The CONGRESS. Well 1, 1770. The unanimous Sectoration of the three units 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.

1

IN CONGRESS. JULY 1, 1770.

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.

IN CONGRESS. JULY 1, 1770.

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.

3

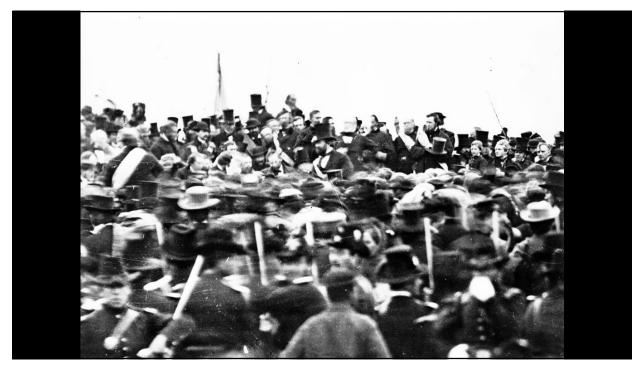
In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

IN CONGRESS. JULY 4. 1770.

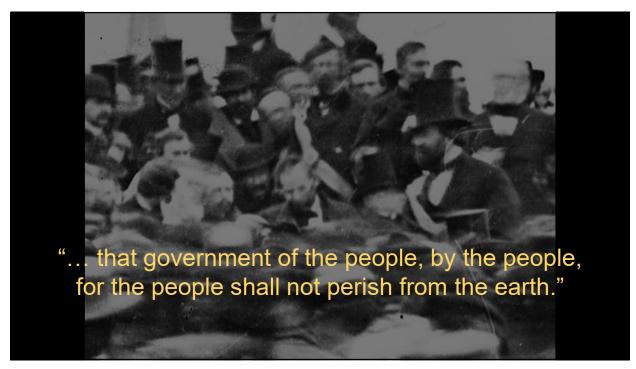
Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice 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.

5

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 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."











11

Irreconcilable: ideas, facts, or statements representing findings or points of view that are so different from each other that they cannot be made compatible.

Christians are not commanded to seek peace at any cost

Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

13

Even though Jesus is the Prince of Peace, He did not come to bring peace at all costs

Mt 10:34-36 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; ³⁶ and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'

When we cannot reconcile with someone, we are to avoid them.

Mt 10:13-14 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.

Rom 16:17-18 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly,

15

2 Cor 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

irrevocable: not able to be changed, reversed, or recovered; final

17

Most things in life are not irrevocable:

- Marriage picture of our union with Jesus (Eph 5), God hates divorce, but He does "allow" it in cases of infidelity and endangered spouse/children
- Partnerships prodigal son, unequally yoked, partner abusing agreement, contracts can be broken
- Pastor's relationship with a church sinning elders rebuke publicly, pastor can disqualify himself

Some things in life are irrevocable:

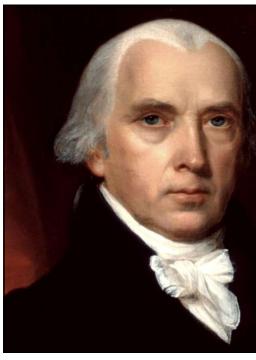
- Salvation nothing can separate us from Christ (Rom 8:35-39)
- Unalienable rights by their definition, they are unalienable/irrevocable
- Right of free association God designed freedom of choice into our very being

