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## JULY 4, 1776

Patriotic Americans! Read this essay and then do what  
your *Declaration of Independence* wants you to do!



The Betsy Ross Flag<sup>1</sup>

### Introduction

On July 4th of every year Americans celebrate *The Fourth of July*. A large part of the American population does not even know that the holiday is legally, and therefore, correctly named *Independence Day*. It may be that they do not care, for in most people's minds the important matter is that it is a day off from work, ... if they are employed. Six percent of all American citizens do not know when *Independence Day* is. One out of four Americans, 25 percent, have no idea of the historical significance of *Independence Day*. Furthermore, 70 percent of American

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<sup>1</sup> During the first year after the signing of the *Declaration of Independence* there was no official flag for the United States of America. There were many homemade flags. The Betsy Ross Flag is the most well known. By 1777 the *Stars and Stripes* predominated over other homemade flags. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betsy\\_Ross\\_flag#cite\\_note-0](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betsy_Ross_flag#cite_note-0). The above graphic representation is from <http://www.usflagdepot.com/store/media/BetsyRoss.jpg>. Both sources were accessed on June 9, 2011.

citizens do not know what kind of a document the *Constitution* is.<sup>2</sup> These statistics are sure to appeal to American communists, leftists, obots, progressives, socialists, and the like who have as their goal the destruction of the United States of America. They are well on their way to that goal by means of the takeover of the American Democrat Party – which is no longer democratic – and the usurpation of the office of the Presidency of the United States of America by Barack Hussein Obama.<sup>3</sup> This patriotic author's goal is to combat their destructive politics.

In a few days the United States of America will celebrate the 235th anniversary of the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*. This article is the author's contribution to the up-coming celebration. The essay delineates the wars in the American Colonies, the machinations of the European powers, the development of a nomenclature, and the establishment of the creed that would allow the Thirteen Original Colonies to emerge as *e pluribus unum*.<sup>4</sup>

## European Wars in the American Colonies

Four European Wars were fought on American Colonial soil between 1689 and 1763. They are important events leading up to the *Declaration of Independence* because they aptly portray the allegiances of the Colonists vis-à-vis their European mother countries. It was out of these preceding wars that a conscience would be formed concerning what constituted a Colonist and what

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<sup>2</sup> Consult <http://www.outsidethebeltway.com/25-of-americans-dont-know-what-independence-day-is-all-about/>. Accessed on 7 June, 2011, and <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1368482/How-ignorant-Americans-An-alarmed-number-U-S-citizens-dont-know-basic-facts-country.html>. Accessed on 7 June 2011.

<sup>3</sup> David Horowitz, Richard Poe, *The Shadow Party How George Soros, Hillary Clinton, and Sixties Radicals Seized Control of the Democratic Party*, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee: 2006. *The Obama Timeline* at <http://www.colony14.net/id41.html>.

<sup>4</sup> *Out of many, one* was considered the de facto motto of the United States of America until 1956 when Congressional Resolution 393 made *In God We Trust* the official motto. *E PLURIBUS UNUM* is on the official seal of the United States of America in its many uses to signify the union into one nation out of many colonies. <http://www.greatseal.com/mottoes/unum.html>. Accessed on June 9, 2011. Within the past generation there has developed a modern interpretation that is oriented towards the theory that America is a melting pot of peoples from all cultures, i.e., America is made up of many cultures, regardless of whether or not they are legal citizens or illegal aliens. This author considers such an interpretation a leftist undermining of American history and the ideals of the American Revolution, the *Declaration of Independence*, and the *Constitution for the United States of America*.

were the Colonies.<sup>5</sup> There was a lasting impact on the American Colonies. Sociologically, the British treated the Colonial soldiers as second class persons, rags of society, and cumbersome. The Colonials developed a great dislike for the troops sent to the Colonies from England and posted there after the end of the French and Indian War. Concurrently, the British were surprised at the high living standards of the Colonial artisans, merchants, and men of professions that bordered on the standards of England's wealthy landed gentry. Geographically, the end of the European Wars in the American Colonies opened up land for westward expansion. The conflicts with the Native Americans occupying these westward regions would dictate the development westward for the next one hundred and thirty years. Added to this geographical aspect is the fact that up to the War of 1812, the British supplied the various Indian tribes with arms and ammunition in their fight against incoming Colonists over the Appalachian Mountains and down the Ohio River.

1. From 1689 to 1697, the **War of the League of Augsburg**, also known in history as the **War of the Grand Alliance**, was fought between France and the Grand Alliance (England, United Provinces of the Netherlands, and Austria under the Hapsburg Monarchy). In the Treaty of Ryswick, September 20 to October 30, 1697, France and the Grand Alliance had to relinquish most of their conquests since 1689. Holland received trade concessions, and France recognized King William III (1650-1702, reigned jointly with his wife Mary from 1689 and alone from 1694) as the legal King of England.

The war was extended to the American Colonies as **King William's War**. The French and their Indian allies, the majority of Atlantic seaboard Indian tribes, fought against the British and their Iroquois allies for control of the Hudson River Valley, the Hudson Bay, the St. Lawrence River Valley, and Quebec. The British were unsuccessful in their main goal of gaining control over Quebec and the French were unsuccessful in capturing their main target Boston.

2. Between 1702 and 1713, the **War of the Spanish Succession** raged in Europe, explicitly in Italy (1701-1706), Germany, Spain, and the Spanish Netherlands. King Charles II of Spain (1661-1700), a Hapsburg, in choosing a

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<sup>5</sup> The following overview is collated from R. Ernest Dupuy and Trevor N. Dupuy, *The Encyclopedia of Military History From 3500 B.C. to the Present*, Harper and Row, New York: 1970. For the War of the League of Augsburg see pages 546-548, and for King William's War page 605. The War of the Spanish Succession can be found on pages 617-627; 631-643, and 661-662. Queen Anne's War is discussed on pages 660-661. For the War of the Austrian Succession, refer mainly to pages 630-637. For King George's War, see page 661. For the Seven Years' war, consult mainly pages 667-678, and 701-702. For the French and Indian War see mainly pages 705-708.

Bourbon as his successor to the Spanish throne, made it possible for King Louis XIV of France to make a claim to the Spanish throne. Thereupon England, Holland, and Austria concluded an anti-French alliance. When England captured Gibraltar and Barcelona in 1704, the Austrian Archduke Charles (1685-1740) declared himself King Charles III of Spain. In 1711, Charles III became Holy Roman Emperor. This caused England to fear an Austrian-Spanish union against England. England sued for peace with France and both countries signed an armistice in the Peace of Utrecht in 1713. The Holy Roman Empire continued fighting until the war ended the following year in the Treaties of Rastatt and Baden. Louis XIV recognized Protestant succession in England, and agreed upon keeping the crowns of France and Spain as separate. The Holy Roman Empire gained the Spanish Netherlands. Hapsburg rule was enthroned in Spain.

