

Introduction to American Studies

Identity and the Declaration of
Independence

- National identity
 - What is it based on?

- Which of these hold for the United States?

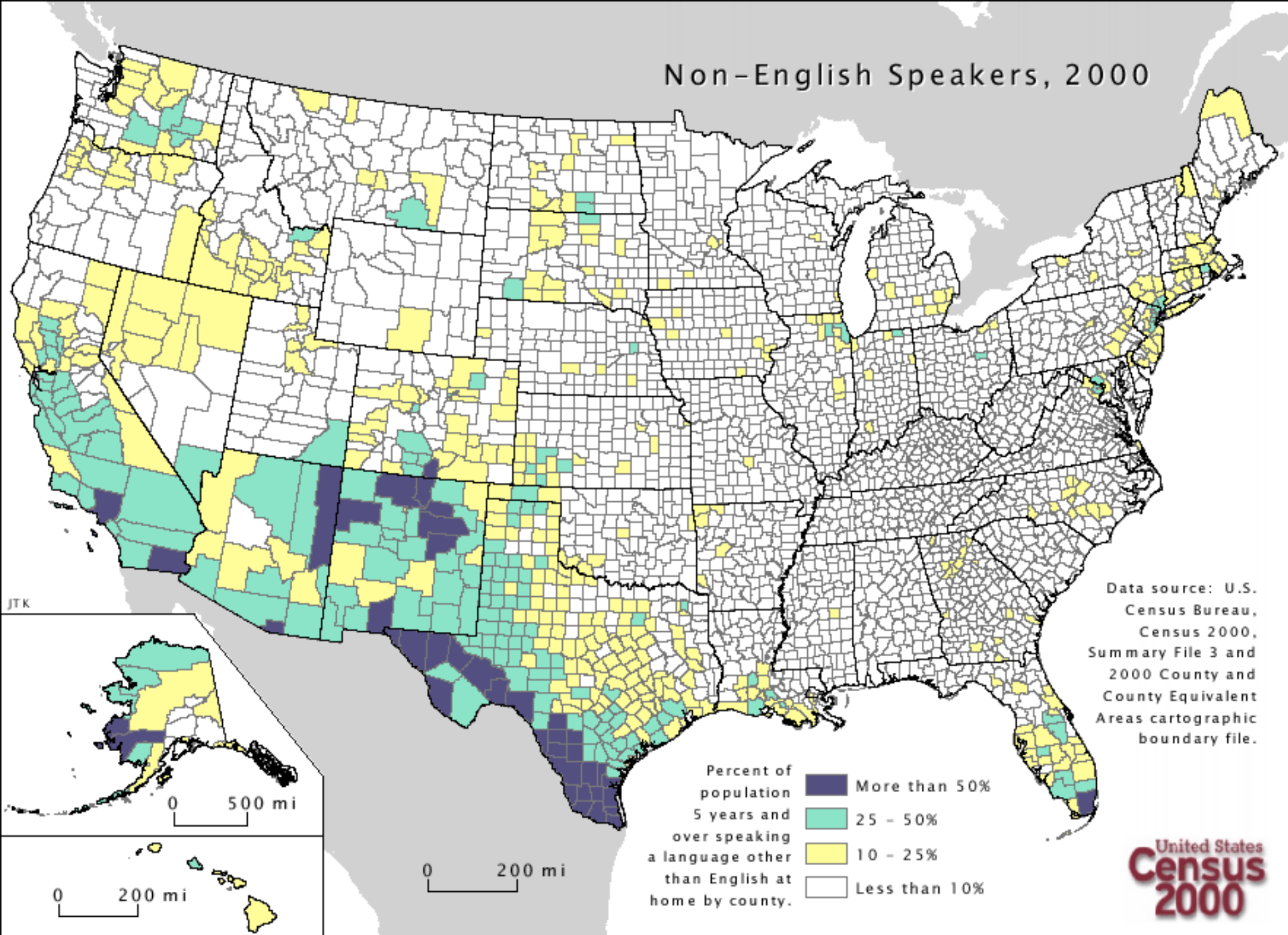
Language?

- What is the national language of the United States?
- Pennsylvania Dutch (Amish/Mennonites)
 - 1736, 225,000
- Cajun French (Louisiana)
 - 1760s, 400,000
- Spanish
 - 1598, N. New Mexico
- Chinese
 - 1849, originally California

