

<NAME>

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Pre-AP US History I

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Ideas behind the Declaration of Independence

“You say you want a Revolution...”

After the constant taxing and mistreatment by the British, colonists were fed up with continued aggression by the British. Great Britain, seeing that the North American colonies were very important to their economy, continued to hold on to the colonies any way they could. Tensions between the two continued to increase. British and North American tensions had heated up so much that they were already having actual military battles. Britain again refused to let the colonies go. The Colonies saw things differently. Members of the Second Continental Congress came together to create and approve a document that would declare the colonies free from British rule.

Declaration of Independence Choice Tragedy

Colonists	Subjects	British
self-rule	Good Intentions	control
Conflict		
Colonists can't have self rule if the British are in control		
•	Choices (Have)	•
•	Choices (Made)	•
Results		

Ideas behind Independence

The document that they created was based on the ideas of many great philosophical and political documents. Below is a chart that summarizes several of the documents that helped shape the [Declaration of Independence](#).

Ancient Greece (500 BC)	
Magna Carta (1215 AD)	
The Petition of Right (1626 AD)	
English Bill of Rights (1689 AD)	
Social Contract Theory (1651 AD)	
Natural Rights (1690 AD)	