

The Road to Independence

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Do you believe colonists were justified in declaring independence from Britain? Growing up in the U.S., home of the free, you were probably taught that they had every right to establish independence. However, colonists may not have had any right in declaring independence for our country. Britain was beginning to tax the colonists a little extra without their say. “No taxation without representation” is what the colonists protested to the king. Knowing of both the advantages and disadvantages, colonists were very determined to finally break away from Britain. Most believe the advantages outweigh the disadvantages because we would be free and could make new laws with our own government. Freedom was better than being under British law. Colonists were justified in declaring independence from Great Britain because their rights were being violated and were not treated fairly by the parliament.

According to Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense*, we had no hope of reconciliation with Britain and we needed to go to war. He believed that we were better off without Britain and they were just using us for protection. His pamphlet inspired colonists to break away from Britain by claiming that we were wasting time and needed to go to war now to end this mess, and that we could make it on our own. We did not trust the parliament and we could have more than one king in America. The American government would be run by the people so that they could have a say. However, many disagreed with Paine and wrote rebuttals to his pamphlet.

A Deceiver Unmasked, by Rev. Charles Inglis, was one of the many. Inglis destroys Thomas Paine by saying that he just gets people excited and rowed up. He claims that we need to just reconcile, that the colonists are not prepared to break away. Britain has the best trade and Navy in the world, plus, if they won the war, there would still be consequences. Both sides will fight until the end, and if the colonists and Britain just have peace, everything will go back to normal. *Plain Truth*, by James Chalmers, is yet another response to *Common Sense*. Chalmers

feels that Thomas Paine is an ignorant liar, and cannot declare independence by himself. He says that Great Britain is not going to just let us have our independence; he also argues that we are not prepared to go to war. If we were prepared, we would not need help from France and Spain. Leaving England would just lead to violent war, and losing connections to the world by linking in trade.

Edward Rutledge wrote a letter to John Jay on June 29, 1776. Rutledge wrote to Jay to ask for his presence in Philadelphia. He believed that John Jay needed to be there to see what really happened. Over all, this letter was written to post-pone the war. Little did they know, less than a week later they would be signing the document that gave their country freedom they had dreamed of for months.

On July 4, 1776, they received just that. *The Declaration of Independence* was signed to give us our freedom from British law. Colonists were willing to die for our country to have, “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” It stated that people get their rights from God, not their king. Our government would be created by men, who were all created equal. *The Declaration of Independence* gave them full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, and to establish commerce. The document marked the first time the colonists were referred to as The United States of America, as well as being free and independent states.

Colonists were to begin life in America free of British Law. In John Adams speech to the Second Continental Congress on July 1, 1776, he said that they would have consequences, but everything would be worth it in the end. Adams saw the colonies becoming a new nation and had great hopes for the future. The colonies did just as he believed they would, became a new nation and had the chance to write our own history. The colonists fought for independence, knowing it would not come free, and retrieved what they deserved. Colonists were justified in declaring

independence from Great Britain because their rights were being violated and were not treated fairly by the parliament. When *The declaration of Independence* was signed July 4, 1776, they had finally achieved what they had fought and protested for months and months and could provide a peaceful life for their family, free in America.