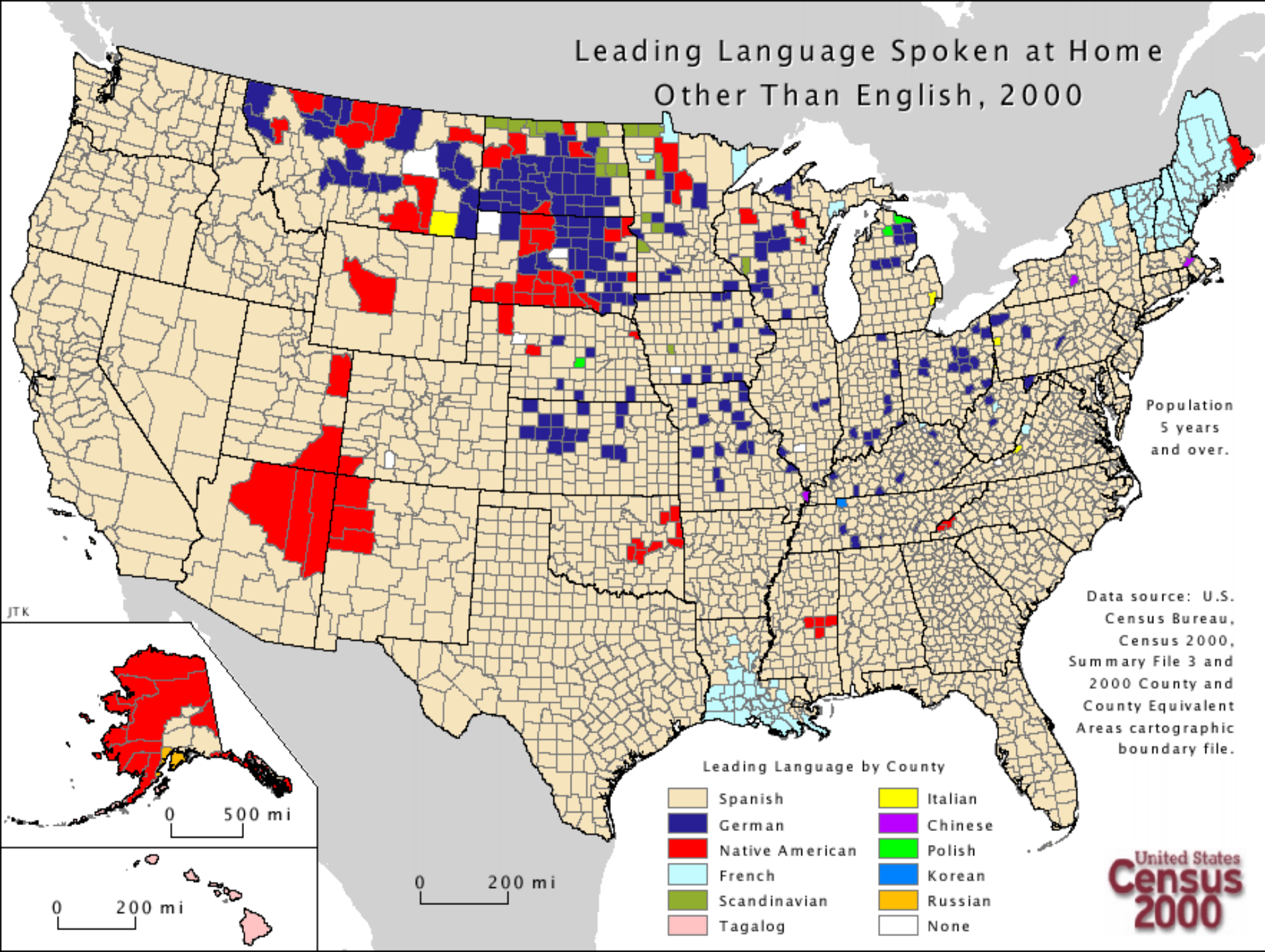


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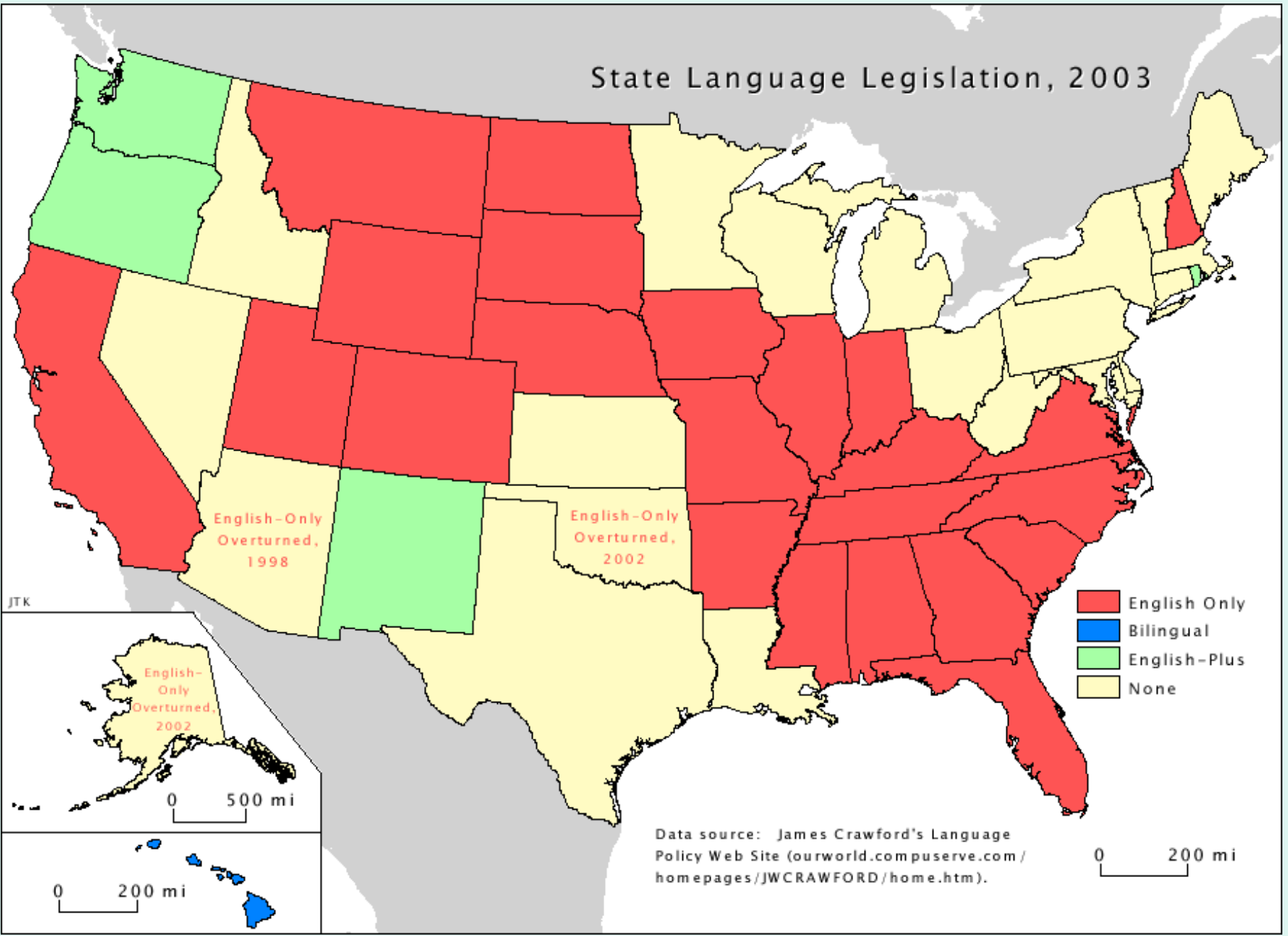
Non-English Speakers, 2000



