A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for people to
dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with one another, and to
reunite under the laws of nature, to which the laws of society owe their authority, a decent respect
to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes
which impel them to such a separation.

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
should become destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, to institute new governments, 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, [began at a distinguished period],
[which have been] in fact the same object, evinces a design to subvert
the government, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such
and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has
been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such was the necessity
which constrained them to change their former systems of government.
The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and
usurpations; among which we must较小 to mention
the establishment of an absolute tyrannical over these states. To prove this let facts be
submitted to a candid world. For the truth of which we pledge our lives,
our fortunes, and our sacred honor.