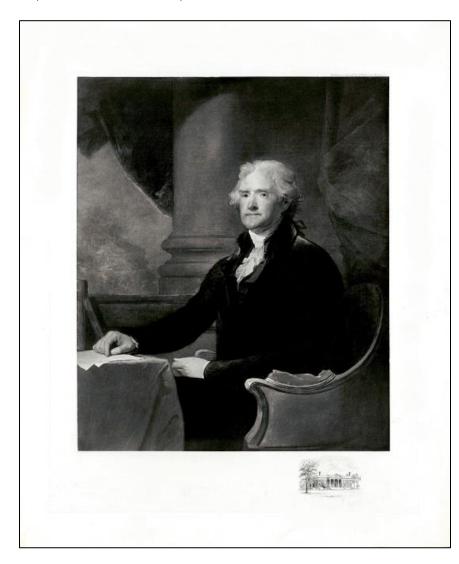
Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence

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.



Thomas Jefferson.

Created/Published Boston: [publisher not transcribed], c1897.

From the painting from life by Gilbert Stuart.

Photogravure; sheet 92 x 122 cm. or less.

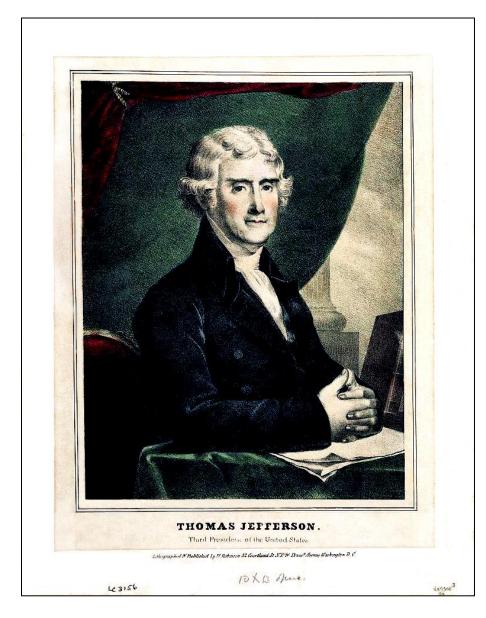
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018697338.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-46724.

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.



Thomas Jefferson.

Half-length portrait, seated, facing slightly right.

Created/Published [between 1840 and 1851], N.Y. & Washington, D.C.

Robinson, Henry R., - 1850, lithographer.

Lithograph, color; 29.4 x 22.7 cm (image), 39 x 30.9 cm (sheet).

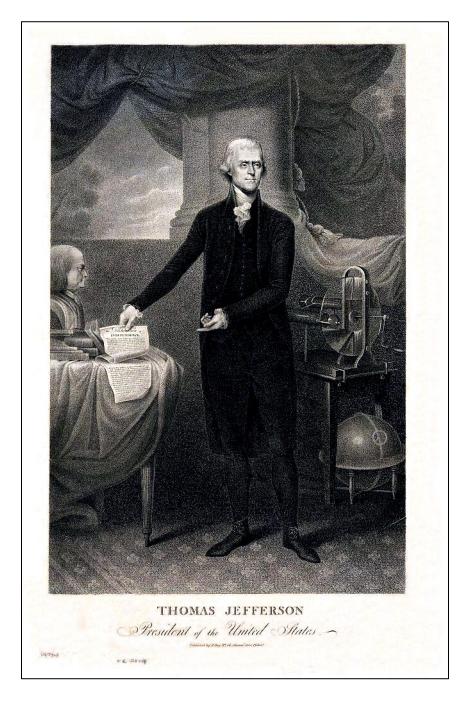
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Control Number: 95502155.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-31158.

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.



Thomas Jefferson.

Full-length portrait, standing beside a table; he is lifting from the table the Declaration of Independence with his right hand and pointing to it with his left hand.

Published by A. Day, Philadelphia., [1801(?)].

Tiebout, Cornelius, 1777-1832, engraver; Peale, Rembrandt, 1778-1860, artist.

Stipple engraving; 58.4 x 36.6 cm (sheet, trimmed).