Leading Language Spoken at Home Other Than English, 2000



State Language Legislation, 2003



English-Only Overturned, 1998

English-Only Overturned, 2002

English-Only Overturned, 2002

- English Only
- Bilingual
- English-Plus
- None

Data source: James Crawford's Language Policy Web Site (ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/JWCRAWFORD/home.htm).

JTK

0 500 mi

0 200 mi

0 200 mi

Information on driver's license exams in California (www.dmv.ca.gov)

- What other languages is the written or audio test available in?
- Besides English, the basic Class C written driver license exam is also available in the following languages:

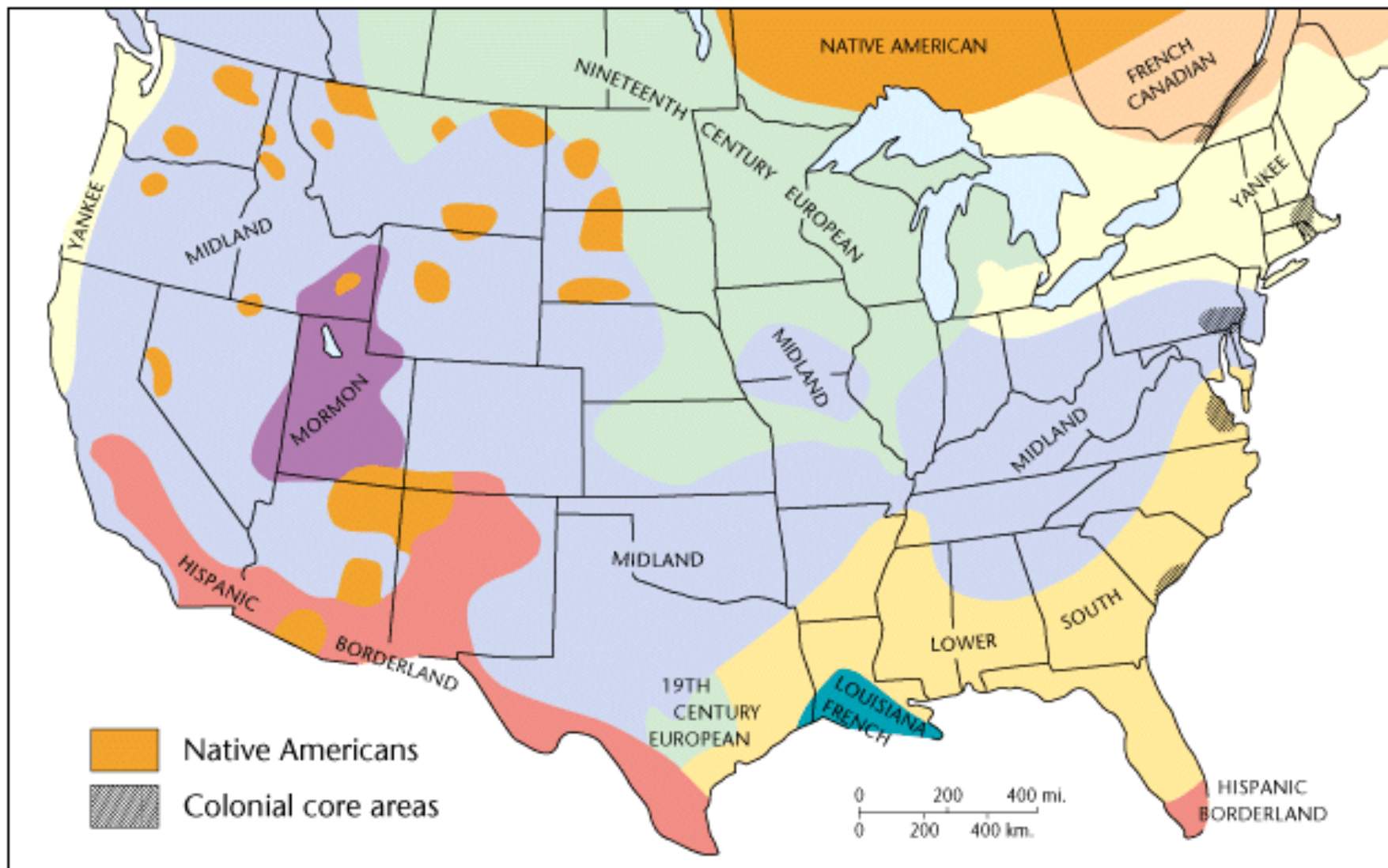
• Amharic	Arabic	Armenian	Cambodian
• Chinese	Croatian	French	German
• Greek	Hebrew	Hindi	Hmong
• Hungarian	Indonesian	Italian	Japanese
• Korean	Laotian	Persian/Farsi	Polish
• Portuguese	Punjabi	Romanian	Russian
• Samoan	Spanish	Tagalog/Filipino	Thai
• Tongan	Turkish	Vietnamese	
- Besides English, the basic Class C audio driver license exam is also available in the following languages:

