

KDZ LaTeX Course - HW1

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Part I

History of the United States

Chapter 1

Founding of the United States

The United States of America was wrenched from the core of the 18th Century—the “Age of Enlightenment.” The journey began quietly with the scratching of a quill pen and then was thrust home at the point of a bayonet. Guttering candles at writing desks bloomed into torches leading ragged troops across frozen fields in the dead of night. The scholarly treatises of John Locke and admonitions of Jean-Jacques Rousseau were replaced with hurriedly scribbled marching orders, the simple words in soldiers’ diaries, and carefully penned documents of conscience and principal.

1.1 Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

During the spring of 1776, the words “independence”, “separation”, and “secession” were spoken in colonial meeting houses and taverns alike. George III¹ had declared the colonies to be in open rebellion. The British garrison in Boston had been forced to decamp to Halifax, and the French were hinting at possible aid against their hereditary enemy. If the will to proceed was wanting, a two-shilling 47-page pamphlet by a recent English immigrant expressed stirring ideas that called for action.

1.1.1 Liberty Bell

The Pennsylvania State House needed a bell for its new steeple. The Whitechapel Bell Foundry cast one and, on its first test, it cracked. Philadelphia founders John Pass and John Stow were commissioned to make the bell (Figure 1.1) less brittle and recast it. On their second try, in 1753, it was accepted. The \$225 bell weighing 2,044 pounds, and which rings in the key of E flat, is engraved in part “Proclaims Liberty Throughout all the Land...”

King George III

King George III (1738-1820) was the grandson of George II. He only learned to read at the age of eleven. In 1760 he became king, and the next year married Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, a German princess, who would bear him 15 children. He was a devoted family man, enjoyed gardening, and was a voluminous reader. His royal collection of 65,000 books was given to the British Museum. Although his reign did not end until his death in 1820, mental instability, diagnosed today as hereditary porphyria, effectively ended it in 1811, at which point his son, later George IV, became prince regent.

¹See section 1.1.1



Figure 1.1: Liberty Bell

1.1.2 Thomas Jefferson

The Virginian Thomas Jefferson, born April 13, 1743, was not a brilliant orator, yet he is the acknowledged author of the Declaration of Independence. An accomplished scholar, he spoke five languages, was a gifted writer, inventor, philosopher, and naturalist, and assembled a collection of books that became the embryonic Library of Congress. During the revolution, and later as the Constitution was being debated, he served the country as an ambassador in France, and served as the nation's third president from 1801 to 1809.

1.2 The Constitution

The United States Constitution is America's instruction book. A faded, barely legible set of parchment pages, the original signed document was handwritten in iron gall ink with a feathered quill pen. Cast in eighteenth-century language and preserved in archival security, it is now available for public view and contemplation. The Constitution's present-day fragile appearance, however, masks the muscle and power of its carefully chosen words; forged at a time when life, death, and government rested in the ruling doctrine of divine right of kings.



Figure 1.2: United States Declaration of Independence