

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES

Identity and
the
Declaration of
Independence

- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (1983)
- 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, 225,00
- Cajun French (Louisiana)
 - 1760s, 400,000

Largest:
Holmes, OH
213 congregations



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■ Spanish

- 1598, N. New Mexico
- San Miguel Chapel-1610

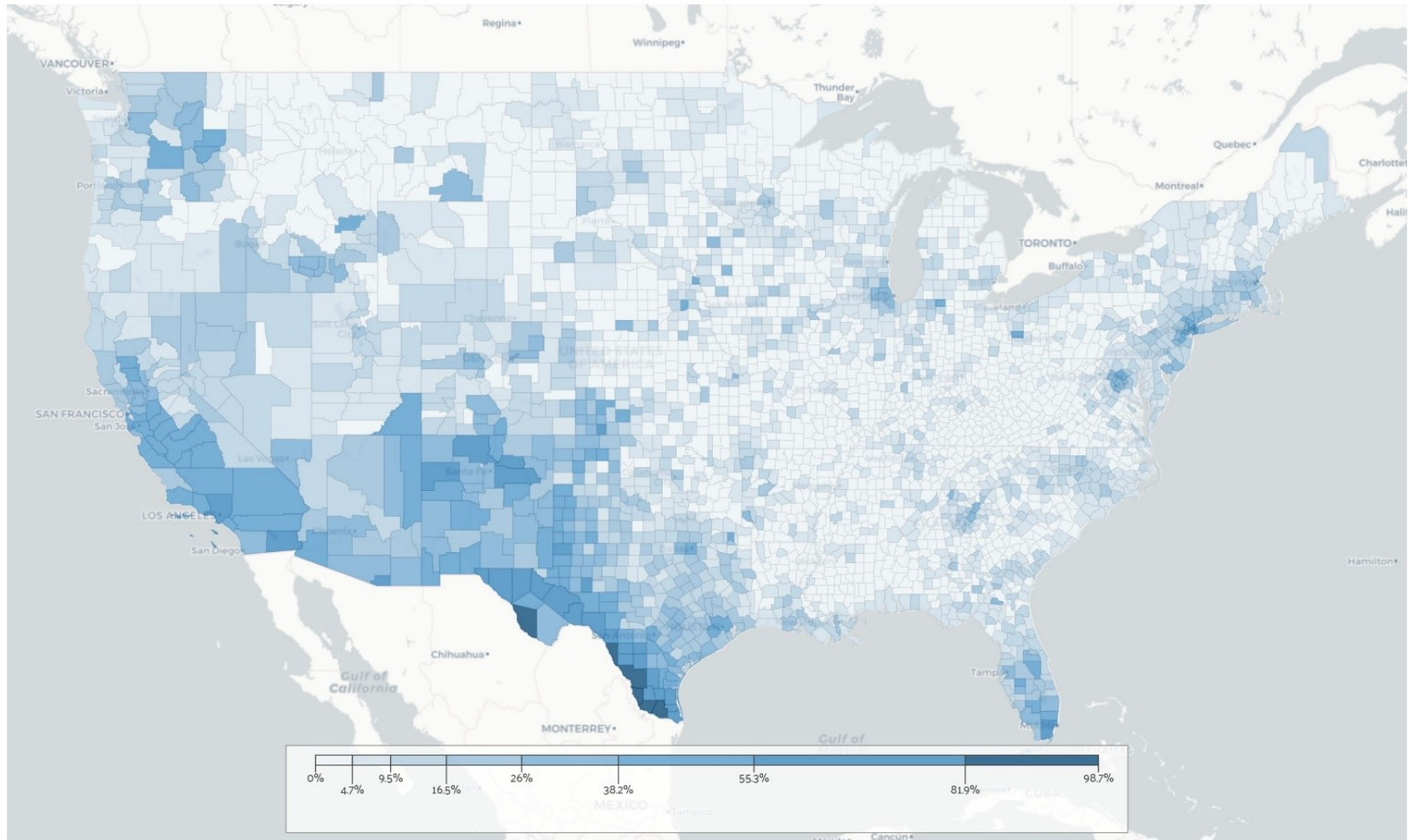
■ Chinese

- 1849, initially California
- Chinatown, San Francisco



NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS, 2016

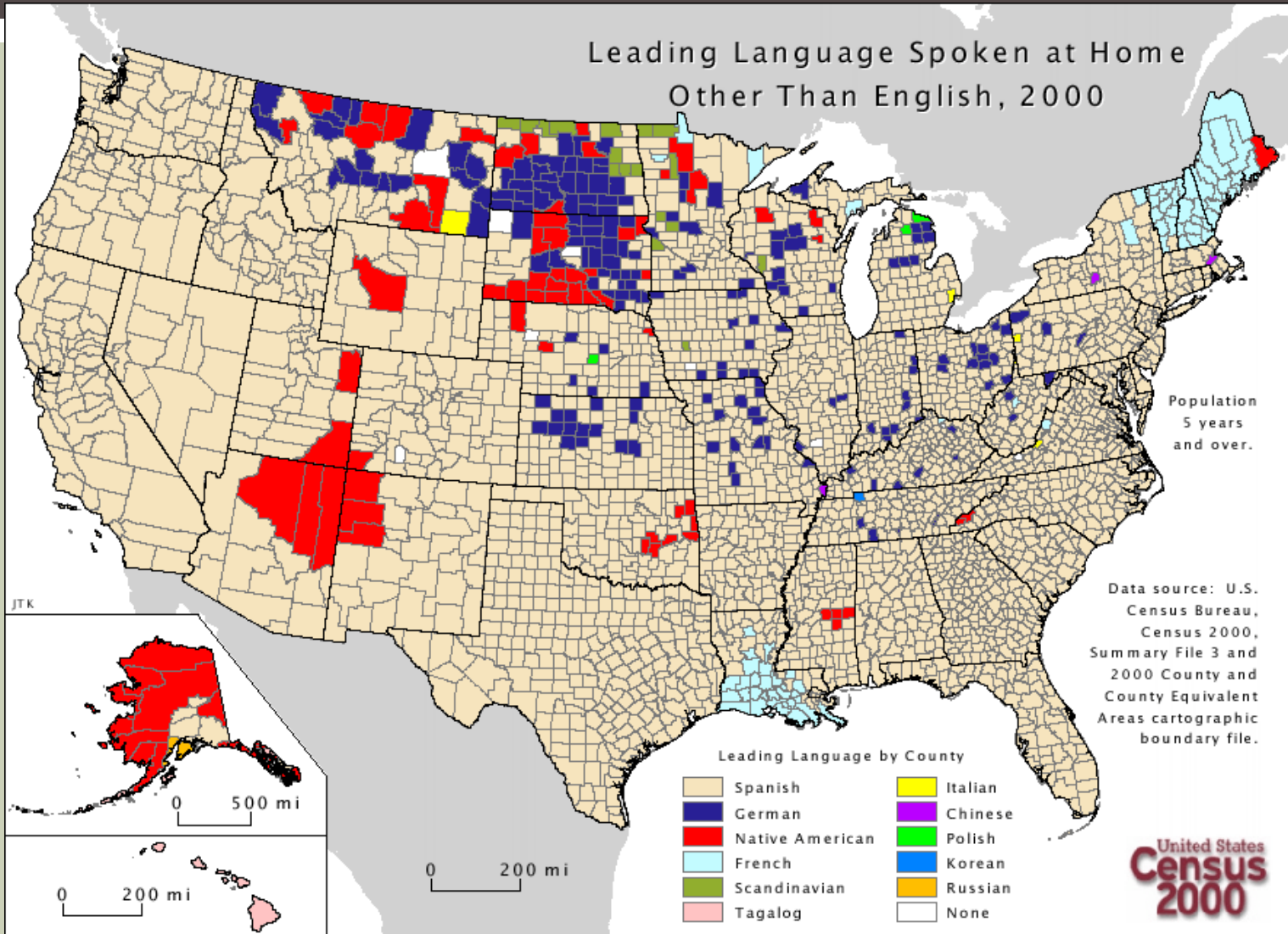
Non English Speakers by County



Dataset: ACS 5-year Estimate
Source: Census Bureau

DATAUSA:

LEADING LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME



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 (written and audio versions) 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 | Farsi | Polish |
| Portuguese | Punjabi | Romanian | Russian |
| Samoan | Spanish | Tagalog | Thai |
| Tongan | Turkish | Vietnamese | |

REGISTERING TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA



Alex Padilla
California Secretary of State

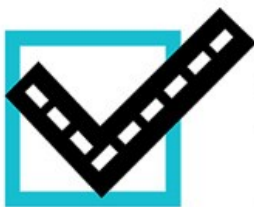


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What can we help you with?