• Armenian	Chinese/Mandarin	Hindi	Hmong
• Japanese	Korean	Portuguese	Punjabi
• Russian	Spanish	Vietnamese	

Food?

- Regional diversity
 - South: cornbread, grits, biscuits and gravy, barbeque
 - Midwest: German, Polish (kielbasa), Greek
 - Northeast: Jewish (bagels), Italian
 - Southwest: Mexican (tamales, tacos, burritos, enchiladas), Asian food





Thanksgiving

- Tradition goes back to the seventeenth century
 - “Pilgrims”
- Fourth Thursday in November
- Dated fixed by Abraham Lincoln during Civil War

New England Thanksgiving Menu



Roast Turkey with Gravy



New England Stuffing



Mashed Potatoes



Mashed Turnip



Creamed Onions



Cranberry Sauce



Buttered Rolls



Celery Sticks



Pumpkin Pie



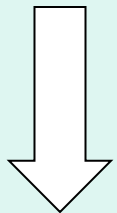
Pumpkin Bread

Thanksgiving Dinner organized by Asian Students



American National identity

- So if these other things don't seem to work, what is American identity based on?
- Flag
 - “Patriotism”
- “Charters of Freedom”
 - Declaration of Independence
 - Constitution
 - Bill of Rights



No presidential portrait(s) in US classrooms



The Pledge of Allegiance

I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation *under God*, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

- Originally written by Francis Bellamy in 1892
 - Words “under God” added in 1954





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Outside a Confucian temple in Chicago



(SINGLE WRAP)

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New York: St. Patrick's Cathedral and Sak's Fifth Avenue department store





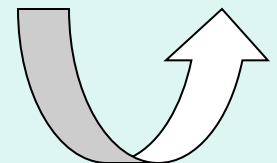
Flag controversy in Lawrence, Kansas

- The 600-square-foot (55 sq. m) brightly illuminated U.S. flag flying outside Heritage Baptist Church, 1604 E. 1100 Road, is causing a stir among church neighbors, some of whom say the lights are a nuisance. The church has no intention of giving up the display. “As far as I’m concerned, the people complaining are un-American,” said Rev. Scott Hanks, right, pastor at the church.



The Flag pin “controversy”

- Presidential hopeful Barack Obama tours the Chrysler Stamping Plant in Sterling Height, Michigan, on Wednesday, May 14.





