
Editorial

The Fourth of July

“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. . . .”

To the British Empire, the 56 signers, and all other Americans, this assertion from the Declaration of Independence was a revolution in itself. By signing it, the delegates to the Continental Congress put their lives on the line, liable to be imprisoned or killed as traitors to the Empire, for the sake of universal principles. They also thereby committed themselves to organizing their fellow-citizens and supporters around the world, to rally to a war for the idea of man they had espoused.

That war took 7 years to win, but was not consolidated until 12 years later, when the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1788.

Yet, in a real sense, the principles behind the Declaration of Independence continue to be at the core of conflict within the U.S. population up to today. Americans differed, often vehemently, among themselves as to what kind of government were required to fulfill the aims to which they had dedicated themselves. Some of those disagreements were honest; others were deliberately fostered by agents of the British Empire itself, which was, and still is, determined that this unprecedented, noble experiment would fail.

Under our great American Presidents—Washington, John Quincy Adams, Lincoln, McKinley, and Franklin Roosevelt—enormous progress was made in creating the conditions for fulfilling these unalienable rights. A deep commitment to continuous improvement of the nation economically, mor-

ally, and intellectually, through a government based on the consent of the governed, informed all of these Administrations, and they produced physical and cultural capital that we are actually frittering away today. It should be no surprise that two of these Presidents were assassinated by British agents, while the others were subjected to character-assassination.

Today, it is the core commitment of that noble Declaration which is under assault by the British financial Empire. The right to life? That is to be subject to an economic calculus of whether society can afford to keep you alive, or not. The right to liberty? That depends upon decisions by secret courts and an all-listening government which decides whether you deserve it or not, or whether you represent a threat to its will. The right to the pursuit of happiness? That has been demeaned into animal-like pleasure-seeking for the moment, not the lasting happiness appropriate to thinking human beings who create and improve the future for their posterity.

This is no time for the mindless flag-waving so common on the Fourth of July. The depth of the principles upon which our nation was so “impractically” founded must be recaptured, or we face the very real threat that this nation will disintegrate, perhaps even disappear in thermonuclear war. Nor can we be satisfied with merely blaming our leaders for their failures. *Every* citizen of a republic has the responsibility to live up to the solemn Declaration made in 1776, to the best of his or her ability.

It’s time for a revival of the real spirit of the American Revolution, a dedication to lifting up mankind in every nation, so all people can live up to their potential. Happy Fourth of July!