

Boston Times

Independence Gained from Britain Years of Tyranny and Oppression Come to an End

By

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The British have ruled over us with tyrannical monarchy for far too long. Thomas Jefferson's *Declaration of Independence* has made it clear that it is about time we unite as one and stand against our enemies who have taxed us unfairly and taken advantage of vulnerable people of our colonies. The Magna Carta states that, "No 'scutage' may be levied in our kingdom without its general consent..." In 1765, the British Parliament issued *The Stamp Act*. Two years later, *The Townshend Acts* taxed imported goods such as lead, paper, paint, glass, and tea. If I remember correctly, I gave absolutely no consent to the taxes that my fellow colonists and I were forced to pay!

The Townshend Acts were enforced through *Writs of Assistance*. This gave tax collectors open-ended warrants to search for smuggled goods; anything damaged in this process was at the owner's expense. John Locke's *Second Treatise on Government* indicates that, "Whenever the legislator's endeavor is to take away and destroy the property of the people... they put themselves into a state of war with the people..."

We have argued such unruly acts only to be faced with decline. As Jefferson agreed, "Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury." Our

humble requests have only hindered us from progress and led to countless more of the King's inequitable precedents. We've tried arguing against "Taxation Without Representation," and even petitioning the crown in 1774. Our desperate attempts backfired. Britain did not even acknowledge our efforts but decided to reply by sending more troops to the colonies. The soldiers' lodging was provided at the expense of the colonies through the *Quartering Acts*. King George clearly defied the *English Bill of Rights* that stressed the unlawfulness of, "...raising and keeping a standing army within this kingdom in time of peace without consent of Parliament, and quartering soldiers contrary to law..." The King hath lost our respect and our trust.

King George has ridiculed himself and traditions of the Enlightenment by defying Britain's own ancient documents and rights that our ancestors set forth. The British Crown has abused and contradicted its own government philosophies to benefit them and disgrace us. After these many years of unjust rule, our independence has rightfully been declared. *The Declaration of Independence* offers a new beginning to a nation that will flourish through just rule and equality. We will establish our new nation under this declaration that rightfully states 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."

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