

The Dissolution of the Declaration of Independence

By Karla Hernandez Torrijos

We hold these truths to be self-evident—

that they are certain alien s among u s

That to secure the Government,

Men, just, become destructive

the Right People institute new principles

power shall seem most like Safety and Happiness.

indeed, Governments long established should not be changed for trans causes

all are evil

suffer than right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed

abuses, pursuing the same Object —to reduce them, their right s, their future s—

Such has been the patient necessity of history

the present, a repeat injur y

let Facts be refused for the public good!

He has forbidden di ssent

he neglected the people unless those people relinquish e d

bodies distant from their public Records dissolved

He refused such dissolutions

powers, capable of Annihilation, have returned to the State

(all the dangers from within)

He obstructed Justice by refusing Laws
establishing power dependent on his Will alone,
He has sent swarms of Officers to harrass people and eat their peace
without the Consent of u s,
others subject us to foreign bodies from all parts of the world
depriving us of English, altering fundamentally the Form of our towns,
the lives of our people.
this time, the work already begun
the Head of a nation has taken hi S Country by the Hand,
excited domestic insurrections,
to bring on the destruction of all the “Oppress ed”
in the most humble terms: Our Petitions have been answered by A Prince
marked by every act which may define a “Tyrant”
the ruler people have been wanting
our brethren warned of us
We remind them of emigration here, appeal to their nativ ity,
conjure ties of common kin, connections
They too acquiesce,
denounce the rest of mankind *Enemies*
therefore, the united States of America, the Supreme Judge of the world,
our intentions good and Right, ought to be Absolved from all
Allegiance to Power, to Commerce
we pledge to each our Lives

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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 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 power 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 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 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 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 these Colonies, 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 new ones to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large; for their neglect the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of Invasion from without, and Confusion within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Aliens; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of emigration to exorbitant prices.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary power.

For the support of this pretence, he has endeavored to bring into the Colonies, large Numbers of British Soldiers, and the amount and payment of which he has endeavored to make

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither **swarms of Officers to harrass 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 and superior to the 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 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 Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of **English** Trade in our Neighbourhood, that we might have the same Trade destroyed by Government, and subjecting us to the Tyranny that is now at once an example and a menace to the Colonies, by the same absolute rule, into these Colonies

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and **altering fundamentally the Form of our Government**

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring us out of their Protection and support

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging war against us

He has plundered our seas, invaded our shores, and burnt our **towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.**

He has at **this time** transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries, to complete **the work** of death, desolation, and tyranny, **already begun** with our cruelties and injuries, in perfect, and cruel, perfidy; and he has dared to invade our **unconquered** **the Head of a civilized nation**

He has **deprived** our fellow Citizens taken on board the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their **Hand**

He has **excited domestic insurrections** against our Laws, and has endeavored **to bring on** the inhabitants of our coasts the merciless Indian Savages, who are known to be merciless in 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 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 conciliation. We have, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounce 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, appeal to the Supreme Judge of the world for the redress of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by 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 by which they were once 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.**