

Declaration of Independence complaints and statement of freedom

“...The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world...

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. [British troops were kept in the colonies without the permission from our political leaders]

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: [Colonists were forced to house British troops in their homes]

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: [Colonists could not freely trade with other countries]

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: [Taxes were put on the colonists and they had no say in the matter]

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: [For example, those guilty of smuggling trade items might not be given a jury to decide their case]

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences... [tried in Britain if accused of treason for example]

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people...

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

Reflection questions

1. What parts of PERSIA are the colonists upset about in their bolded complaints above? Please use textual evidence to share your response. **(At least 2 strong sentences)**

2. Based on the charges against the king of Britain above, do the colonists have a right to rebel and set up their own country OR are there other actions they might have done instead of seeking independence from Britain? Please explain your answer (Use the back of the paper if you need more room): **3-4 strong sentences**