In the American Colonies, the war of the Spanish Succession was fought as **Queen Anne's War**, a war between France and Britain for complete control over all of North America. The British Carolinians and Apalachee Indians raided Spanish St. Augustine in Florida in 1702. The French and their Abenaki Indian allies responded by raiding towns, farms, and settlements in New England, from Maine to Connecticut, particularly in Massachusetts; the raids intensifying in 1704. The British conducted an expedition against the French in Arcadia, now Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick in 1710. In 1711, the French repelled British and Iroquois attempts at conquering Quebec and Montreal. In the Peace of Utrecht the French retained control of New France (including Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island), but had to relinquish Newfoundland, Hudson Bay, and Arcadia (Nova Scotia) to Great Britain.

3. Betwixt 1740 and 1748, Europe was caught up in the **War of the Austrian Succession**. Prussia (who claimed Silesia), France, Spain, Bavaria, and Saxony were combating against Austria under the leadership of the new Hapsburg Empress Maria Theresa (1717-1780, ruled from 1740), Queen of Hungary and Bohemia, who had gained the throne upon the death of her father, the Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI. England aided Maria Theresa in an attempt to defeat its old adversary France. At the Battle of Dettingen, Bavaria, on June 27, 1743, the British forces, led personally by King George II (1683-1760) destroyed the French cavalry, causing the French to retreat across the Rhine River. Subsequent successive attacks by the French in the Austrian Netherlands in 1745 resulted in their seizure of Brussels. In the same year Austria made peace with Bavaria. Bavaria received back the territory previously conquered by Austria in return for its support of Maria Theresa's husband Francis I (1700-1765) and claims to the throne as Holy Roman Emperor. Isolated by this Bavarian peace and alarmed at Austria's

success on the battlefield and in European power politics, Frederick II (1712-1786), Frederick the Great of Prussia marched into Silesia. Advancing towards Prussia and Berlin, the Austrian Army was defeated in four successive battles. By Christmas of 1745, Maria Theresa's Austrian army, having suffered four massive and decisive defeats in seven months, sued Prussia for peace. Austria recognized Prussian control of Silesia and Prussia recognized Francis I as Holy Roman Emperor. Austrian military operations continued sporadically in Flanders and Italy and phases of the war transferred themselves to the American continent and India. Because the participants grew weary of war, the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (Aachen) on October 18, 1748 was signed. It recognized Maria Theresa's succession as ruler of the Hapsburg lands, guaranteed Frederick's acquisition of Silesia, and gave some Italian lands to Spain. However, it failed to resolve the conflicts between France and Great Britain on the American continent, known as **King George's War**.

In the American Colonies, mainly New Englanders fought against the French on the Nova Scotia Peninsula. Under the leadership of Colonel William Pepperell (1696-1759) and supported by a British Royal Navy squadron,<sup>6</sup> the New England militia force attacked the heavily fortified stronghold Fort Louisbourg on Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. After bombardment and a forty-nine day siege from April to June 1745, the New England militia captured the town and fort on June 16. In 1746, the French sent an expedition to retake the fort. It was wrecked in a storm off Nova Scotia. The French, assisted by their Indian allies, retaliated by raiding villages in New England and New York. The British continued raids in Canada with their Indian allies, the Iroquois. All of these efforts were to no avail. The Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle restored the status quo. France traded Madras in India for the return of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia.

4. The fourth European war that was also fought in the American Colonies was in reality the first of the world wars. It is known in Europe as the **Seven Years' War** from 1756-1763. There was continued colonial rivalry between France and Great Britain in America and India and a continuation of the European struggle between Prussia and Austria that had begun in the **War of the Austrian Succession**. The War was known in the American Colonies as the **French and Indian War**.

Also contributing to the international character of the belligerency is the fact that in addition to the fighting in Europe, there were naval engagements in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Caribbean Sea. In

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<sup>6</sup> A squadron is two or more divisions of a naval fleet. In navy terms, a division is a group of several ships of similar type that form a tactical unit. It is under singular command and the number of ships can fluctuate.

Europe, there was France, Austria, Russia, Saxony, Sweden, and for a short duration Spain, on one side of the battlefields who had united in a coalition to destroy or at least cripple Prussian supremacy in Europe. On the other side, there were Prussia, Great Britain, and Hanover. It is sometimes called the **Austro-Prussian War of 1756-1763** because the majority of the military engagements were between these two countries. Knowing the intent of the coalition led by France and Austria, Frederick the Great of Prussia invaded Saxony in 1756 and continued on to Prague. The Holy Roman Empire declared war on Prussia and Frederick had to withdraw from Prague. However, his forces defeated the French-Austrian forces in Saxony in November 1757, defeated the Russian army in Brandenburg in 1758, and British and Hanoverian forces were victorious against the French in June and August of 1758. In 1759, Prussia suffered devastating defeat by the Austrians and by the Russians, the Russians taking Berlin. A new British government withdrew its support of Prussia in 1761. This setback was counterbalanced by the support of the new Russian Czar Peter III (1728-1762), who loaned a Russian army corps to Frederick. After Peter's assassination, Russia, under Catherine II the Great,<sup>7</sup> withdrew from the war and in May of the same year, 1762, Sweden signed a separate peace treaty with Prussia. In July, Prussia defeated Austria in Silesia and gradually gained control of the Silesian province. In November of 1762, France was already conducting peace negotiations with England and the other European countries. Becoming morally, militarily, and financially exhausted by a useless conflict, France signed the Treaty of Hubertusburg on February 16, 1763 that ended the war. Austria agreed to return to the status quo and Prussia retained Silesia. In India, Britain reduced and controlled French military presence. The French in the Bengal were strictly limited to commercial ventures.

The **French and Indian War** in America was the last war fought between Colonists, the British, the French, and the Indians for control of the St. Lawrence River Valley, and the Ohio River Valley. The conflict had already begun in 1754 when a young Colonial Colonel, George Washington (1732-1799), was sent to check French advance at the juncture of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. The French forces at Fort Duquesne, now Pittsburgh, defeated him. Washington

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<sup>7</sup> Catherine II, the Great of Russia, was born Sophie Friederika Auguste von Anhalt-Zerbst in Stettin on May 2, 1729. She was the daughter of an obscure German Prince, Christian August of the House of Anhalt-Zerbst, one of the many lines of the Anhaltine nobility. On her mother's side, she was related to the Dukes of Holstein. At the age of fourteen, she was chosen to be the wife of Karl Ulrich, Duke of Holstein-Gottrop and grandson of Peter the Great and heir to the Russian throne as the Grand Duke Peter. After the murder of her neurotic, rebellious, obstinate, fanatic, alcoholic, impotent husband, Peter III, at her instigation but not command, she was crowned Empress of Russia in 1762. She ruled for thirty-four years.