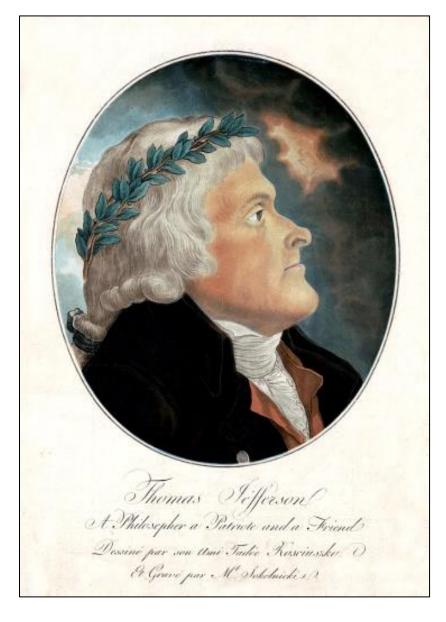
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Control Number: 96522974.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-15715.

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.



Thomas Jefferson, a philosopher, a patriote [sic], and a friend, dessiné par son ami Tadée Kosciuszko et gravé par Mł. Sokolnicki.

Bust portrait, right profile, wearing laurel crown.

Created/Published [between 1800 and 1816].

Sokolnicki, Michał, 1760-1816, etcher; Kościuszko, Tadeusz, 1746-1817, artist.

Aquatint portrait after painting ca. 1799 by Tadeusz Kościuszko.

LOC, PPD, Washington, D.C.

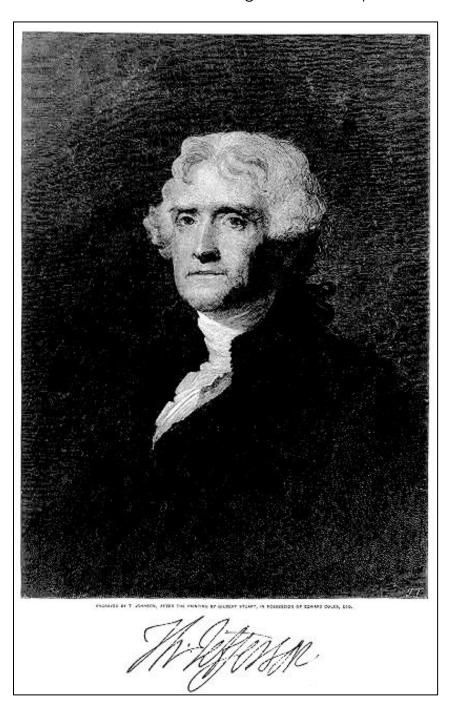
LOC Control Number: 00650381.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-12874.

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.



Thomas Jefferson.

Bust portrait, facing left.

Created/Published 1887.

By T. Johnson, after the painting by Gilbert Stuart, in Century Magazine, 1887.

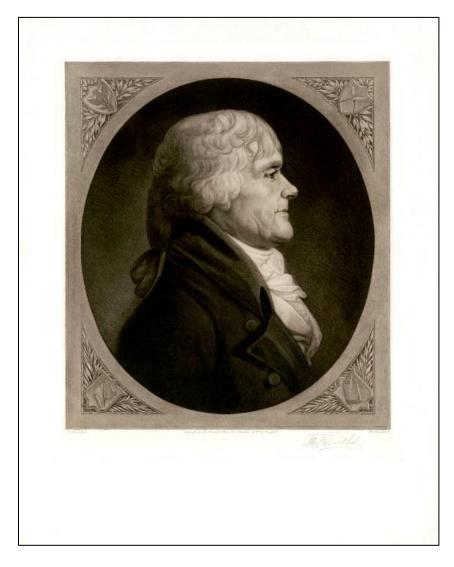
Line engraving.

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2006675741.

Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-54126. 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.



Thomas Jefferson.

Created/Published Philadelphia: [publisher not transcribed], c1905.

Campbell, William J., publisher; Memin, S., printmaker.

Chalk lithograph; sheet 92 x 122 cm. or less.

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018697336.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-46722.

