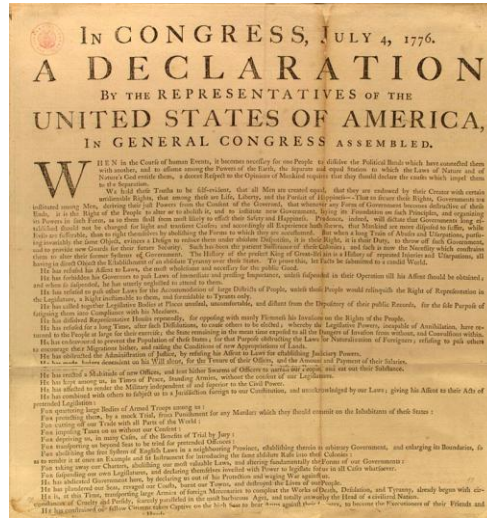


The Declaration of Independence



- Drafted by Thomas Jefferson
- Eliminated condemnation of the slave trade, to appease the southern colonies of Georgia and North Carolina
- It was passed by the Continental Congress on July 4th
- The modifications were written and subsequently passed on July 19th
- The document became **The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America**
- On August 2nd, 1776, it was officially signed by the Second Continental Congress

The foundation for the *Declaration of Independence* came from the belief in **Universal Truths**

- The term **Unalienable Rights** came from the phrase Natural rights as stated by John Lock (1632-1704) who proclaimed these rights in his **Two Treatises on Government** in 1690.
- The *Declaration of Independence* is in fact a Social Contract

Between 1760 and 1780, All Thirteen states adopted **written constitutions**

- Eleven were new documents

Two were modified Royal Charters (Rhode Island and Connecticut)

Two states, Pennsylvania and Georgia adopted a **unicameral** system of state government

- They were unchecked by executive or judicial authority

In 1783 Britain recognized America's independence and signed the **Treaty of Paris**

Now America's political battle began. The beliefs of the colonists were split between

- **A Strong Central Government – Federalists**
- **A Weak Central Government – Anti-federalists or Republicans**