

U. S. Declaration of Independence

July 4, 1776

Abstract

English [1], with translations to Swedish, Finnish, French, & Spanish.
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In Congress, July 4, 1776	I Samlag, 4 juli 1776	Eduskunnassa, neljännellä maaliskuuta, vuonna 1776	En Congrès, 4 juli 1776	En Congreso, 4 juli 1776
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, —	Den enige Förklaringen av de tretton Amerikas Förenta Stater,	Yksimielinen julistus kolmetoista Amerikan yhdistetystä vallasta,	—	—
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.	När i gången av mänskliga händelser, det bliver nödvändigt av ett folk att skilja de politiska band, vilka hava förbindat dem med ett annat, och att antaga ibland jordens makter, den särskilda och lika stationen till vilken Naturens och Naturens Guds Lag berättiga dem, — —	Koska inhimillisten tapahtumisten käymisessä, tulee tarpeelliseksi yhden kansan purkaa niitä poliittisia siteitä, jotka ovat sitoneet heidän toiseen, ja ottaa vastaan maan valtien seassa, erillistä ja kaltaista sijaa johon luonnon laki ja luonnon Jumalan laki oikeuttavat heidän, — —	Lorsqu'en train des événements humains, — — — — —	— — — — —

We hold these truths to be self-evident,	Vi hålla desse sanningar att vara själv-klare,	Pidetään näitä totuuksia itses-tään selvinä,	—	—
that all men are created equal,	att alla människor äro skapade lika,	että kaikki ihmiset on luotu kal-taisiksi,	—	—
that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,	att de äro förlänade av sin Ska-pare med visse oförytterlige rät-tigheter,	että heidän on annettu Luojal-taan eräitä siirtämättömiä oi-keuksia,	—	—
that among these are Life, Lib-erty and the pursuit of Happi-ness.	att ibland desse äro Liv, Frihet, och Lyckans eftersträvande	että näiden seassa on elämä, va-paus, ja pyrkeminen Onnellisuu-teen.	—	—
—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men,	—På det för att försäkra desse rättigheter äro Regeringar stifta-de ibland Människor,	—Että varmistaa näitä oikeuk-sia, on Hallituksia perustettu ih-misten seassa,	—	—
deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,	åstadkommande sine rättvi-se makter från de Regerades myndighet,	johtuen oikeita valtuuksia Hallit-tujen hyväksymyksestä	—	—
—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destruc-tive of these ends,	—På det att när som helst någon Form av Regering bliver förstö-rande av dessa ändamål,	—Että koska ikänä mitään Hal-lituksen muotoa tulee hävittä-mään näitä syitä,	—	—
it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it,	så är det Folkets Rätt att föränd-ra eller avskaffa den,	—	—	—
and to institute new Govern-ment,	och at inrätta ny Regering,	—	—	—
laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form,	läggande dess grund på såda-ne principer och ordnande dess makter i sådan form,			
as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happi-ness.	som till dem skall tyckas sannol-kast åstadkomma sin Trygghet och Lycka.			
Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long estab-lished should not be changed for light and transient causes;	Forsiktighet, i sanningen, vill be-ordra att Regeringar länge inrät-tade icke skulle ändras för lätta ock flyktiga mål	—	—	—
and accordingly all experience hath shewn,	och i enighet därmed har all er-farenhet bevisat,	—	—	—

that mankind are more disposed to suffer,	att människor äro vanare att lida,	—	—
while evils are sufferable,	så länge onda ting äro liderliga,	—	—
than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.	än att rätta sig genom att afskaffa de former vid vilka de hava blivit vana	—	—
But when a long train of abuses and usurpations,	Men då ett långt tåg missbruk ock tillskansande,	—	—
pursuing invariably the same Object	eftersträvande allesammans samma målet	—	—
evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism,	ådagalaggar en komplott att underkasta dem till absolut despotism,	—	—
it is their right,	så är det deras rätt,	—	—
it is their duty,	så är det deras plikt,	—	—
to throw off such Government,	att avkasta sådan Regering,	—	—
and to provide new Guards for their future security.	och att förse nye Åtgärder till sin framtide säkerhet.	—	—
—Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies;	Sådan har varit desse koloniers långmodige lidelse;	—	—
and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.	och sådan är nu nödvändigheten som tvinger dem att ändra sina tidigare System av Regering.	—	—
The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations,	Historien av den nuvarande Kungen av Stor Brittanien är en historia av upprepade skador och tillskansande,	—	—
all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.	allesammans havande i direkt syfte inrättelsen av ett absolut tyranni över desse Stater.	—	—
To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.	—	—	—

