

STATESMAN CHALLENGE

Preamble to the Declaration of Independence

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.

Summary of the Bill of Rights

1. Freedom of:
 - o Religion
 - o Speech
 - o Press
 - o Assembly
 - o Petition
2. Right to keep and bear arms
3. No quartering of soldiers
4. No unreasonable search & seizure
5. Right to remain silent
6. Right to a speedy trial by jury
7. Right to a speedy trial by jury in civil cases
8. No cruel or unusual punishments
9. Rights reserved to the people
10. Rights reserved to the states

Samuel Adams "On American Independence" 1776

"Other nations have received their laws from conquerors; some are indebted for a constitution to the suffering of their ancestors through revolving centuries. The people of this country, alone, have formally and deliberately chosen a government for themselves, and with open and uninfluenced consent bound themselves into a social compact.

Here no man proclaims his birth or wealth as a title to honorable distinction, or to sanctify ignorance and vice with the name of hereditary authority. He who has most zeal and ability to promote public felicity, let him be the servant of the public. This is the only line of distinction drawn by nature. Leave the bird of night to the obscurity for which nature intended him, and expect only from the eagle to brush the clouds with his wings and look boldly in the face of the sun.

We have no other alternative than independence, or the most ignominious and galling servitude. The legions of our enemies thicken on our plains; desolation and death mark their bloody career, while the mangled corpses of our countrymen seem to cry out to us as a voice from heaven."