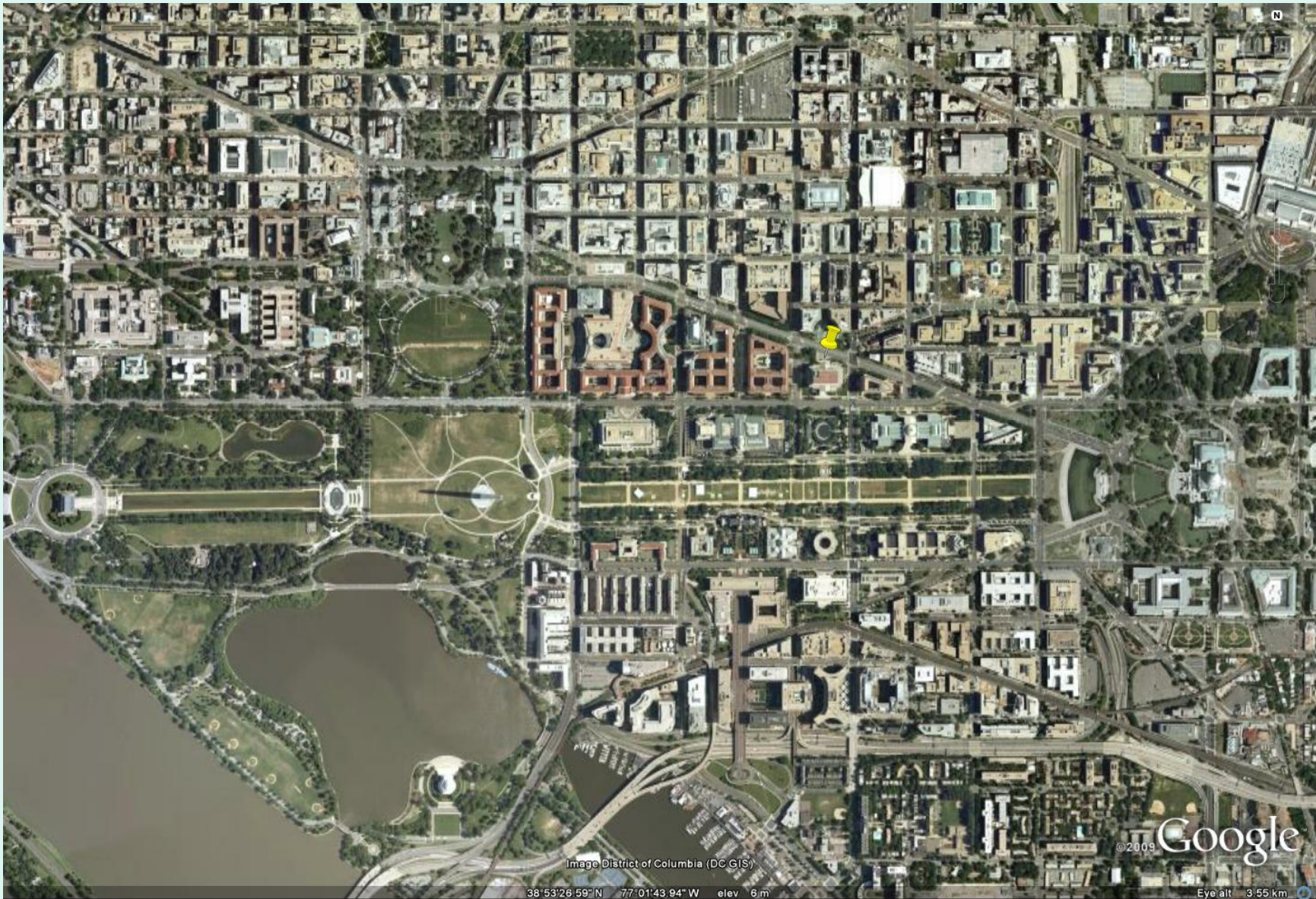


Image District of Columbia (DC GIS)

38°53'26.59"N 77°01'43.94"W elev 6m

©2009 Google

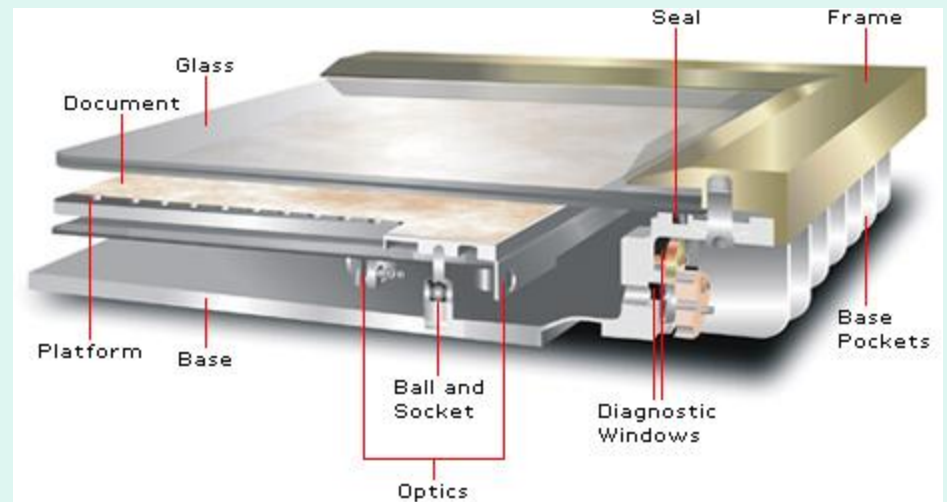
Eye alt 3.55 km

Declaration of Independence

- Copy of the original kept at the National Archives
 - Visited by more 1 million annually
 - Building built in 1952 specifically to house these documents
- Together with the Constitution and Bill of Rights they form the “Charters of Freedom”

President and Mrs. Bush at the reopening of the National Archives





The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation. 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. — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Resolutions have hitherto been generally conformed, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Tyranny, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. — Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. 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 Consideration. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and pernicious to all others. — He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of embarrassing them with his Measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People. — He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their Exercise; the State remaining in the mean Time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Confusions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Trade for Importation of Strangers; refusing to grant Letters of Naturalization to others; and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance. — He has kept among us in Times of Peace, standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislature. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quartering large Bodies of armed Troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many Cases, of the Benefit of Trial by Jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences: — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Powers to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the Works of Death, Desolation and Tyranny, already begun with Circumstances of Cruelty and Perjury scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Associates of their Breeds and Brethren, or to sell themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic Injuries amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions. In every Stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated Injury. A Royal Charter, whose Character is thus marked by every Act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Basis of a free People. Not have We been wanting in Attention to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. — 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.

Boston, Gwinnett
Lynch, Hall
Gerrardson.

John Hancock
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

John Hancock

Samuel Adams
John Adams
John Hancock

John Adams
John Hancock
John Penn

John Adams
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John Penn

John Adams
John Hancock
John Penn

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united
States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

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, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—

Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. 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 refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

...

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

...

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.