He has refused his Assent to Laws,	—	—	—	—
the most wholesome and neces- sary for the public good.	—	—	—	—
He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance,	—	—	—	—
unless suspended in their opera- tion till his Assent should be ob- tained;	—	—	—	—
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 relin- quish 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, uncom- fortable, and distant from the de- pository 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 For- eigners;	—	—	—	—
refusing to pass others to encour- age their migrations hither,	—	—	—	—
and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.	—	—	—	—
He has obstructed the Adminis- tration of Justice,	—	—	—	—
by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary pow- ers.	—	—	—	—
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 Offi- cers 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 exam- ple and fit instrument	—	—	—	—
for introducing the same abso- lute 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 Legisla- tures,	—	—	—	—
and declaring themselves in- vested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.	—	—	—	—
He has abdicated Government here,	—	—	—	—
by declaring us out of his Pro- tection 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 Merce- naries	—	—	—	—
to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny,	—	—	—	—
already begun with circum- stances 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 Coun- try,	—	—	—	—
to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren,	—	—	—	—
or to fall themselves by their Hands.	—	—	—	—
He has excited domestic insur- rections 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 Oppres- sions	—	—	—	—
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 at- tentions to our Brittish brethren.	Icke heller hava vi saknat upp- märksamheter på våre Brittiske bröder.	—	—	—

We have warned them from time to time	Vi hava varnat dem då och då	—	—	—
of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us.	om angrepp av deras lagstiftande församling att sträcka ut en obemyndigad domsrätt över oss.	—	—	—
We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here.	Vi hava påmint dem av omständigheterna kring vår utvandring och bosättning hit.	—	—	—
We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity,	Vi hava vädjat till deras inhemska rättvisa och storsinhet,	—	—	—
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.	De också hava varit döve till rättvisans och blodsfrändskapets röst.	—	—	—
We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity,	Vi måste, därför, tilltyga i nödvändigheten	—	—	—
which denounces our Separation,	som fördömer vår skilsmässa,	—	—	—
and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind,	och hålla dem, som vi hålla det övriga av människosläktet,	—	—	—
Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.	ovänner i krig, i fred vänner.	—	—	—
We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America,	Vi, därför, Amerikas Förenta Staternas Representater,	Sentähden, Edustajailta Amerikan Yhdistetuistä Valtoista,	—	—
in General Congress, Assembled,	i allmänt Samlag, församlade,	yleisessä Eduskunnassa, kokoonnuttu	en général Congrès, assemblées,	—
appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions,	—	vedottaessa maailman Korkeimpaan Tuomariin aikeiden vanhurskaudesta	—	—

do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare,	—	näiden siirtomaiden hyvän kansan nimessä ja hyväksymisessä, vakavasti julkaistaan ja ilmoitetaan,	—	—
That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States;	Att desse Förenta Colonier äro, och av rätt borde vara Frie och Oberoende Stater;	Että nämä siirtomaat ovat, ja oikeasti pitäisi heidän oleman, Vapaat ja Riippumattomat Vallat;	—	—
that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown,	—	—	—	—
and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain,	att all politisk förbindelse emellan dem och Stor-Brittaniens Stat,	—	—	—
is and ought to be totally dissolved;	är och borde vara helt och hållet skild;	—	—	—
and that as Free and Independent States,	och som Frie och Oberoende Stater,	—	—	—
they have full Power	så har de full Makt	—	—	—
to levy War,	att föra krig,	—	—	—
conclude Peace,	föredraga fred,	—	—	—
contract Alliances,	avtala fördrag,	—	—	—
establish Commerce,	inrätta handel,	—	—	—
and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.	och föra alle andre Gärningar och Ting som Oberoende Stater må av rätt göra.	—	—	—
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	Thomas Lynch, Jr. Arthur Middleton	Virginia George Wythe Richard Henry Lee Thomas Jefferson Benjamin Harrison Thomas Nelson, Jr. Francis Lightfoot Lee Carter Braxton	John Morton George Clymer James Smith George Taylor James Wilson George Ross	New York William Floyd Philip Livingston Francis Lewis Lewis Morris	New Hampshire Josiah Bartlett William Whipple	Rhode Island Stephen Hopkins William Ellery
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South Carolina Edward Rutledge Thomas Heyward, Jr.	Maryland Samuel Chase William Paca Thomas Stone Charles Carroll of Car- rollton	Pennsylvania Robert Morris Benjamin Rush Benjamin Franklin	Delaware Caesar Rodney George Read Thomas McKean	New Jersey Richard Stockton John Witherspoon Francis Hopkinson John Hart Abraham Clark	Massachusetts Samuel Adams John Adams Robert Treat Paine Elbridge Gerry	New Hampshire Matthew Thornton

References

- [1] Declaration of independence: A transcription. <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>.