

## IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

## The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

## 'We hold these truths to be self-evident'

**W**e 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 of 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, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them as we hold the rest of man-

kind, 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

## Your Fourth of July quiz

By GAIL COLLINS

New York Times New Service

**H**appy extremely long Independence Day weekend!

As our thoughts turn to the nation's glorious beginnings, it's not actually necessary to wonder what would have happened if Donald Trump had been a founding father. Really, stick



to the fireworks.

Still, the demands of concerned citizenship never wane. Let's see how much attention you've been paying to current presidential events.

1. Celebrating 100 days in office, Trump looked back philosophically on his White House experience and said ...

A. "I thought it would be easier."

B. "I thought there would be better food."

C. "I thought I could do it from Mar-a-Lago."

2. In another 100th-day interview, Trump was grilled by CBS' John Dickerson about his Twitter claim that Barack Obama had his phones wire-tapped. Trump defensively explained that ...

A. "I have huge sources."

B. "I don't know how to spell tapp."

C. "I don't stand by anything."

3. Speaking to the graduating class

at the Coast Guard Academy, Trump said ...

A. That he had come to regret getting out of military service for bone spurs.

B. That no politician in history "has been treated worse or more unfairly" than Donald Trump.

C. That having a great Coast Guard was the key to having a great cruise ship industry.

4. The president is leaving next week on his second trip overseas. We have hardly gotten over the first one. On a visit to Israel, Trump canceled a speech at the historic Masada site because ...

A. He needed more time to prepare his remarks on Middle East peace, which he was planning to deliver in Hebrew and Arabic.

B. He wanted to throw a party for Israeli spies to make amends for leaking their secrets to the Russians.

C. It involved riding a cable car.

5. During Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross was thrilled by the signs that the Saudis were "liberalizing their society." Ross pointed out that ...

A. "They've got women all over the place."

B. "There was not a single hint of a protester anywhere there during the whole time we were there."

C. "The lunch at the airport was terrific."

6. At the meeting of NATO leaders in Belgium, Trump ...

A. Won hearts when he said that his first childhood memory was hearing about the Marshall Plan.

B. Won applause with his praise for "down-home Brussels hospitality."

C. Shoved the prime minister of Montenegro out of the way so he could get to the front of the group.

7. The president has also been doing a lot of diplomacy in Washington. He recently met with the president of Panama and bragged that ...

A. He's been "working very, very hard" to get to know the names of the countries in Central America.

B. "We did a good job" building the Panama Canal.

C. Teddy Roosevelt did not get nearly as many votes as Donald Trump.

8. The budget Trump's administration sent to Congress ...

A. Counted the same \$2 trillion twice.

B. Projected how much money the government could save if the national parks were turned into golf courses.

C. Was titled "Plan to Help Everyone Work," or PHEW.

9. The tax plan Trump's administration released ...

A. Called for a large entrance fee for news conferences.

B. Called for a constitutional amendment banning hotel occupancy taxes.

C. Was only one page long.

10. Trump criticized Obama for calling the Republican health care bill



mean, claiming ...

A. "He actually used my term."

B. "He underestimates the leadership potential of Mitch McConnell."

C. "He got that from a wire tapp."

11. The public is getting to know the Trump Cabinet. For instance, there's H.R. McMaster, the national security adviser, who constantly tries to save the president from making monster misstatements on foreign policy. Trump likes to refer to him as ...

A. "My Hector Protector."

B. "A pain."

C. "What's-his-name who replaced Mike Flynn."

12. Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price has a deputy overseeing family planning issues who ...

A. Has said "contraception doesn't work."

B. Believes abortion causes cancer.

C. Both of the above.

13. When asked about her father's Twitter habits, Ivanka Trump — who has an office in the White House and the official title of special adviser to the president — said ...

A. "You know, I try to stay out of politics."

B. "This interview is about Workplace Development Week."

C. "God, I could tell you stories."

14. The American ambassadors to France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Denmark and Sweden ...

A. Are all former executives at Goldman Sachs.

B. Joined together to petition the president to stop calling Europe "that phony continent."

C. Haven't been nominated.

Answers: 1-A, 2-C, 3-B, 4-C, 5-B, 6-C, 7-B, 8-A, 9-C, 10-A, 11-B, 12-C, 13-A, 14-C



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