- In the original draft this last complaint is followed by one further charge leveled against George III.
- Here it can be seen in the original draft in Jefferson's own hand:

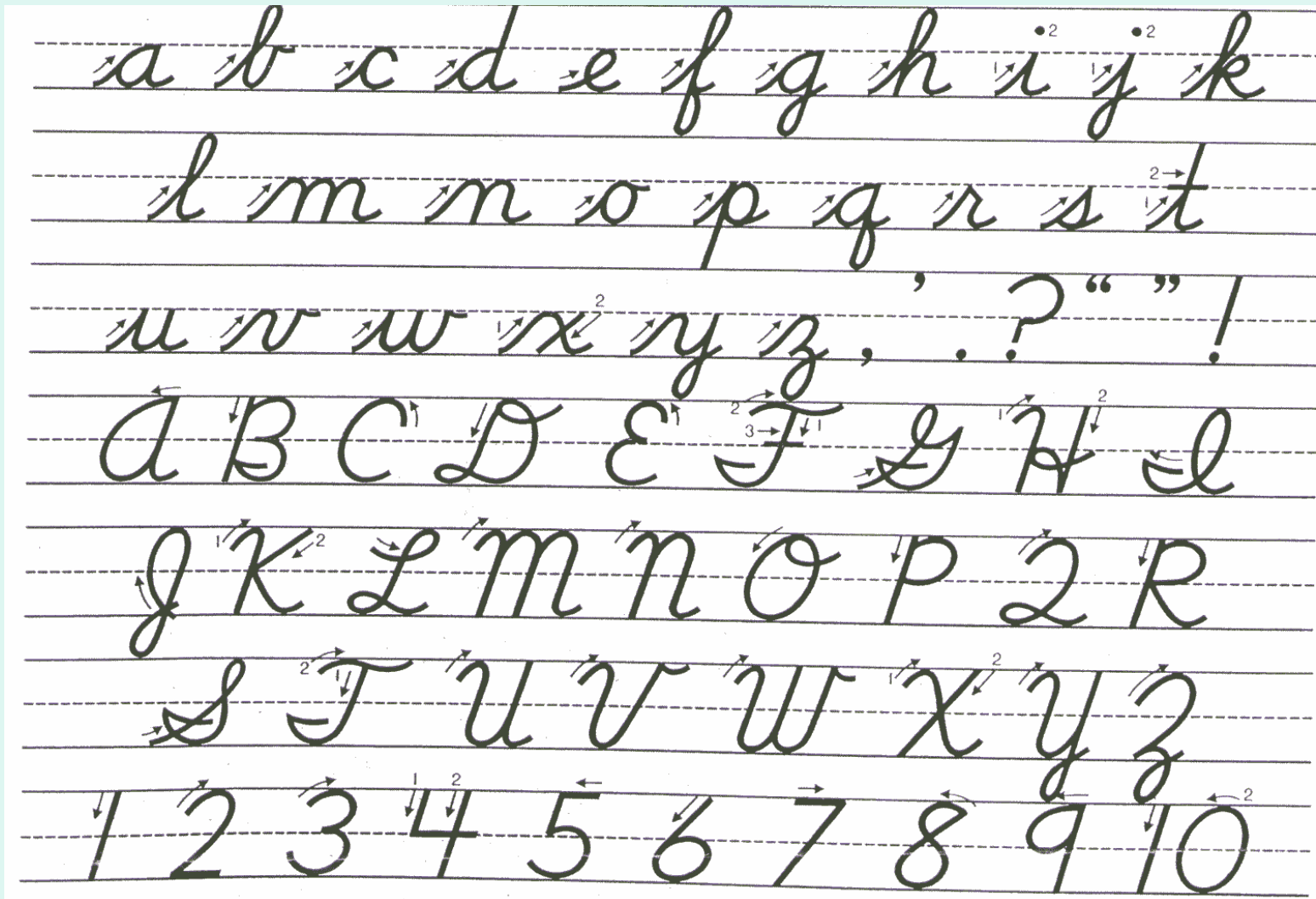
he has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, & conditions [of existence.]

He has incited treasonable insurrections of our fellow citizens, with the allurements of forfeiture & confiscation of our property. ^{he has endeavored to excite the high seas to be a hunting ground for the pirates of these islands} he has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating it's most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, capturing & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian king of Great Britain, determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this ^{determining to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold} execrable commerce; and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them, by murdering those whom he also abounded them: thus paying off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.]

in every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble forms; our repeated petitions have been answered ^{only} by repeated injuries. a prince

4th Edition

American handwriting (cursive)



he has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating it's most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation hither. this piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian king of Great Britain. [determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold,]

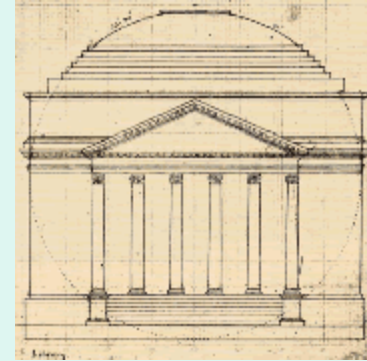
he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce [determining to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold]: and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he had deprived them, by murdering the people upon whom he also obtruded them: thus paying off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.