Search



California Motor Voter

Making voter registration at the DMV more convenient.

California Motor Voter

The California Motor Voter program is making registering to vote at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) more convenient. Eligible applicants completing a driver license, identification (ID) card or change of address transaction online, by mail or in person at the DMV will be automatically registered to vote by the California Secretary of State, unless they choose to opt out of automatic voter registration.

- 1 2 3 4

Translated Election Information

[Election Information](#) [Información Electoral](#) [選舉信息](#) [चुनाव जानकारी](#) [選挙情報](#)

[Impormasyon sa Halalan](#) [ព័ត៌មានបោះឆ្នោត](#) [선거 정보](#) [ข้อมูลการเลือกตั้ง](#) [Thông tin bầu cử](#)

FOOD?

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



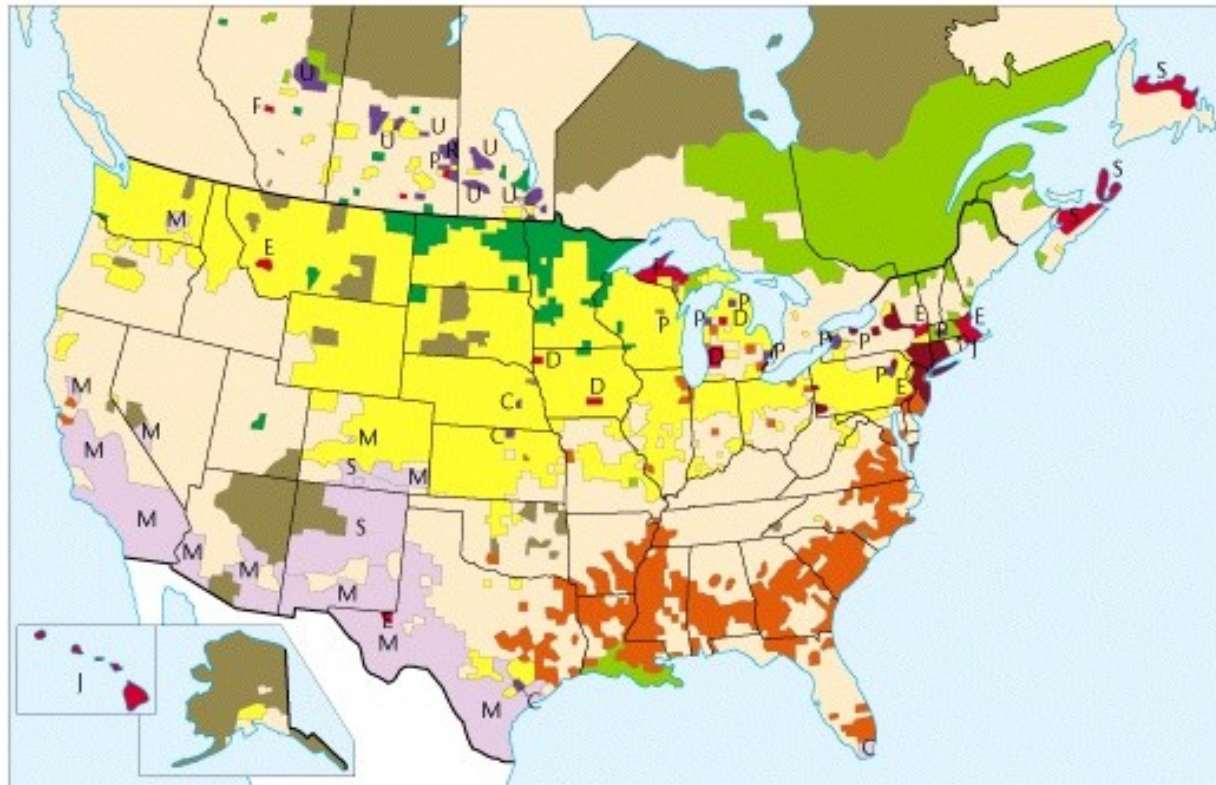
“CZECH-TEX ROAD FOOD THE KOLACHE: CZECH, TEXAN OR ALL-AMERICAN? (ALL THREE)”

- *New York Times*, October 7, 2013
- The kolache (pronounced ko-LAH-chee) entered the American repertory in the mid-1800s, soon after immigrants from Central Europe settled in the hills and prairies of central and south-central Texas. The region was once home to more than 200 Czech-dominant communities. Today, the Czech Belt remains a stronghold of traditional culture, where polka bands led by accordion cowboys play church bazaars, and descendants contribute to civic organizations like the Katolicka Jednota Texaska [sic] and the Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas.
- Yet kolaches — once considered a svacina (pronounced sfah-CHEE-nah), or midday snack, in Central Europe — are being quickly adopted and just as quickly transformed by all sorts of audiences.