and his defeated troops were allowed to return to Virginia. The British were successful against the French in the Saint Lawrence River Valley and in upper New York. However, they failed to gain control of French-held Fort Niagara. In 1756, both countries officially declared war. After initial successes by the French, namely the taking of Fort William Henry at Lake George, New York and the maintaining of control over Fort Ticonderoga, New York, the British under the leadership of General Baron Jeffrey Amherst (1717-1797) and General James Wolfe (1727-1759) were finally able to defeat the French at Louisburg in Nova Scotia in July of 1758 and recaptured Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point in New York in June and July of 1759. With the aid of their Iroquois Indian allies, they were successful in driving the French out of the Ohio and Illinois regions. The climaxing battle was fought on the Plains of Abraham near the city of Quebec on September 13, 1759, where the French army under the leadership of General Marquis Louis Joseph de Montcalm (1712-1759) and the British army under the command of General James Wolfe fought each other. Both generals died in battle, but the British won and were able to take control of Quebec City. A year later, the British seized Montreal. In 1762, the British navy under Admiral George Rodney (1719-1792) defeated the French fleet in the West Indies. At the Treaty of Paris in 1763 France lost all of its possessions in North America except for New Orleans and the Louisiana Territory, the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon in the St. Lawrence, Guadeloupe, and Martinique in the West Indies. Spain traded Florida in exchange for Havana, Cuba. Collectively speaking, the American Colonials were proud of their role in evicting the French from North America. However, British troops remained and many were quartered privately in Colonial homes. This policy of stationing British troops would contribute to the animosity the Colonists were developing against the British

## Nomen est Omen

The phrase *nomen est omen* is Latin and with respect to this essay it is best translated as *the name is the emblem*. In this regard the name will fit the political construction that will emerge in the *Declaration of Independence*. It is a signal of what will happen.<sup>8</sup> Indeed, it is a signal of what should always happen when the

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<sup>8</sup> The origin of the phrase is the comedy *Persa* (*The Persian*) by the Roman playwright Titus Maccius Plautus (ca. 250-184 BC) in which he uses the formulation *nomen atque omen* (The name at the same time is the (fore)boding.) Consult T. MACCI PLAVTI PERSA line 625, where TOXILVS SERVVS characterizes the female slave Lucris. <http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/plautus/persa.shtml>. Accessed on June 9, 2011.

government of WE THE PEOPLE is no longer answerable to WE THE PEOPLE, but thinks that its being is for the sake of its being.

In a sober observation of the European wars fought on American Colonial territory, we can conclude that in the first three wars in Colonial America – King William's War, Queen Anne's War, and King George's War – the Colonists played supporting roles always on the side of the British. Particularly in Canada and New England, Colonists suffered heavy losses. Economically speaking, these three wars created an extremely serious inflation problem for the Colonists. Paper money was printed for the first time in hard-struck Massachusetts to finance the wars against France. By the time of the French and Indian War, which was fought for final control over settlements and land in North America, a strong sense of Colonial identity – the banding together in times of foreign threat – had started to come into existence that would shape America's destiny. Colonials took pride in their being Colonials first, regionalists second, and not-yet nationalists third. Colonial Americans proudly rejoiced in their victory over their later ally in the Revolutionary War, France. As the above overview of the status of the American Colonies in the European Wars fought on American soil indicates, there was no sense of what was American. Although the American Revolutionary War freed the Colonial lands from the shackles of the mother country, England, a new nation had not emerged.

When the leaders of the fight for independence referred to *my country*, they meant the Colony. There were not yet states from which they came. For George Washington and Thomas Jefferson *my country* was Virginia. For John Adams and Samuel Adams *my country* meant Massachusetts. For Benjamin Franklin it meant the few places where he had lived in the Colonies, Pennsylvania in a larger sense, and narrowing it down, it meant Philadelphia and the environs. The settlers still thought of themselves as such. They were citizen-settlers of the Carolinas, they were New Yorkers, they were New Hampshireites, Rhode Islanders, Connecticutians, and Massachusettsites. They were not New Englanders, nor were they Southerners.

The Colonies had experienced the Pre-Revolutionary War period as a quarrelsome bunch of singular populations. They were extremely suspicious of one another. They co-operated with each other only because of fear of a common enemy, whether that enemy be the various Indian tribes, the French, the British, or an alliance of any against all others.

The Revolutionary War and the movements of organization surrounding it, such as the Committees of Correspondence, the Continental Congress and the *Articles of Confederation* proved that the American provinces were able to submerge their differences in banding together to fight a common enemy. Yet it



remained to be seen whether the provincials could come together to form a new national consciousness.

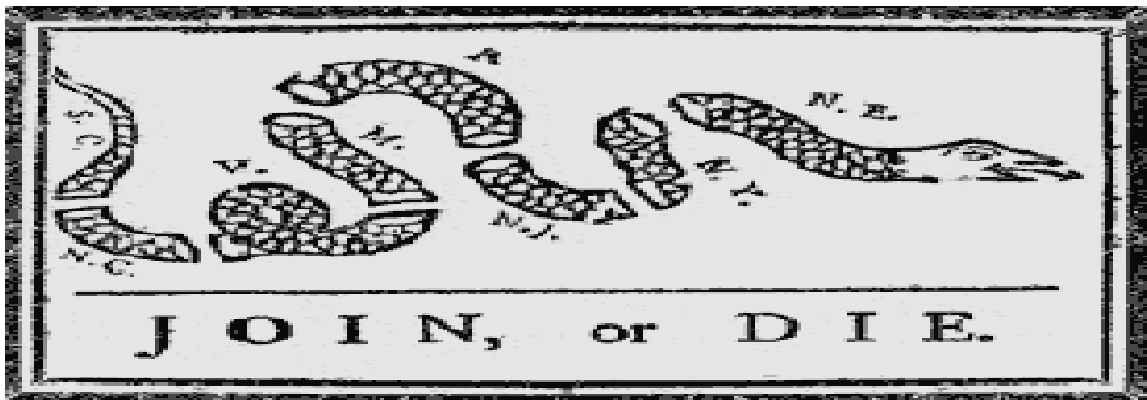
The nomenclature *The United States of America* did not catch on immediately. Indeed, it is impossible to know when the terminology *United States (of America)* first came into use. Indications are that it was a term used by Colonists desiring separation from Great Britain that gave them a certain nomenclature identity.



**Fig. 1. Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790).** An oil-on-canvas portrait by Jean-Baptiste Greuze (1725-1805), in 1777. Benjamin Franklin is one of America's first Renaissance geniuses. He was a printer, educator, institution builder, scientist, author, philosopher, diplomat, and politician. It is to Benjamin Franklin that American citizens today owe their thanks to the concepts of democratic, republican government as they are stated in the *Articles of Confederation*, the *Declaration of Independence*, and the *Constitution for the United States of America*. Source: [http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Benjamin\\_Franklin\\_by\\_Jean-Baptiste\\_Greuze.jpg](http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Benjamin_Franklin_by_Jean-Baptiste_Greuze.jpg). The image is in the public domain. Accessed on June 10, 2011.

Of course, it can be argued that the intellectual thought behind the desire for a unification of the Colonies against Great Britain came from Benjamin Franklin. He most likely introduced the concept in Fig. 2.

On May 9, 1754, Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* issued the first political cartoon in America. He cut a snake into eight pieces, the New England Colonies comprising the head. It was a symbolical plea to unite against the French in the French and Indian War. The cartoon was reprinted in newspapers from Massachusetts to South Carolina. The *Boston Gazette* reprinted the cartoon with the following words coming out of its mouth: *Unite and Conquer*. In 1774, the cartoon appeared again in newspapers in Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania.