19

Political agreements, compacts, and even constitutions are revocable

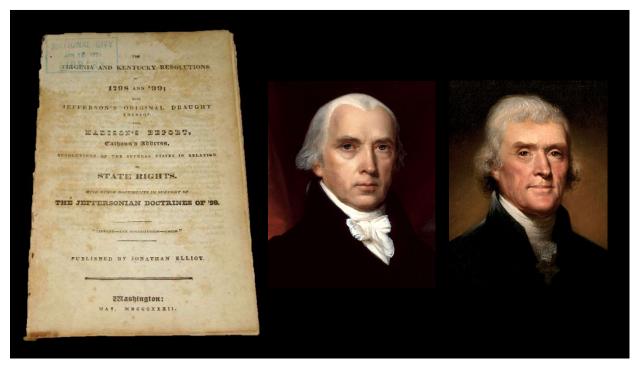


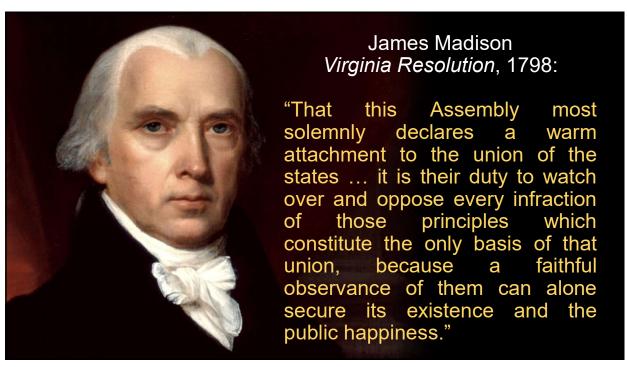
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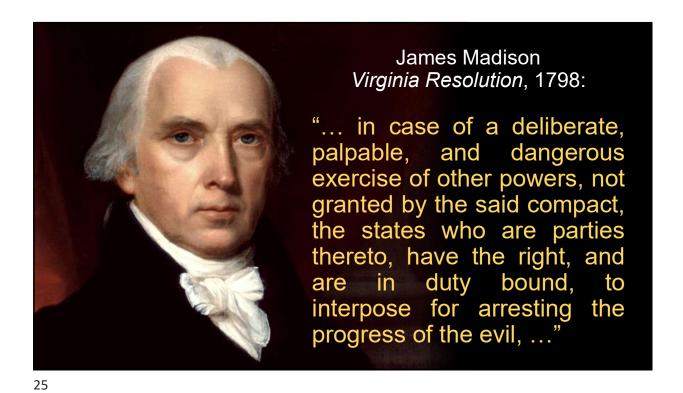


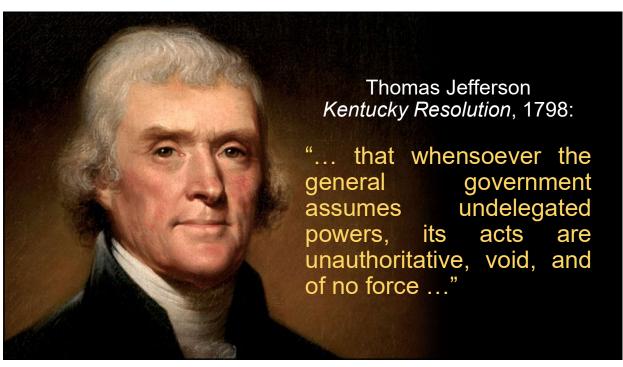
Federalist 39: "... the proposed government cannot be deemed a national one; since its jurisdiction extends to certain enumerated objects only, and leaves to the several States a residuary and inviolable sovereignty over all other objects."

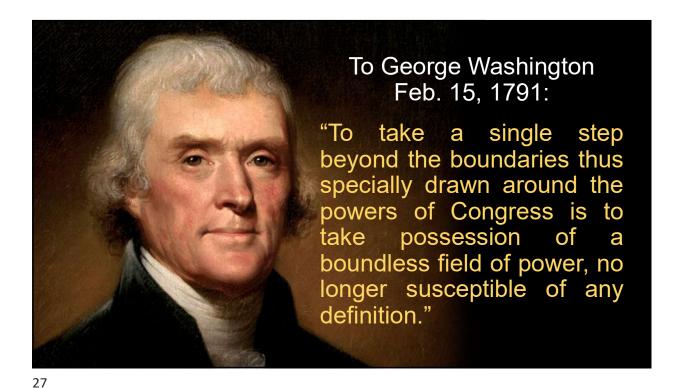
Federalist 14: "... the general [federal] government is not to be charged with the whole power of making and administering laws. Its jurisdiction is limited to certain enumerated objects ..."





