



# The ASC History Toilet Paper

## Declaration of Independence: 240th Anniversary

This  
**MONTH** in  
military  
history ...

1664: 4 British ships arrived in Boston to drive Dutch out of NY

1863: Attack on Fort Wagner

1864: Union army detonated a mine under Confederate lines at Petersburg. The "crater" was 170 feet long 80 feet wide and 30 feet deep

1914: Austria-Hungary delivered ultimatum to Serbia

1936: Spanish Civil War begins

1945: The US conducts the first atomic bomb test

1944: Seventh Fleet lands 60,000 Army troops on Leyte

1945: Potsdam Conference

1950: First airborne operation during Korean War

1950: US 24th Division defense of Taejon

1956: Suez Crisis

1967: Operation Coronado VII

2006: Task Force Orion (Canadian) retook the towns of Nawa and Garmsir, Afghanistan

"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."

Every one of us probably had to commit to memory this paragraph during our Social Studies classes. You may have had to memorize the entire Declaration of Independence and recite it during a class performance. You may have had to memorize the fifty-six signatories of the document.

However, like many Americans, I quickly forgot what I memorized, without understanding the true purpose of the declaration. The primary role of the declaration was to list grievances the American colonists had with the British crown. In turn, these complaints were sent to King George III for redress. The following are the grievances that highlighted the worsening relations between England and her American colony:

"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 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, af-

ter 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 mean time 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 migrations 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 legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of 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 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 into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abol-



ishing 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, burnt 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 & 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 an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions."

Once complete, the Declaration of Independence was delivered to King George III. Unfortunately, the Battles of Lexington and Concord had taken place the previous year. The time for diplomacy was over and the American Revolution had begun in earnest. The war would last for an additional seven years, ending in 1783. Despite the end of the Revolutionary War, many of these disagreements would not be resolved until the end of the War of 1812.

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