**Fig. 2. Benjamin Franklin's Rattlesnake. Join, or die.** This cartoon was originally published on May 9, 1754. Source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/French\\_and\\_Indian\\_War](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/French_and_Indian_War). Accessed on June 10, 2011. During the American Revolution, the political cartoon was often re-issued in numerous newspapers to encourage the American Colonies to unite against British rule. Source: <http://lcweb4.loc.gov/ammem/collections/continental/images/photo01.jpg>. The image is in the public domain. Accessed on June 10, 2011.

When the First Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia in September of 1774, there was no mention of the words *united*, *states*, or *America* in its recorded proceedings. At the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia in May-June of 1775, the word *united* appears in the proceedings for the first time. On June 7, 1775, the Congress "On motion, Resolved, That Thursday the 20th of July next, be observed throughout the twelve United Colonies, as a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer: and that Mr. [William] Hooper, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, and Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, be a committee to bring in a resolve for that

purpose."<sup>9</sup> A committee of Mr. William Hooper (1742-1790), Mr. John Adams (1735-1826, president 1797-1801), and Mr. Robert Treat Paine (1731-1814) submitted the following resolution on June 12, 1775 in which they underscored the concept of unification with the words: *preserving the union, and securing the just rights* (sic) *and priviledges* (sic) *of the colonies*.

"This Congress, therefore, considering the present critical, alarming and calamitous state of these colonies, do earnestly recommend that Thursday, the 20th day of July next, be observed, by the inhabitants of all the English colonies on this continent, as a day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer; that we may, with united hearts and voices, unfeignedly (sic) confess and deplore our many sins; and offer up our joint supplications to the all-wise, omnipotent, and merciful Disposer of all events; humbly beseeching him to forgive our iniquities, to remove our present calamities, to avert those desolating judgments, with which we are threatned, (sic) and to bless our rightful sovereign, King George the third, and [to] inspire him with wisdom to discern and pursue the true interest of all his subjects, that a speedy end may be put to the civil discord between Great Britain and the American colonies, without farther effusion of blood: And that the British nation may be influenced to regard the things that belong to **her** (sic) peace, before they are hid from **her** (sic) eyes: That these colonies may be ever under the care and protection of a kind Providence, and be prospered in all their interests; That the divine blessing may descend and rest upon all our civil rulers, and upon the representatives of the people, in their several assemblies and conventions, that they may be directed to wise and effectual measures for preserving the union, and securing the just **rights** (sic) and **priviledges** (sic) of the colonies; That virtue and true religion may revive and flourish throughout our land; And that all America may soon behold a gracious interposition of Heaven, for the redress of **her** (sic) many grievances, the **restoration** (sic) of **her**

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<sup>9</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, Wednesday, June 7, 1775, 34 vol. published by the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., no date. Accessed on June 11, 2011 at [http://memory.loc.gov:8081/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(jc00580\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov:8081/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(jc00580))). The reader should also consult Anson Phelps Stokes in *Church and State in the United States*, Harper, New York: 1950, 3 vols. I, p. 451.

**invaded rights**, (sic) a reconciliation with the parent state, on terms constitutional and honorable to both;"<sup>10</sup>

The first traceable public uses of the word *united* surrounding the events of the Continental Congress is the commission to the Commander-in-Chief of the Colonial Armies George Washington issued by "The delegates of the United Colonies ... And you are to regulate your conduct in every respect by the rules and discipline of war, (as herewith given you,) and punctually to observe and follow such orders and directions, from time to time, as you shall receive from this, or a future Congress of these United Colonies, or committee of Congress."<sup>11</sup> This was complemented by the Congressional instructions to General Washington in the phrase "the good people of the united colonies ... ."<sup>12</sup>

It seems that between the years 1754 to 1776 the concept of a Union of Colonies was acceptable by the greater majority of the citizens throughout the Colonies. The terminology *United Colonies* was used until the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*. On June 28, 1776, the initial draft of the document had as its heading *A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America in General Congress Assembled*. In the final version adopted on July 4, 1776, the heading reads *The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America*.<sup>13</sup>

It was also in this declaration that Benjamin Franklin made other contributions underscoring the concept of *being united*. These suggestions are important because once adopted, they became cementing formulations that provided the foundation for *being united*. Below is a comparison of the original wording of the sentences that occur in the rough draft of the document as it was presented to the delegates of the Second Continental Congress by Thomas Jefferson and the changes stressing unification that are attributed to Benjamin Franklin, although the conclusive evidence that he made the corrections is not

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<sup>10</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, Monday, June 12, 1775.

<sup>11</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress Commission for General Washington*; Saturday, June 17, 1775.

<sup>12</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress Instructions to General Washington*; Tuesday, June 20, 1775.

<sup>13</sup> *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Association, Washington D.C.: 1903, Volume I, pages 28-38. *The Declaration of Independence of the 13 United States of America, in General Congress Assembled* at [http://www.tdf.it/2003/Indipendenza\\_e.htm](http://www.tdf.it/2003/Indipendenza_e.htm). Accessed on June 10, 2011.

documented. Some sources argue that John Adams made the changes, since the hand-written corrections are claimed to resemble his handwriting.<sup>14</sup>

Nr.	Thomas Jefferson's rough-draft sentence.	Benjamin Franklin's <b>changes</b> thereto thus making the final formulation.
1	When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for a people to dissolve the political bands, ...	When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for <b>one people</b> to dissolve the bands ...
2	they should declare the causes which impel them to threaten separation, ...	they should declare the causes which impel them to <b>the</b> separation, ...
3	We hold these truths to be sacred & undeniable, ...	We hold these truths to be <b>self-evident</b> , ...
4	Referring to King George III: He has kept among us in times of peace standing armies & ships of war without our consent.	He has kept among us in times of peace standing armies & ships of war <b>without the consent of our Legislatures</b> .
5	... giving his assent to pretended acts of legislation ...	... giving his assent to <b>their acts of pretended legislation</b> ...

**Fig. 3. Thomas Jefferson's statements in the *Declaration of Independence* and the changes by Benjamin Franklin indicating union.**

In example number one, the emphasis changes from *a people* to **one people** and the concept of unity is thus fulfilled. In number two, the word *threaten* is deleted and replaced by the word **the**, thus evoking the unmistakable conclusion that the separation has been undertaken by all Colonies together and not just threatened. In number three, Franklin replaced the words *sacred & undeniable* with **self-evident**. This formulation evokes the subtlety that the truths are

<sup>14</sup> Consult John H. Hazelton, *The Declaration of Independence: Its History*, Da Capo Press, New York: 1970, pp. 304-342; Carl Becker, *The Declaration of Independence. A Study in the History of Political Ideas*, Harcourt Brace, New York: 1922, 1942, Chapter IV; Julian P. Boyd, ed. *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*. Vol. 1, 1760-1776, Princeton University Press, Princeton: 1950, pp. 18-22, 28-38, 243-247; and Gerard W. Gawalt, ed. *The Declaration of Independence: the evolution of the text by Julian P. Boyd*, Edition Information: Rev. ed. Library of Congress in association with the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Washington, D.C. and Hanover: Distributed by University Press of New England, 1999.

intuitively obvious to a united people. In example four, *without our consent* has the replacement **without the consent of our Legislatures**, thus expressing a federal tier of unification: the union within Congress as a whole and the union within the separate state legislatures. In example five, Franklin changed the formulation *pretended acts of legislation* to read **their acts of pretended legislation**. Franklin's change signals to the British king that the new, independent union has the unified intelligence to discern between what real legislation is and what acts of despotism are.