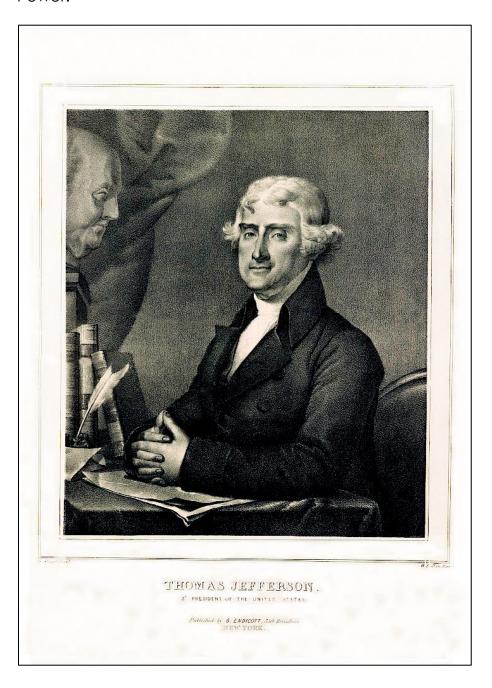
He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

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.



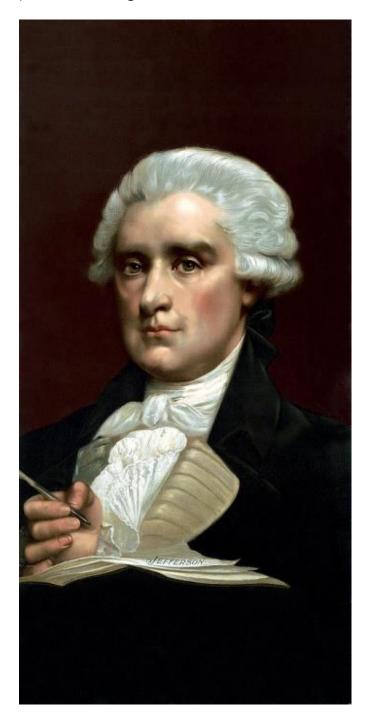
Thomas Jefferson.

Created/Published [no date recorded on shelf list card]. Print.

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2003679978.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-05288. 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:



Thomas Jefferson.

Created/Published New York: [publisher not transcribed], c1893.

Chromolithograph; sheet 92 x 122 cm. or less.

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Control Number:

2018697337.

Reproduction Number:

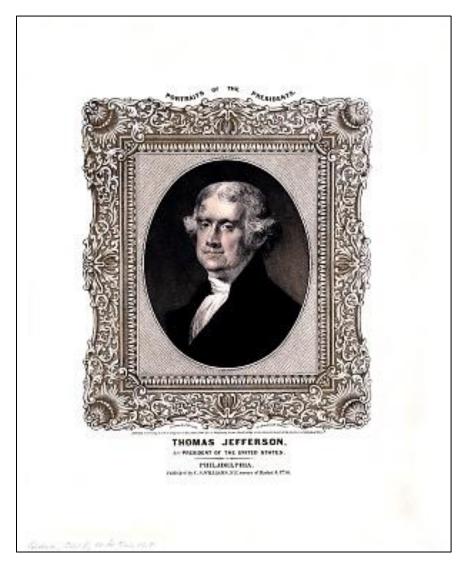
LC-DIG-ppmsca-46723.

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:



Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the United States.

Created/Published c1846.

Newsam, Albert, 1809-1864, lithographer.

Lithograph.

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

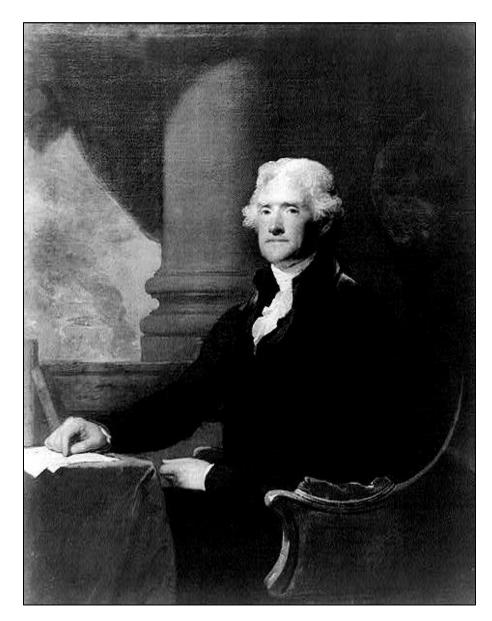
Library of Congress Control Number: 2003673097.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-11773.

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:



Thomas Jefferson.

Three-quarter length portrait, seated at table, facing left.

Created/Published c1898.

Stuart, Gilbert, 1755-1828, artist.

Photomechanical print.

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Control Number: 98503156.

