

Appendix A: A copy of Jefferson's "rough draft" of the Declaration.

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 ^{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 & 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 ~~do so~~ ^{separation}.

We hold these truths to be ^{self-evident} that all men are created equal & independent, that they are endowed by their creator with ^{unalienable} rights, that among these are ^{life, liberty, & 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 ~~shall~~ becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, & to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles & organizing it in such form, as to them it shall seem most likely to effect their safety & happiness. prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light & transient causes: and accordingly all experience hath shewn 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 & usurpations [began at a distinguished period] & pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to ~~reduce~~ ^{under a distant prospect} reduce them to ~~absolute despotism~~, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, & to provide new guards for their future security. such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; & such is now the necessity which constrains them to ~~alter~~ ^{change} their former systems of government. the history of ^{the} present ^{King of Great Britain} is a history of ~~repeated~~ ^{repeated} injuries and usurpations, among which, ^{appears no solitary fact} ~~to~~ ^{to} contradict the uniform tenor of the rest, ~~all of which~~ ^{all of which} have in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states, to prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world, for the truth of which we pledge a faith not equalled by falsehood.