**Fig. 4. Richard Henry Lee (12732-1794).** Richard Henry Lee, a delegate from Virginia Colony and a signer of the *Declaration of Independence*, is famous for his motion in the Second Continental Congress that called for a complete separation of the Colonies from Great Britain. Richard Henry Lee was the 14th president of the Continental Congress from November 30, 1784 to November 4, (6),1785. Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:RichardHenryLee.jpg>, which itself is taken from [http://teachpol.tcnj.edu/amer\\_pol\\_hist/thumbnail63.html](http://teachpol.tcnj.edu/amer_pol_hist/thumbnail63.html). The image is in the public domain. Both sources were accessed on June 11, 2011.

The declaration, however, was not a constitution. Benjamin Franklin undertook the attempt at a constitution with the first draft of the *Articles of Confederation* dated July 21, 1775. The first article reads "The name of this Confederacy shall henceforth be The United Colonies of North America of America."<sup>15</sup> On June 7, 1776, the next traceable use of the phrase is a motion by Richard Henry Lee, the representative from Virginia Colony, who in the Second Continental Congress called for the independence of the Colonies from Great Britain with the formulation of a motion of union in the Continental Congress as follows: "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 connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."<sup>16</sup>

A month later on July 12, 1776 Benjamin Franklin's corrected *Articles of Confederation* were resubmitted with the first article amended to read THE Name of this Confederacy shall be "THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."<sup>17</sup> After this date, the draft papers of congressional state papers were short-titled with *U. States*. The final official papers were titled *the United States of America, or these United States of America*. Two months later on September 9, 1776, a congressional resolution provided "That in all continental commissions, and other instruments, where, heretofore, the words 'United Colonies' have been used, the stile be altered, for the future, to the 'United States.'"<sup>18</sup>

The abbreviation U.S.A. was an official nomenclature that was assigned for the inspection of gunpowder as a sign that the inspection thereof guaranteed the best quality regarding the dryness, the firing, the quickness, and the strength. The Second Continental Congress issued the order to the first inspector of gunpowder Robert Towers (dates not available) that such a stamp be placed on barrels of gunpowder so that the contents had met the standards of government.<sup>19</sup> The Congressional resolution of August 28, 1776 reads as follows:

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<sup>15</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress Franklin's Articles of Confederation*; Friday, July 21, 1775.

<sup>16</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, Friday, June 7, 1776.

<sup>17</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union*; Friday, July 12, 1776.

<sup>18</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Monday, September 9, 1776.

<sup>19</sup> Erna Risch, *Supplying Washington's Army*, Center of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D. C.; 1981, p. 344.

"Resolved, That there be an Inspector or inspectors sufficiently qualified to judge the goodness of gun powder, who shall examine every cask of gun powder manufactured, or to be purchased on account of the United States by the most approved method of ascertaining the quality of gun powder; the said inspector or inspectors to receive one eighth part of a dollar for every hundred weight of powder he or they shall so examine: That no gun powder be received into the public magazine for the use of the United States of America, or delivered from the powder mills for that purpose, but such as has been approved of by the public inspector, as to its quickness in firing, strength, dryness, and other necessary qualities: That the inspector mark each cask approved, with the letters U. S. A. and such other marks as are necessary to distinguish the several sorts of gun powder: That every maker of gun powder, mark every cask, in which he shall pack his gun powder, with the first letters of his name: That gun powder be put into no cask but such as are well seasoned and dry: ..."<sup>20</sup>

Beginning in February 1777, Congress regulated that all firearms and accessories manufactured in the United States and those acquired in the future be struck with the sign *U: States*. If such firearms were found in the possession of men not in the Continental Army, the individual respective state was to take possession of them. Furthermore, Congress recommended that the individual states punish people who refused to deliver arms to the Continental Army, kept the firearms in secret, or unlawfully took possession of firearms intended for the Continental Army.

"That all Arms and **Accoutrements** (sic) belonging to the United States shall be stamped and marked with the Letters U: States. All Arms already made or purchased to be stamped on such Parts as will bear the Impression, and those to be hereafter manufactured to be stamped with the said Letters on every Part composing the Stand; and all Arms or **Accoutrements** (sic) so stamped or marked, shall be taken wherever found for the Use of the States, except they shall be in the Hands of those actually in Continental Service. That it be recommended to the Legislatures of the several States to make proper Laws for the punishment of those who shall unlawfully take, secret, refuse, or

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<sup>20</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress, Wednesday, August 8, 1776.*



designedly neglect to deliver any Continental Arms or **Accoutrements** (sic) which they may have in their Possession."<sup>21</sup>

As a measure to prevent waste of material and embezzlement of government possessions, General George Washington issued an order to Colonel Benjamin Flower (1748-1781) the following month to strike all firearms and accoutrements manufactured for the Continental Army as well as those imported with the marking *United States* to certify their ownership as being the national government. General Washington's hand-written order to Benjamin Flower reads:

"Morris Town, March 31, 1777.

Sir: The great waste and embezzlement of public Arms, and the difficulties arising from thence, makes it necessary, that the utmost precautions should be used, to restrain such infamous practices and future losses. I know no way so likely to effect it, as that of putting on them some mark, indicating 'em (sic) to be public property, and therefore request, that you will have, all belonging to the States, as well those which have been lately imported as all others, as far as Circumstances will admit of, stamped with the Words "*United States*," on such parts as will receive the impression, which designation should be also put on all their accoutrements. This Congress determined should be done, by a Resolve of the 24th. Ulto."<sup>22</sup>

It is also a fact that the first traceable unofficial use of the word *unite* with *States of America* is a disjointed association by Thomas Paine (1737-1809) five months before the signing of the *Declaration of Independence* on July 4, 1776. In the third edition of *Common Sense*, dated February 14, 1776, Thomas Paine writes in the appendix thereto:

"WHEREFORE, instead of gazing at each other with suspicious or doubtful curiosity, let each of us hold out to his neighbor the hearty hand of friendship, and **unite** in drawing a line, which, like an act of oblivion, shall bury in forgetfulness every former dissension. Let the

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<sup>21</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Saturday, February 1, 1776.

<sup>22</sup> *The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*, from *The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799*. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor, at [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(gw070336\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw070336))). Accessed on June 11, 2011. George Washington to Benjamin Flower, March 31, 1777. See also Erna Risch, *Supplying Washington's Army*, pp. 355-356.

names of Whig and Tory be extinct; and let none other be heard among us, than those of a good citizen, an open and resolute friend, and a virtuous supporter of the RIGHTS of MANKIND, and of the FREE AND INDEPENDENT **STATES OF AMERICA**."<sup>23</sup>



**Fig. 5. Thomas Paine (1737-1809) British-American radical thinker and revolutionary pamphleteer.** The original portrait is an oil painting by Auguste Millière (no dates, flourished 1876-1896) accomplished in 1880, based upon an engraving by William Sharp (1749-1824), an engraver, who used a portrait of Thomas Paine by George Romney (1734-1802), painter. Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Thomas\\_Paine.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Thomas_Paine.jpg), which refers to and is taken from [http://teachpol.tcnj.edu/amer\\_pol\\_hist/fi/0000002c.htm](http://teachpol.tcnj.edu/amer_pol_hist/fi/0000002c.htm). The image is in the public domain. Both sources were accessed on June 11, 2011.