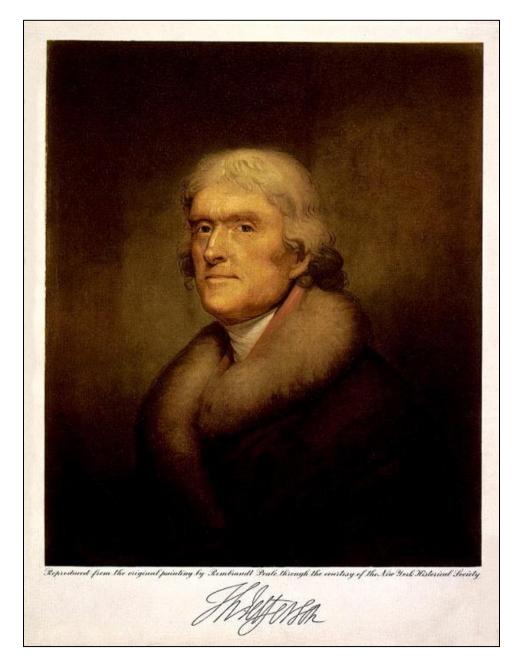
Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-8195.

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.



Thomas Jefferson.

Head-andshoulders portrait, facing left.

Created/Publishe d [between 1890 and 1940(?)].

Peale, Rembrandt, 1778-1860, artist.

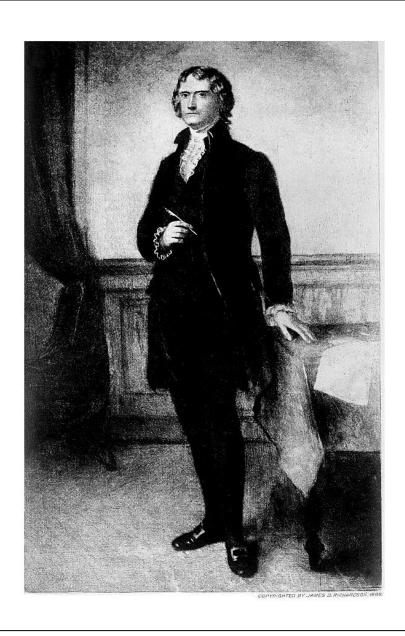
Photomechanical print: color.

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Control Number: 93504463.

Reproduction Number: LC-USZC4-2474.

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 and 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.



Thomas Jefferson.

Created/Publish ed [between 1916 and 1919].

Negative: glass; 5 x 7 in. or smaller.

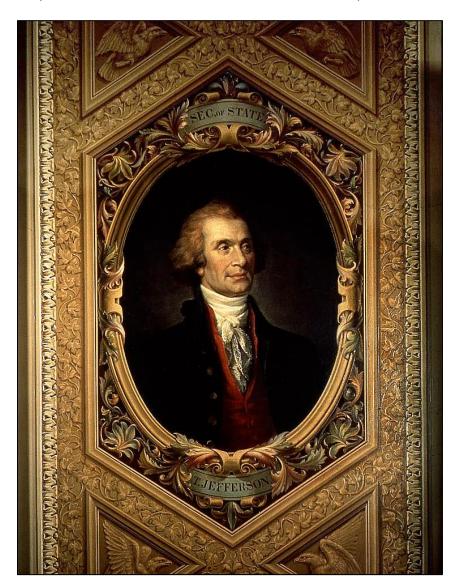
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016854309.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-hec-10973.

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.



Thomas Jefferson.

Secretary of State, close-up, painting in U.S. Capitol.

Created/Published ca. 1920-ca. 1950.

Horydczak, Theodor, approximately 1890-1971, photographer.

Film transparency - color; portrait paintings; 8x10 inches.

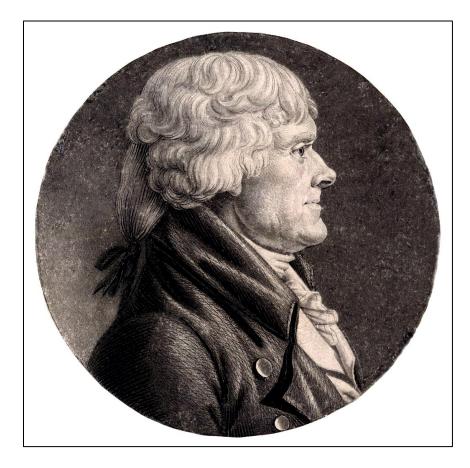
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2019684867.