- Thomas Jefferson, quintessential Enlightenment figure
 - Author of Declaration of Independence
 - University of Virginia (1825)
 - Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom
 - Monticello
 - *Notes on the State of Virginia*



University of Virginia

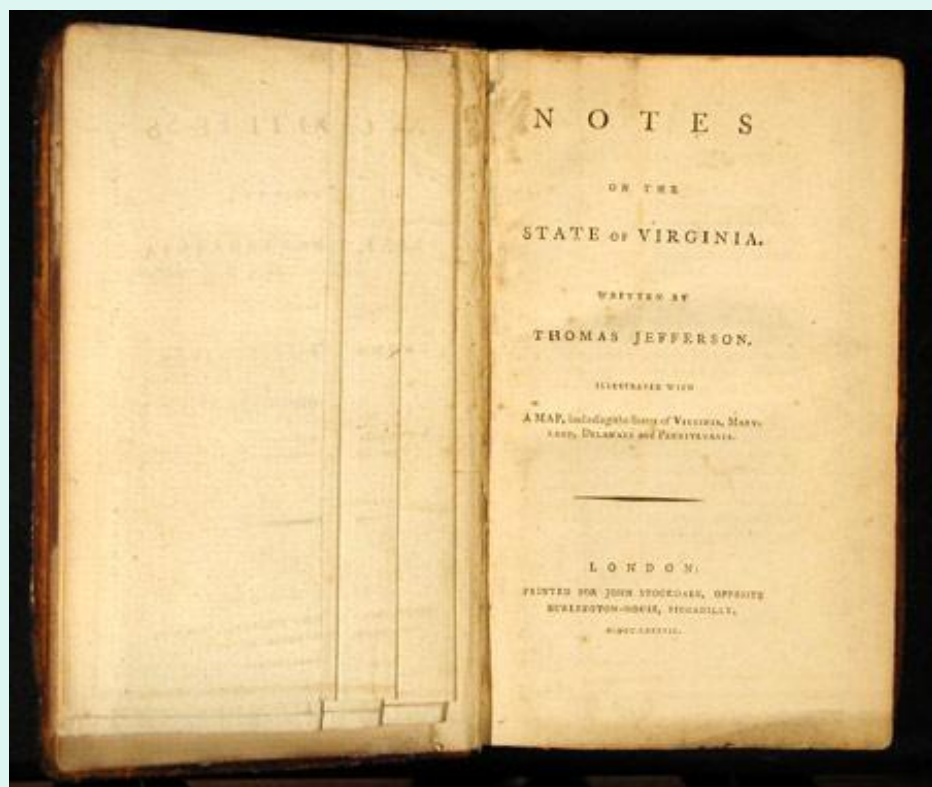
- Jefferson even designed some of the buildings, including this Rotunda



Monticello

- Jefferson not only designed all the buildings but ran the estate as a model farm
- Estate covered more than 5000 acres (2000 hectares)





5
AMERICAN
PHILOSOPHICAL
SOCIETY.

NOTES on the state of VIRGINIA;
 written in the year 1781, somewhat corrected and enlarged in the winter of 1782, for the use of a Foreigner of distinction, in answer to certain queries proposed by him respecting

1. Its boundaries	- - -	page 1
2. Rivers	- - -	3
3. Sea ports	- - -	17
4. Mountains	- - -	18
5. Cascades and caverns	- - -	33
6. Productions mineral, vegetable and animal	-	41
7. Climate	- - -	134
8. Population	- - -	151
9. Military force	- - -	162
10. Marine force	- - -	165
11. Aborigines	- - -	166
12. Counties and towns	- - -	191
13. Constitution	- - -	193
14. Laws	- - -	215
15. Colleges, buildings, and roads	-	275
16. Proceedings as to slaves	- - -	285
17. Religion	- - -	287
18. Manners	- - -	298
19. Manufactures	- - -	301
20. Subjects of commerce	- - -	304
21. Weights, Measures and Money	- - -	311
22. Public revenue and expences	- - -	313
23. Histories, memorials, and state-papers	-	322

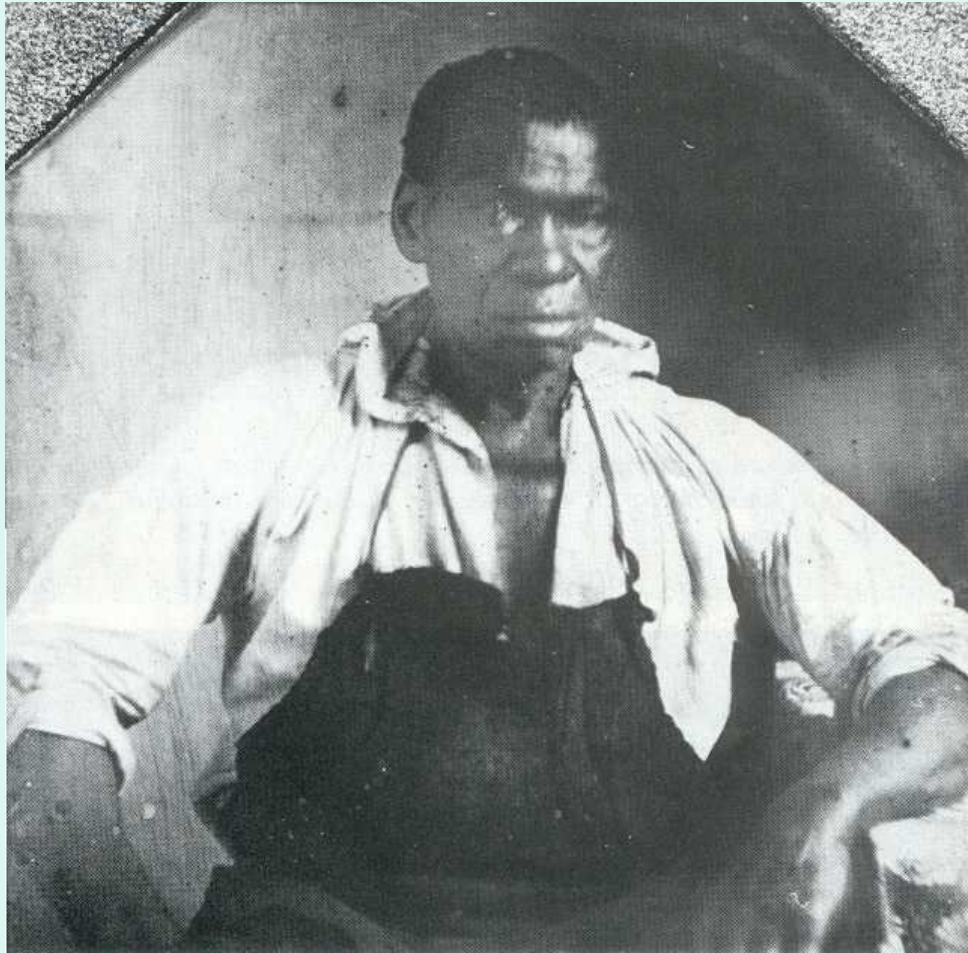
MDCCLXXXII.