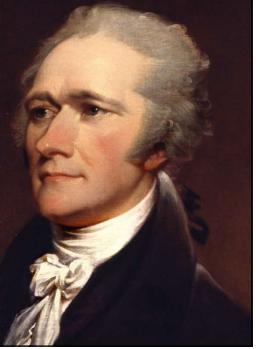


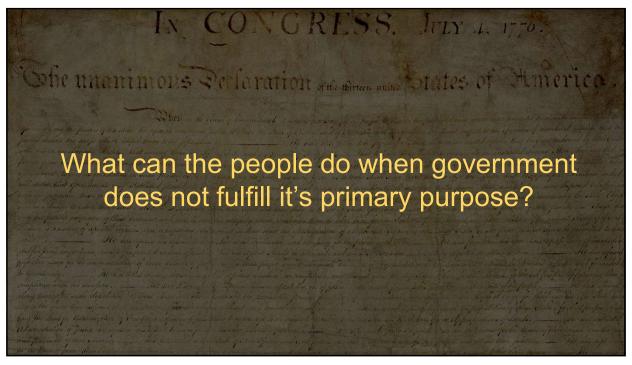


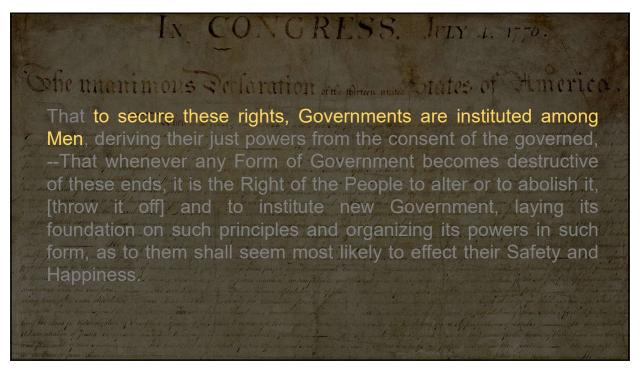


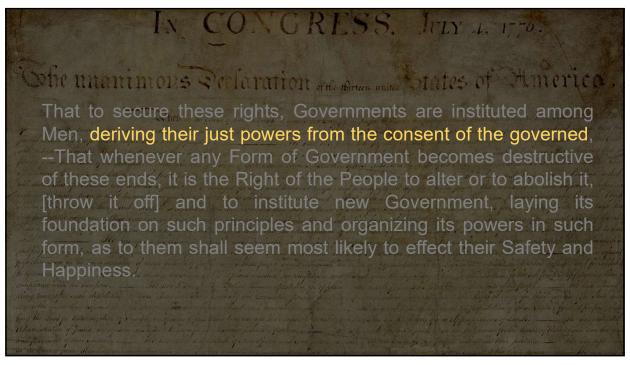
Alexander Hamilton, Federalist 33:

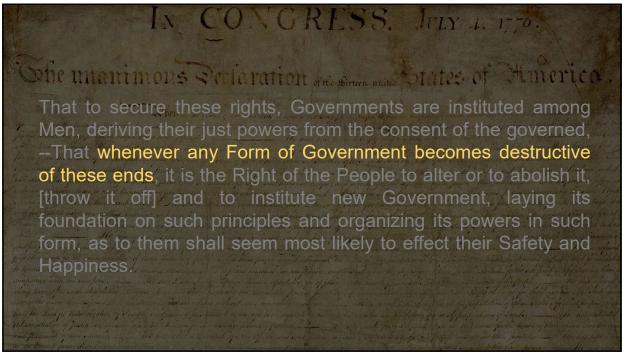
"If the federal government should overpass the just bounds of its authority and make a tyrannical use of its powers, the people, whose creature it is, must appeal to the standard they have formed, and take such measures to redress the injury done to the Constitution as the exigency [urgent need] may suggest and prudence justify."











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, [throw it off] 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.

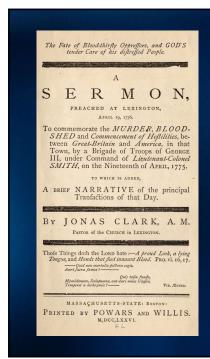
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35

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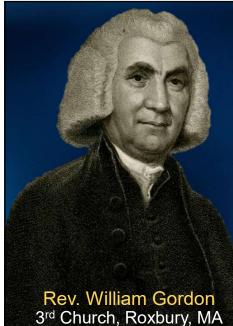


"... the connection of America with Britain ... might have been preserved inviolate to the end of time. And it may be added, that there is no just ground to suppose, that it would have ever entered the heart of Americans, to have desired a dissolution of so happy a connection with the Mother-Country, or to have sought independence of Britain, had they not been urged, and even forced upon such an expedient, by measures of oppression and violence, and the shedding of innocent blood."