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<sup>23</sup> Consult Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, third edition, Philadelphia: 1776. The present author's source is the internet address at <http://www.ushistory.org/paine/commonsense/singlehtml.htm>. Accessed on June 11, 2011. There is no page number since the e-book is in single page format. The capitals are in the original. The emphasized bold print is by the present author.

This is the only written documentation that the present author knows in which the words *unite* and *states of America* (This author's emphasis.) are used in one sentence before the writing of the *Declaration of Independence*. Although written in a disjointed fashion, the logic is that the states of America are united. Thus, if we assign to Benjamin Franklin the recognition that he was the first to propagate the concept of a union of the Colonies, then we can just as assuredly assign to Thomas Paine the possibility that he can be given the credit for the first written usage of the terminology in question even though it is not in the accepted sequence.<sup>24</sup>

Furthermore, Thomas Paine was steadfast, sure, and self-confident, as well as prolific in using the name *United States* or *United States of America*. In 1792 Thomas Paine mentions *United States/United States of America* 11 times in *A Letter Addressed to the Abbé Raynal, on the Affairs of North America, in Which the Mistakes in the Abbé's Account of the Revolution of America Are Corrected and Cleared Up*. Sometimes the references are a repetition of the references that Abbé Raynal had made in a previous correspondence. Yet even this fact indicates that the name United States of America was becoming internationally recognized. In *The Rights of Man*, published in 1791/1792, Thomas Paine uses the *United States/United States of America* 10 times.

## In Proper Perspective

In order to obtain a proper perspective, the circumstances surrounding the national holiday *Independence Day* as being July 4 necessitate clarification. The *Declaration of Independence* was in its final form on July 2, 1776 and it was on that date in the final formulation that the United Colonies had finally become free and independent states.

"Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and, of right, ought to be,  
Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance

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<sup>24</sup> Consult the respective Project Gutenberg EBooks that can be located at <http://www.gutenberg.org>. Accessed on June 11, 2011. Guillaume-Thomas abbé de Raynal (1713-1796) was a French (non-active) cleric, writer, and cultural propagandist in the intellectual climate of the French Revolution. Another indication of Thomas Paine's surety and self-confidence is his statement that "I scarcely ever quote; the reason is, I always think." See *Forester's Letters*, Nr. 3, 1776 in Philip S. Foner, ed., *The Complete Writings of Thomas Paine*, Citadel Press, New York, 1945, pp. ii and 78.

to the British crown, and that all political connexion (sic) between them, and the state of Great Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."<sup>25</sup>

On July 4, the action taken on July 2 was made public to the world. During the night of July 4, copies were printed and they were distributed the next day, July 5. The congressional order stated:

"Ordered, That the declaration be authenticated and printed. That the committee appointed to prepare the declaration, superintend and correct the press. That copies of the declaration be sent to the several assemblies, conventions and committees, or councils of safety, and to the several commanding officers of the continental troops; that it be proclaimed in each of the United States and at the head of the army."<sup>26</sup>

On July 19, 1776, Congress motioned and ordered that the document be engrossed and signed. The resolution reads as follows:

"Resolved, That the Declaration passed on the 4th, be fairly engrossed on parchment, with the title and stile of 'The unanimous declaration of the thirteen United States of America,' and that the same, when engrossed, be signed by every member of Congress."<sup>27</sup>

The engrossing was completed on August 2, 1776 and the majority of signatures were written on the document. However, fifteen of the signers were not in Philadelphia at the time and it took until the end of 1776 and into the early part of 1777 for all of the signatures to be affixed, Thomas McKean (1734-1817) of Delaware and Matthew Thornton (1714-1803) of New Hampshire being the last to sign. On June 24, 1778, after the British troops had fled from Philadelphia, Congress passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to take proper measures for a public celebration of the anniversary of independence, at Philadelphia, on the 4th day of July next, and that they be authorized

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<sup>25</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Tuesday, July 2, 1776.

<sup>26</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Thursday, July 4, 1776. A footnote in the *Journals of the Continental Congress* for this day states that "The Declaration was printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, 6 July, 1776, and in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 10 July, 1776."

<sup>27</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Friday, July 19, 1776.

and directed to invite the president and council and speaker of the assembly of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania (sic), and such other gentlemen and strangers of distinction, as they shall deem proper."<sup>28</sup>

Thus, the official celebration of July 4th as a national holiday to celebrate independence from Great Britain dates from 1778.

When the first official use of the name for the new country was written down by Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826, president 1801-1809) in the *Declaration of Independence*, and declared by "the representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, July 4, 1776,"<sup>29</sup> the term *state(s)* took on a new, real meaning and the people had to get used to its ring.

Before Jefferson's use of the term *state*, it had undergone some changes since its first modern appearance in the work of the Italian political theorist Niccoló Machiavelli (1469-1527). In his political treatise *The Prince* (1513), Machiavelli became the first modern author to popularize the use of the term *state*, meaning a government. He refers to the state in the Greek sense of the word, *polis*, the city-state, or the Latin *res publica*, meaning *commonwealth*, or *civitas*, meaning *community of citizens*. Machiavelli wrote of the idea of state sovereignty as supremacy of the authority or rule exercised by the prince or the princely state with his advisors. In *The Prince*, Machiavelli argues that the results of ethical or unethical actions are important as long as such outcomes advance the prince's goal of obtaining power and retaining power, for the state is necessary to guarantee order, peace, and security. Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) wrote of state sovereignty as royal authority. The Hobbesian argument is that it is the sovereign who is the absolutist judge of how involved the sovereign should become in the lives of the subjects. Furthermore, only the sovereign can decide how he should exercise his absolute powers. Emphatically, it was Thomas Jefferson who wrote of the state sovereignty as self-government, complete, and independent. Thus, Thomas Jefferson's concept of the role of the state fits within the framework of Enlightenment principles.

Once the national configuration had its official name *The United States of America* and its constitution, Americans finally possessed a political and legal structure that would facilitate the emergence of a national character identity. They had achieved the character unifier and national identity cornerstone of being one people, independent, and united together in a new political nation.

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<sup>28</sup> *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Wednesday, June 24, 1778.

<sup>29</sup> *The Declaration of Independence*, in *Great Books of the Western World*, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc, Chicago, Ill., Vol. 43, p. 1.



The complete text of the *Declaration of Independence* as adopted by Congress on July 4, 1776 with the original spelling and capitalization is as follows. The portion in bold, underlined print is the present author's emphasis.<sup>30</sup>

### ***The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America***

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 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, 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 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.

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<sup>30</sup> <http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/freedom/doi/text.html>. There are interesting short biographies of the signers at: <http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/index.htm>. Both sources were accessed on June 10, 2011.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their 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 accommodation 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 out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislature.