Reproduction Number: LC-H8-CT-C01-104-A.

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 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.



Thomas Jefferson.

Head-and-shoulders portrait, facing right.

Created/Published [Washington, D.C.: 1805].

Saint-Mémin, Charles Balthazar Julien Fevret de, 1770-1852, artist.

Engraving; 5.0×5.6 cm.

LOC, PPD, D.C.

LOC CN: 97503644.

RN: LC-DIGppmsca-31800.

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.

Signed by Order and in Behalf of the Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

Attest.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776. DECLARATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED. HEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necellary for one Prople to difficie the Political Bands which have connected them with mother, and to affium among the Powers of the Eurhs, the fisquate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Natural Cool entitle them, a detected Relight to the Opinions of Mankhad requires that they floud decisive the Laws of Nature and of Natural Cool entitle them, a decrease Relight to the Opinions of Mankhad requires that they found decisive the Laws of Nature and of Natural Cool and the European Cool and the Purfair of Happinotis—That to focus the Relights, that the Bight of the Power of the Purfair of Happinotis—That to focus the Relights, Coorenance the Religion of the Condition of Mankhad Cool and the Condition of Mankhad Cool and Coorenance the Religion of the Religion of the Cool and the Condition of Mankhad Cool and Coorenance the Cool and the Condition of Mankhad Coorenance to the Religion of the Religion 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 thould declare the causes which impel them

Dunlap Declaration of Independence (broadside produced by John Dunlap on the night of July 4, 1776); first printing; sheet ([1] p.), 47 x 38 cm; LOC, PPD, D.C.; LOC CN: 2003576546.

ATTEST.
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,

PRILADELPHIA: PRINTED BY JOHN DONEAR.

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.



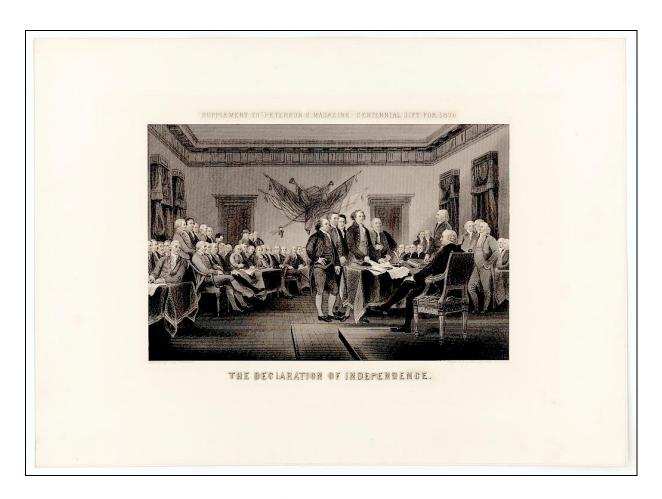
Above wood engraving: five-person drafting committee of the Declaration of Independence presenting the document to Congress on June 28, 1776/Marsh sc; print after painting by John Trumbull shows John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert R. Livingston, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin standing before John Hancock as members of Congress observe, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Trumbull, John, 1756-1843, artist; Mead, Larkin G. (Larkin Goldsmith), 1835-1910, collector; created /published [United States?], [Publisher not identified], [19th century?]; wood engraving; image 11 x 17 cm, sheet 12 x 19, on page 21 x 17 cm; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2014647454; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ds-05568.

The Committee of Five (John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert R. Livingston, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin) decided that Thomas Jefferson would write the first draft of the Declaration of Independence. He then consulted with the others on the committee, who reviewed the draft and made extensive changes. Jefferson then produced another copy incorporating these changes. (Wp)