37

Abraham Keteltas, Black Robe preacher in NY, NJ, CT, MA, and member of NY Provincial Congress, 1777 sermon:

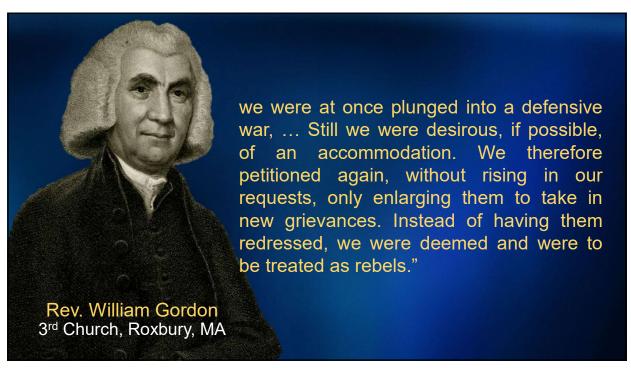
"... all our assemblies ... have endeavored, by the most humble and earnest petitions to the throne, to prevent the fatal war, which now rages and desolates our land. ... and it was not until every pacific measure failed, and our petitions were scornfully treated, and rejected, and a powerful fleet and army had actually invaded us and shed our blood; that we took up arms, in behalf of our lives and liberties."



July 4, 1777 sermon preached before the General Court of MA:

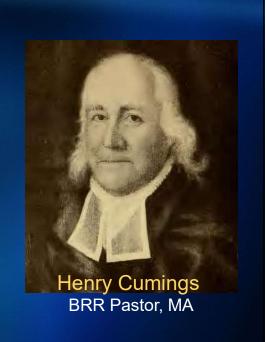
"This continent complained of real grievances, and humbly petitioned. ... Instead of being heard and relieved, the yoke was increased by fresh acts of cruelty, and new burdens laid upon the continent. Our first grievances were spoken of as if not real; and as though we complained without cause, ...

39



April 19, 1781 sermon in Lexington, MA:

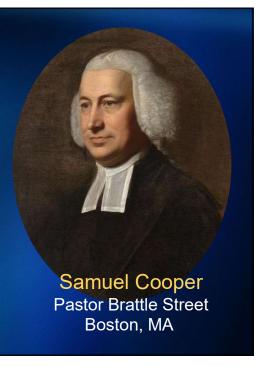
"Had our petitions and prayers been properly regarded, and moderate pacific measures pursued, we should have entertained no thoughts of a revolt; for even after hostilities had commenced, we were ardently desirous of continuing united with our mother country, if such an union could have been preserved, without making a sacrifice of our liberties."



41

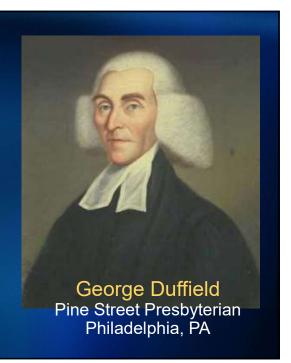
1780 sermon:

"Peace, peace, we ardently wish; but dishonorable upon terms to not or dangerous to ourselves, liberties; and our enemies seem not yet prepared to allow it upon any other. At present the voice of providence, the call of our still invaded country, and the cry of everything dear to us, all unite to rouse us to prosecute the war with redoubled vigor; upon the success of which all our free constitutions, all our hopes depend."

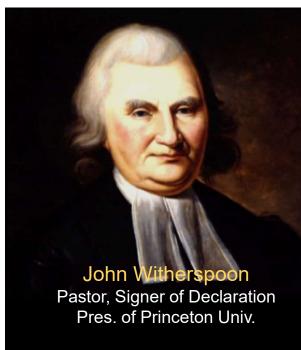


December 11, 1784 sermon:

"Hard alternative! to resign liberty or wage this hazardous war. And yet none other remained. ... But Liberty was the prize. She chose "Freedom or Death" as her motto; and nobly resolved on war with all its horrors; that at least, her last expiring groan might breathe forth freedom."



43



Dr. John M. Krebs, a witness of the scene, gives the following account:

"Every eye went to him with the thought quickness of and remained with the fixedness of the polar star. He cast on the assembly a look of inexpressible unconquerable interest and determination, while on his visage the hue of age [64 yrs] was lost in the flush of burning patriotism that fired his cheek."