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 unacknowledged 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 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 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 its boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule in these colonies:

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable 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 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 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 attention 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 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 connection 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.

New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton

Massachusetts: John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry

Rhode Island: Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery

Connecticut: Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott

New York: William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris

New Jersey: Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark

Pennsylvania: Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross

Delaware: Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean

Maryland: Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Virginia: George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton

North Carolina: William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn

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

Georgia: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton

## Epilogue

John Shy, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Michigan, has written that by the end of the 1780s the United States of America as a political creation was nothing more than "an improbable construct" with sectional interests, class interests, and racial interests, the differences of which appeared more weighty and definitely more myriad than any existence of a common ideal that bound them together as a political unit.<sup>31</sup> When in 1776 the United States of America in the *Declaration of Independence* emphatically took the first step towards becoming a sovereign country by proclaiming its independence from England, a development of a distinct American culture and society did not come into being over night. There were thirteen separate Colonies and each Colony had situations that were different from the others and at the same time had conditions that were similar. They had been concurrently in existence since the beginnings of the Colonies themselves.

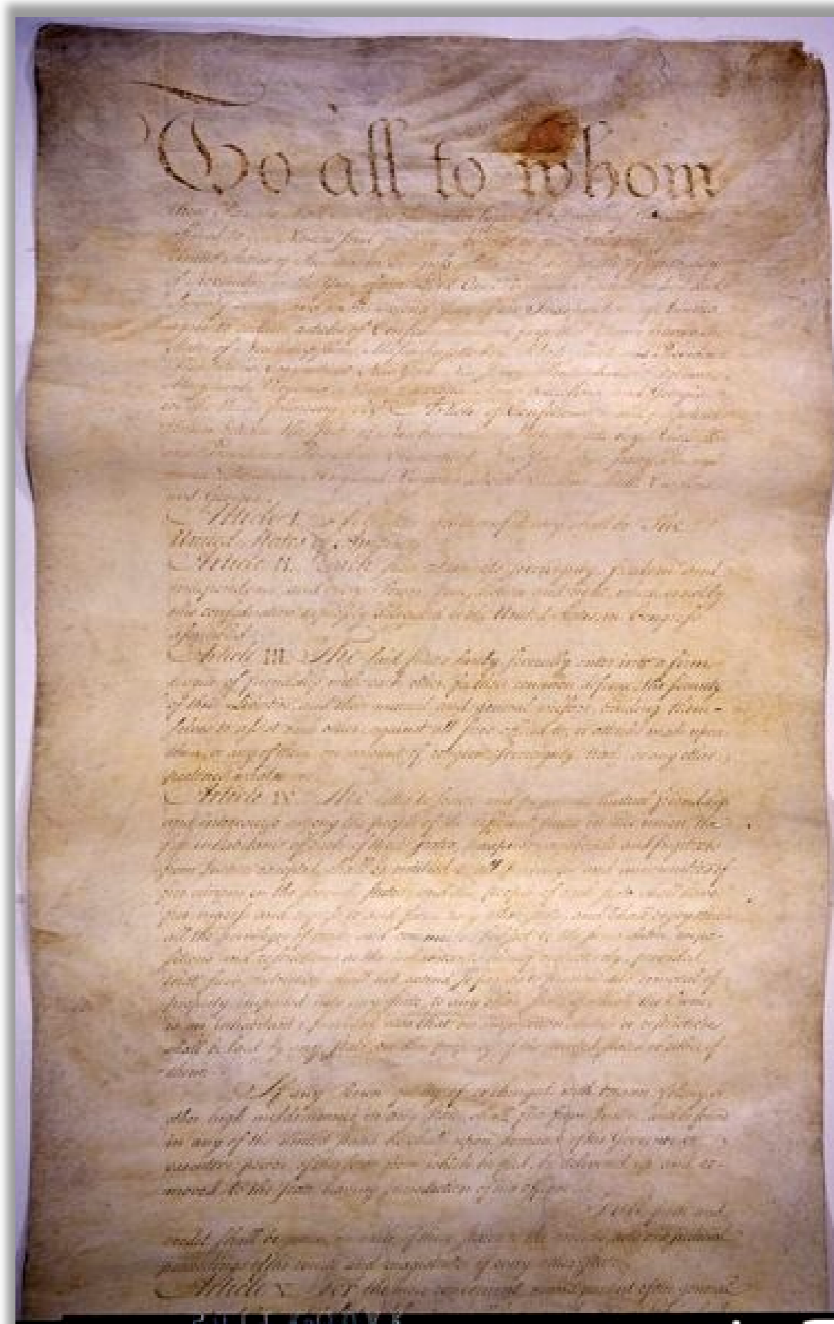
In 1754, before the Revolutionary War, there had been the first attempt for a Colonial Union. The undertaking was the *Albany Plan* drafted by Benjamin Franklin. The *Albany Plan* called for a general government of the Colonies in which each Colony could retain its own constitution and a national council that would be made up of a grand council consisting of representatives elected by each Colony based upon the amount of the white population and the wealth they possessed. The executive branch would consist of a president-general appointed by the English King and the naming of a treasurer. They were to be advised by a grand council that would be responsible for Indian affairs, the administration of all lands westward in the name of the Colonies and the Crown, and they had the authority to levy taxes in order to provide for a Colonial Army.

After the defeat of the British forces in the American Revolution, the American Colonies knew that they were independent, but they did not know who they were. After the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*, the first attempt at an organization of government for the new country was the *Articles of Confederation*.

On 12 July 1776, a committee appointed by the Second Continental Congress presented a plan of union for the independent and newly-declared United States. On 15 November 1777, a draft document was approved by the Second Continental Congress and sent to the Thirteen Colonies (future states).

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<sup>31</sup> John Shy, *Franklin, Washington, and a New Nation* in *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, Nr. 131: 3, 1987, p. 315.



**Fig. 7. Copy of the first page of *The Articles of Confederation*, dated November 5, 1777.** In 1781, all of the American Colonies ratified this document, which consists of five pages. It served as the basic law regulating the United Colonies until the *Constitution for the United States of America* became law with the ratification of the *Constitution* by Rhode Island on May 29, 1790. Source: <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/9-12/documents/articles/index.html>. The image is in the public domain. Accessed on June 12, 2011.

The ratification of the *Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union* had to be unanimous. Due to bickering between Maryland, New York, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Connecticut over the western land claims to the Mississippi River via the trans-Allegheny Mountains, the *Articles* did not become law until March 1, 1781.<sup>32</sup> A Congress was established and powers were divided between it, the states, and the national government. Between two and seven delegates from each state served in the Congress, yet each state had one vote only.

Due to the rights retained by the states vis-à-vis the national government and the weak measures passed by Congress, the *Articles of Confederation* proved to be a frail form of union. All of the thirteen members viewed them as deficient by the beginning of 1786 and efforts were undertaken to replace them by a constitution for the United States of America. In 1787, the Federal Constitutional Convention drafted the future constitution that was ratified in 1788 by the required nine states. It went into effect on March 4, 1789 and when it received its final, thirteenth ratification by Rhode Island on May 29, 1790, the United States of America was officially established as a legal entity.