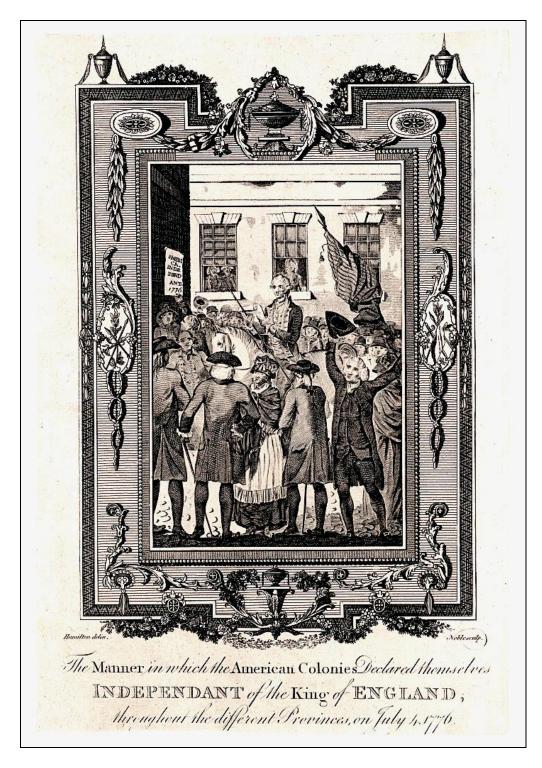
Above lithograph: Declaration of Independence: July 4th 1776; print shows the signing of the Declaration of Independence; N. Currier (Firm); created/published [New York]: N. Currier, [between 1835 and 1856]; lithograph, hand colored; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 91795009; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-08583.

On June 28, 1776, the committee presented the copy to the "Committee of the Whole" Congress. The title of the document was "A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled". The Congress then heard the report of the Committee of the Whole and declared the sovereign status of the United Colonies on July 2. The Committee of the Whole then turned to the Declaration, and it was given a second reading before adjournment. On July 3, the Committee of the Whole gave the Declaration the third reading. Congress voted its agreement on July 4. (Wp)



Above engraving: The Declaration of Independence; painted by John Trumbull; engraved and printed by Illman Brothers; print shows the presentation of the Declaration of Independence to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Illman Brothers, Trumbull, John, 1756-1843, artist; created/published; [Philadelphia, PA]: engraved and printed by Illman Brothers, [1876]; engraving, sheet 36.3 x 50.6 cm; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2018645792; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-07154.

The draft document was then referred back to the Committee of Five to prepare a "fair copy" for delivery to the broadside printer, John Dunlap. Upon the July 5 release of the Dunlap broadside, the public could read who had signed the Declaration. Hancock's sole signature, as President of the Continental Congress, appears on the broadside as attested by Secretary Charles Thomson. (Wp)



Above engraving: The manner in which the American colonies declared themselves independent [sic] of the King of England, throughout the different provinces, on July 4, 1776/Hamilton delin; Noble sculp; created/published

[1783?]; engraving; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2004670022; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-11777.

Thomas Jefferson's rough draft of the Declaration of Independence (The Thomas Jefferson Papers at the Library of Congress):

a Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in General Congress assembled. When in the course of human words it becomes ne - sume among the powers of the earth the which the laws of nature & of nature is god entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of manking requires that they should declare the courses We hold these buths to be self eggen that fam inherent Ginalianable, among which are life # liberty, & the pressuit of happiness; that to secure these with, go vernments are instituted among oven, deriving their gust 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, It's institute new government, laying it's foundation on such mineiples Horganising it's powers in such form, at to them she to seem most likely to effect their safely of reppin to. prudence indeed will dichate that governments long established should not be che for light & transient causes: and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disprosed to suffer while wils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed but when a long train of abuses & usurprations begun at a distinguished provid, Diprerous invariably the same object, winess a design to make reduce them under absolute Desphire, it is their night, it is their duty to throw off such + It to movide new wards for their future security, such has been the patient sufferance of trese colonies; I such is now the necessity which constrains them to papuraged their former systems of government. The Miny of fact Britain greated in present the island of functions of functi usurpations, among which, apprears dict the uniform tenor of the rest all of which 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 yet unsullied by falsehood

