

'We hold these truths to be self-evident'



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 law 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.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; and they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable 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 to 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.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown 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.

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 this operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for

the accommodations 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.

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 meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

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 harass our people and eat of 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, civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and acknowledged 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 the seas, to be tried for pretended offenses:

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies:

For taking away our charters, abolishing our invaluable 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, burned our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete 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 of 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.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored 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.

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, ac-

quiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

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 the 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 connections 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.

JOHN HANCOCK
July 4, 1776

New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton.

Massachusetts-Bay: Saml. Adams, John Adams, Robt. Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry.

Rhode Island: Step. Hopkins, William Ellery.

Connecticut: Roger Sherman, Sam'l Huntington, Wm. Williams, Oliver Wolcott.

New York: Wm. Floyd, Phil. Livingston, Frans. Lewis, Lewis Morris.

Pennsylvania: Robt. Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benja. Franklin, John Morton, Geo. Clymer, Jas. Smith, Geo. Taylor, James Wilson, Geo. Ross.

Delaware: Caesar Rodney, Geo. Read, Tho. M'Kean.

Georgia: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, Geo. Walton

Maryland: Samuel Chase, Wm. Paca, Thos. Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

Virginia: George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Th. Jefferson, Benja. Harrison, Ths. Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.

North Carolina: Wm. Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn.

South Carolina: Edward Rutledge, Thos. Heyward, Junr., Thomas Lynch, Junr., Arthur Middleton.

New Jersey: Richd. Stockton, Jno. Witherspoon, Fras. Hopkinson, John Hart, Abra. Clark

Fourth of July quiz on presidential candidates

By GAIL COLLINS

New York Times News Service

Happy upcoming Independence Day! Let's celebrate with a presidential primary quiz.

1. Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey is the latest Republican candidate for president. His slogan is:

- A. "Telling it like it is."
- B. "Yelling it like it is."
- C. "Time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee."
- D. "I don't need any stupid slogan. You got a problem with that?"

2. Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, the second latest Republican to announce he's a presidential candidate:

- A. Is known in New Orleans as "Les Bon Temps Bobby."
- B. Said he once participated in an exorcism.
- C. Gave a thrilling Republican response to the State of the Union speech.
- D. Is less popular in Louisiana than anybody but Barack Obama.

3. Jeb Bush told a gathering of wealthy Manhattan financiers that his most influential adviser on the Middle East was:

- A. His brother George.
- B. His brother Marvin.
- C. The billionaire casino magnate Sheldon Adelson.
- D. "A wealthy Manhattan financier I just had a great talk with in this very room."

4. In one of her emails as secretary of state, Hillary Clinton:

- A. Misspelled "Benghazi."
- B. Urged John Podesta to wear socks to bed.
- C. Debated whether her playlist should include something from the Marvelettes.
- D. Tutored an aide on how to use a fax.

5. Which of the following statements about Mike Huckabee is NOT true?

- A. Hosted an infomercial promoting a cinnamon-heavy "Diabetes Solution Kit."
- B. Has trouble relating to people who don't "order fried green tomatoes for an appetizer."
- C. Wrote a strange essay about rape and bondage 40 years ago, which he describes as a precursor to "Fifty Shades of Grey."
- D. Enjoyed frying squirrels in a popcorn popper as a college student.

6. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky:

- A. Loves squirrels.
- B. Once attempted to equate abortion rights to government support for low-flush toilets.
- C. Is the son of guitar legend Les Paul.
- D. Decorated his office like a scene from "Downton Abbey."



Gail Collins

7. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas once:

- A. Put together a group of advisers who described about global warming as a "God-less environment."
- B. Tweeted a picture of himself posing with what looked like a rug made from an endangered species.
- C. Demanded the return of deep-fried foods to school cafeterias. ("It's not about french fries; it's about freedom.")
- D. Called for special supervision of U.S. military exercises this summer because of concerns that the soldiers might take over and confiscate everyone's guns.

8. Rick Perry has a campaign theme song that goes, "Rick Perry supporter ..."

- A. "... I love law and order."
- B. "... Let's protect our border."
- C. "... Can you spare a quarter?"
- D. "... Take your hands off my daughter."

9. Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin:

- A. Delivered his college valedictorian speech on women's rights.
- B. Got an across-the-board endorsement from the cast of "Duck Dynasty."
- C. Responded to a child's question about global warming by saying that he is a former Boy Scout who "always thought maybe campsites should be cleaner."
- D. Responded to a child's question about global warming by complaining about "gotcha" inquiries.

10. Which Democrat used part of the presidential announcement speech to call for adoption of the metric system?

- A. Hillary Clinton.
- B. Bernie Sanders.
- C. Martin O'Malley.
- D. Lincoln Chafee.

11. One candidate for president seemed sure that the mass murder of nine black people in a historic black church was an attack on religion. ("What other rationale could there be?") That was:

- A. Carly Fiorina.
- B. Ben Carson.
- C. Rick Santorum.
- D. Marco Rubio.

12. Donald Trump:

- A. Showed his support for the American worker by having his line of ties manufactured in Kansas.
- B. Has signed up to host a repackaged quiz show called "Who Wants to Be a Thousandaire?"
- C. Is vowing to "Do for America what I did for Atlantic City."
- D. Says he has a secret plan to defeat ISIS but doesn't "want the enemy to know what I'm doing."

13. The first presidential primary debate, featuring the top 10 Republicans, will be in Ohio in August. It's already causing controversy because:

- A. Fox News, the broadcaster, wants to raise ratings by requiring the candidates to answer questions while suspended over the Grand Canyon.
- B. The governor of Ohio might not make the cut.
- C. Rand Paul has called for a more millennial-friendly "Twitter-off."
- D. Jeb Bush asks that all his male relatives be permitted to pass him notes.

ANSWERS 1-A; 2-B (Jindal's poll numbers are actually worse than Obama's); 3-A; 4-B; 5-C (the bondage essayist was Bernie Sanders); 6-B; 7-B (the other three are all by top officials in Texas state government); 8-B; 9-C ("Duck Dynasty" is pro-Jindal); 10-D; 11-C; 12-D (the ties are still manufactured in China); 13-B.



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