After two attempts at union, all of the Thirteen Original Colonies had finally formed the founding thirteen independent states in the republican, federal system that we know as the United States of America, thus freeing themselves from external, political dominance completely. This fact alone eventually made it possible for the fledgling country to achieve its own identity in the economic, political, social, and cultural spheres.



## N.(ota) B.(ene)

The reader now has background information concerning America's document of independence. Do not let yourself be dumbed down by American communists, leftists, progressives, socialists, obots, and the lame stream media. Do not accept their arguments that the *Declaration of Independence* and the *Constitution for the United States of America* are only pieces of paper. Retired Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, former Chief of Naval Operations and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, once stated that "Responsibility without accountability 'according to law' undermines the core foundation of the *Constitution*, the principle known as the Rule of Law (as opposed to the rule of men), without which our *Constitution* is no

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<sup>32</sup> Refer to <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/amerdoc/albany.htm>. Accessed on June 12, 2011.

more than a piece of paper."<sup>33</sup> These documents are not just pieces of paper! Both of these documents are in real danger of being destroyed. Once Americans no longer know what happened in former times or no longer care, they will always be children. That is the goal of American communists, leftists, progressives, socialists, obots, and the like, because children are easily influenced and brainwashed. The liberal intelligence that comes out of a university graduating class is the result of the graduates being dumbed down. As an example, this author knows from his high school civics classes what the *Declaration of Independence* is, what the *Articles of Confederation* is, what the *Constitution for the United States of America* is, and that the *Bill of Rights* is not a musical boy group. This beginning knowledge as a pupil in high school, not a student in high school, was further explored in constitutional law seminars at the universities where the author was a student. The author had no intent on becoming a lawyer, judge, or public official. The courses on constitutional law were necessary to complement the impetus of the triple major of history, political science, and literature. Yes, such a major was possible. Nowadays at Harvard University which has the motto TRUTH, the School of Law does not have any requirements for students to study United States Constitutional Law because under the former Dean Elena Kagan, "From the beginning of law school, students should learn to locate what they are learning about public and private law in the United States within the context of a larger universe – global networks of economic regulation and private ordering, public systems created through multilateral relations among states, and different and widely varying legal cultures and systems. ... Accordingly, the Law School will develop three foundation courses, each of which represents a door into the global sphere that students will use as context for U.S. law." Dean Elena Kagan introduced the following courses of study:

1. public international law, involving treaties and international agreements.
2. international economic law and complex multinational financial transactions,
3. comparative law, legal systems other than that of the United States of America with emphasis on "the borrowing and transmission of legal ideas across borders and to a variety of approaches to substantive and procedural law that are rooted in distinct cultures and traditions," (This includes the Sharia law in Islamic ideology.)<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> <http://www.dod.mil/pubs/liberty.pdf>. Accessed on June 12, 2011.

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.cnsnews.com/node/66749>. <http://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/politics/3679-as-dean-at-harvard-law-kagan-replaced-study-of-constitution-with-study-of-international-law>. Both of these sources were accessed on June 11, 2011. The Harvard Law School news release concerning the substitution has been removed from their website.

Dean Elena Kagan essentially said that a student can study law without knowing what is in the *United States Constitution*. That is comparable to saying that a medical student can undertake studies to become a doctor of medicine without knowledge of chemistry. The author surely has nothing against the study of public international law, international economic law, and comparative legal systems, but they must not be required at the expense of deleting United States Constitutional Law from the course of study.

There are two result of the crappy decision by Dean Elena Kagan: Firstly, law students at Harvard Law School are being dumbed down concerning their own *Constitution*. Secondly, Elena Kagan has become a Justice on the United States Supreme Court, nominated for the position by the bogus potus Barack Hussein Obama and confirmed by Barack Hussein Obama's sheeple Senators.

The three documents in question were important in the study of literature because they were beginning examples of a philosophical current in America that can be called the *republic of letters*. The *Declaration of Independence*, for example, is perfect, poetic prose. The *Articles of Confederation* and the *Constitution for the United States of America* are two examples of early codifications of Enlightenment principles. The replacement of monarchy with democratic republicanism; the source of truth is in natural law; the liberation of humans, the establishment of aesthetics, ethics, and government through rational and scientific knowledge; the guarantee of natural rights of humans, are only some of these principles.

The *Bill of Rights*<sup>35</sup> are the First Ten Amendments to the *Constitution* that guarantee:

- First Amendment – Freedom of religion, speech, press, and peaceable assembly as well as the right to petition the government.
- Second Amendment – Right to keep and bear arms.
- Third Amendment – Protection from quartering of troops.
- Fourth Amendment – Protection from unreasonable search and seizure.
- Fifth Amendment – Due process, double jeopardy, self-incrimination, private property.
- Sixth Amendment – Trial by an impartial jury and other rights of the accused. (the right to a speedy and public trial, the right of the accused to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation in detail, the right of

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<sup>35</sup> For more information concerning the pros and cons of the *Bill of Rights* see the *United States Bill of Rights*, [http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/United\\_States\\_Bill\\_of\\_Rights?oldid=891294](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/United_States_Bill_of_Rights?oldid=891294). Accessed on June 12, 2011.

the accused to be confronted with witnesses, the right of the accused to obtain witnesses for him/her, the right of the accused to have assistance of counsel.

- Seventh Amendment – Civil trial by jury.
- Eighth Amendment – Prohibition of excessive bail, as well as prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment.
- Ninth Amendment – Protection of rights not specifically enumerated in the Bill of Rights.
- Tenth Amendment – Powers of states and people.

Every day these principles and rights are slowly being undermined by the Democrat Party, the Supreme Court of the United States of America, and by Barack Hussein Obama, the putative president of the United States of America.

## **URGENT REQUEST**

### **Legal American Citizens and Patriots! Take Action!**

In your celebration of Independence Day do exactly what the *Declaration of Independence* says. You are still a free citizen. Exercise your guaranteed rights before they are taken away by the Barack Hussein Obama regime. Spread the word that as patriotic Americans

"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 becomes destructive of 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. ... (W)hen 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."



To paraphrase the *Declaration of Independence*, the history of the present putative president is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states.

**OUR NATION IS UNDER FRAUD!** Abolish the Barack Hussein Obama regime and install a new government! Each American patriot can engage in procedures that are non-violent and quite simple. Go to

<http://onenationunderfraud.blogspot.com/>

and you will learn how you can **TAKE ACTION TODAY!**

There are a plethora of legal actions American Patriots can undertake on *Independence Day* and on any day of the year. Keep up the pressure and tar-and-feather Barack Hussein Obama politically! Draw-and-quarter Barack Hussein Obama politically! Send Barack Hussein Obama and his like into political oblivion forever! Fight for your freedom documents and Take Back Your Country!

Demand a Congressional Investigation concerning Barack Hussein Obama's identity fraud, social security fraud, and usurpation of the Office of the Presidency of the United States of America!

My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountainside  
Let freedom ring!

Samuel Francis Smith (1808-1895)  
*America*, (1831), Stanza 1

Frederick William Dame  
Patriotic, Steadfast, and True  
June 20, 2011.