he has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the pub. - lie good: he has forbidden his governors to passlaws of inmediate & presving importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has neglected theoly to attend to them. he has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of proprie unless those people would relinquish the right of representation, a right inesting able to them & long is able to to to ander; had grant is of their privile records for the sole por siese of fat in Time often with " ifrelition by there to be elected, the starty the logislature powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise, the state remaining in the mean time easposed to all the dangers of invasion from without & convulsions within: has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose districting the laws for naturalisation of foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, & raising the conditions of new ap - propriations of lands: a last suffered the ministration of justice totally to cension some of the State profusing his assent to laws for establishing judicion prowers . the tas made town judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and amount of their salaries: he has exected a multihude of new offices by a self-assumed prower, & sent his - ther swarms of officers to harrass over people & eat out their substance: he has kept among us in times of preace standing armies & ships of war; he has affected to render the military, independent of & superior to the civil prover : rehasembined with others to subject us to a rediction forcing to tions and unacknowled by our law; given his assent to their pretended not flegislation, for quartering large bodies of armed troops amon us; for protecting them by a mock trial from prunishment for any musters they should commit on the inhabitants of these states; for cutting offour trade with all grants of the world; for improving texes on us without our consent; for depriving us of the benefits of trial by juny; for tran a protery us beyond saw to be tried for posebended often for aboli wing the free night adjunction laws in a occupation prosence addition the first and a supplied in the instance for aboli wing the boundaries so as to senter what was an adapted & file in shemmend for

abolishing our most inquistant claws + 8t. Franklin for taking away our charters baltering fundamentally the forms of our governments, for vus ponding our own legislatures & declaring themselves invested with power to Regislate forces in all cases whatsoever this putulin way our yount as he has abdicated government here, with drawing no governors, & declaring us out of his allegiance & protection; he has plundered our reas, ravaged our wasts, hurst our towns & destroyed the lives of our presente: he is at this time trensporting large armies of foreign over the works of the properties they army ale cardy begin with a cardy from with a the most a channe age. I toldly a nation: he has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our prontiers the merciles Indian vavages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sears, & conditions of excistence: he has incited treasonable insurrections of our follow cutigans, with the he has thought event work against human nature doubt, violating it is most se. - ored rights of life Hilberty in the prossons of a distant people who never of finded him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another herica -spring, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thether. This piralical warfare, the opportrium of infidel prowers, is the warfare of the Christian king of treat Prilain determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce; and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fast of distinguished die, he is now exceeding those very people to rise in arms among us, and to prevehase that liberty of which he has deprived them, by when i to me joir upon whom he also thused them the sony in of former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes which he worses them to commit against the lives of another.] in every stage of these oppravious we have petitioned for redraw in the most humble + P. Franklin terms; our repeated politions have been answered by repeated injuries. a prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the nules of a propple who mean to be free. Juture ages will scarce believe that the hardiness of one man, adventured within the short compass of twelve years to the forward for want of the principle, over a people fostered & fixed in principle,

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to over British brothron, we have varned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend a juris. - diction over these our states we have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration & settlement here, no one of which could warrant so strange a pretension: that these were effected at the expense of our own blood & breasure, nasticked by the wealth or the strength of Great Pondown: that in constituting rdeed our several forms of government, we had adopted one common king, thereby easing a foundation for perpetual league & amily with them: but that submission to their some formation or reformational district exercised: and we appealed to their native justice & magnanimity fas well as to the tres four common hindred to disavour these usurpations which were likely to interrupt they too have been deaf to the voice of justice & of consanguinity, I when occasions have been given them, by the regular course of their laws, of rom ving from their councils the disturbers of our harmony, they have by their free election re-established them in prower, at this very time too thay was permitting their chief magistrate to send over not only soldiers of over common Plood, but Scotch & foreign merconaries to invade & delegant will these facts warm the last state to agonize my affection and mant so is hide is tone " there unfeeling brothren, we must endeavor to forget our former love for them, and to hold them as we hold the next of manking, enemies in war, in preace friends. we might have been a free & a great people together; but a commu vication of grandeur & of free som it seems is below their dignity. be it so, since they will have it . the road to gain thappyings, is open to us too; we will always it on We therefore the representatives of the United States of america in General Congress as mbled do in the name & by authority of the good propple of these blates] reject I renounce all allegiance Voubjection to the kings of Great Britain Valloiners who may hereafter examiny, through, or condo vinam, is a utterry dissolve to break of all political connection which may have heretother Jul. -sisted between us of the people or parliament of Great Britain; and finally we do assert and declare these colonies to be free and independent vates, and that as free & independent states they whall horse after have power to lavy war, conclude peace contract alliances, establish commorce, It to do all other acts and things which independent states may of night do. and for the support of this declaration I in mutually priedge to each other over lives, our forheres, your sacred honour.

Images are courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. (Rights advisory: no known restrictions on publication.)

Image editing/enhancement and book concept are by Tom R. Chambers (American Citizen [Texas]).