- Thomas Jefferson, Slave owner
 - Owned more than 600 individuals over the course of his life
 - Inherited first at the age of 14
 - Sold more than 110 slaves during his life and gave a further 85 as gifts

- Jefferson's "Memorandum Book" for 1773:
- January 29.: sold Sandy to Colo [Colonel] Chas [Charles] Lewis for £100 payable [sic] in June. From which deduct £9.4.8. my present debt with him; leaves £90.15.4. to be sec'd [secured]

in 18. charge our house good from 2. 12. 2 1/2
 Jan 18. Dalton v. Lewis on 1/6 rec'd
 20. pd at Byrd ord. old bal. 2/6
 21. pd ferrige at Woodson's 1/3
 bot Ursula, and her sons George and
 Baynell of Fleming's estate for £ 210.
 pd ferrige at Michaux 1/3
 22. pd for work at Byrd ord. 7 1/2
 26. charge Geo. Dudley 12 1/2 barrels corn the
 whole deliv'd this year. Rich^d. Sorrels witness
 I am to pay W^m. Page 10/ for bringing things
 from W^m.burgh for myself.
 ✓ also 10/ for Randolph Jefferson for bring-
 ing his bed and trunk up fr^m W^m.burgh
 29. sold Sandy to Colo Chas Lewis for £ 100.
 payable in June. from which de-
 duct £ 9. 4. 8 my present debt with
 him, leaves £ 90. 15. 4. to be sec'd.
 Jan. 31. on settling Anderson Bryan's acct till Feb. 4.
 at w^{ch} time will be done, he is in my debt 2/9
 which give up
 lent him 10/ to be charged for future work
 Feb 4. Henry Walker (great W^m.burgh) v. John
 Kemp (Mecklenb^g) bring acct on the
 Case Decm. £ 200.
 Feb. 1. pd T. Morgan 6/.
 pd entent^l at Byrd ord. 4/6
 4. gave Sup. to pay omith near Tuckhoe 1/3
 11. pd Bishop for bringing letters 1/6

Isaac Jefferson (1775-1850) in 1845



- Thomas Jefferson, father of slaves
 - Sally Hemmings
- As early as 1802 rumors existed that Jefferson had fathered children by one or more of his slaves
 - In 1802, the journalist James Thomson Callender wrote in the newspaper *The Richmond Recorder*, “The PRESIDENT AGAIN. It is well known that the man, whom it delighteth the people to honor, keeps, and for many years past has kept, as his concubine, one of his own slaves. Her name is SALLY. The name of her eldest son is TOM. His features are said to bear a striking although sable resemblance to those of the president himself. The boy is ten or twelve years of age...We hear that our young MULLATO PRESIDENT begins to give himself a great number of airs of importance in Charlottesville, and the neighbourhood...By this wench, Sally, our president has had several children. There is not an individual in the neighborhood of Charlottesville who does not believe the story, and not a few who know it...The AFRICAN VENUS is said to officiate, as housekeeper at Monticello.”

- 1873 memoirs of Sally's son Madison claimed that Jefferson was the father of at least three of her children
- Sally Hemmings' children were light-skinned, and three of them (daughter Harriet and sons Beverly and Eaton) lived as members of white society as adults.
- According to contemporary accounts, some of Sally Hemmings' children strongly resembled Thomas Jefferson.
- Thomas Jefferson freed all of Sally Hemmings' children: Beverly and Harriet were allowed to leave Monticello in 1822; Madison and Eston were released in Jefferson's 1826 will. Jefferson gave freedom to no other nuclear slave family.
- DNA analysis has shown that Thomas Jefferson and one of Sally's children (Eaton) share their Y-chromosome
 - A male Jefferson other than Thomas (e.g. his brother Randolph) could also have been the father

The descendents of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemmings



Jefferson's own recognition of the problem

- Jefferson discussing the Missouri question and slavery to John Holmes April 22, 1820:
- “But as it is, we have the wolf by the ear, and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go. Justice is in one scale, and self-preservation in the other.”