  
The Nelsons Jr.  
Francis Lightfoot Lee  
Garler Braxton

John Morris  
 Benjamin Washburn  
 Benj. Franklin  
 John Norton  
 Geo. Wyner  
 J. B. Smith

Geo. Taylor  
James Wilson  
Geo. W. P.  
Casar Ramsey

Thos M. Kear

1700  
 Chas. Loring  
 Aaron Lewis  
 Lewis Morris

Wm. Stockton  
Jas. Wickes  
C. S. Hopkins  
John Hart

Abra. Clark

Josiah Bartlett  
 Wm Whipple  
 Sam Adams  
 John Adams  
 Rufus Paine  
 Elbridge Gerry  
 8 1/2

Step. Hopkins  
William Ellory  
Roger Sherman  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Huntington  
M<sup>rs</sup> Williams

Oliver Wolcott  
Matthew Thomson