- At the Revival Market in Houston's Heights neighborhood, sweet and savory pastries called kolaches are sold. Some artisans and entrepreneurs around the country are calling these Czech pastries the next-generation doughnut.
- Here, kolaches in two flavors: Texas peach with bourbon and bacon, and local blackberry with basil and ricotta.



ETHNIC ENCLAVES IN THE U.S.



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*



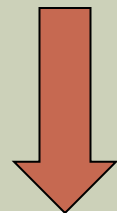
*Pumpkin
Bread*

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 (1855-1931) in 1892
 - He was a Christian socialist minister born in New York
- Words “under God” added in 1954

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, That the West Virginia State Board of Education does hereby recognize and order that the commonly accepted salute to the flag of the United States-- the right hand is placed upon the breast and the following pledge repeated in unison: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands; one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all"--now become a regular part of the program of activities in the public schools, supported in whole or in part by public funds, and that all teachers as defined by law in West Virginia and pupils

- 5 -

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CHARLESTON, W. VA.

January 9-10, 1942

324

in such schools shall be required to participate in the salute honoring the Nation represented by the flag; provided, however, that refusal to salute the flag be regarded as an act of insubordination, and shall be dealt with accordingly.

On motion of Thelma B. Loudin, seconded by Lydia C. Hearne, that the foregoing motion be received, entered upon the records and made the order of the Board, the motion passed.



In 1943, Marie and Gathie Barnett, practicing Jehovah's Witnesses were told by their father not to say the pledge and not to salute the flag as doing so would violate their religious beliefs. They were then expelled.

Their parents sued the school district for violating their 1st amendment rights

WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION V. BARNETTE (1943)

- In a 6-3 decision, in a decision written by Robert H. Jackson, the Supreme Court ruled that “[t]he Free Speech clause of the First Amendment prohibits public schools from forcing students to salute the American flag and say the Pledge of Allegiance.”
- It is considered the most important defense of the Bill of Rights
 - The very purpose of a Bill of Rights was to withdraw certain subjects from the vicissitudes of political controversy, to place them beyond the reach of majorities and officials and to establish them as legal principles to be applied by the courts. One's right to life, liberty, and property, to free speech, a free press, freedom of worship and assembly, and other fundamental rights may not be submitted to vote; they depend on the outcome of no elections.

COLIN KAEPERNICK

- On August 26, 2016, San Francisco 49'ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick sits during the pre-game playing of the national anthem (for the third time).
- He gives his reasoning as follows:
 - “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color...To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.”
- His protest is met by anger from the general public, but more athletes begin to join in his protest
 - [A timeline of Colin Kaepernick's national anthem protest and the athletes who joined him](#)

A SAMPLING OF 2016 HEADLINES

- Trump attacks ‘disgraceful’ National Anthem protester Colin Kaepernick: ‘What he is doing is very bad for the spirit of the country’ (*Daily Mail*, 29/09)
- Descendant of national anthem songwriter rips Colin Kaepernick (*USA Today*, 15/09)
- Chargers Fans Boo Colin Kaepernick as He Kneels During National Anthem in San Diego (*The Wrap*, 01/09)
- Colin Kaepernick Is Getting Killed Online For Snubbing The National Anthem (*Elite Daily*, 27/08)



OLYMPIC GAMES, MEXICO CITY 1968

- Medal ceremony for the 200 meter dash
 - L-R: Peter Norman (AUS), Tommie Smith, John Carlos
- All three are wearing Olympic Project for Human Rights badges



AN ILLINOIS PRIMARY SCHOOL



MICHIGAN AVENUE BRIDGE IN CHICAGO



ORDINARY HOUSES



OUTSIDE A CONFUCIAN TEMPLE IN CHICAGO



A CHINESE GROCERY IN CHICAGO



NEW YORK: ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL & SAK'S FIFTH AVENUE DEPT. STORE



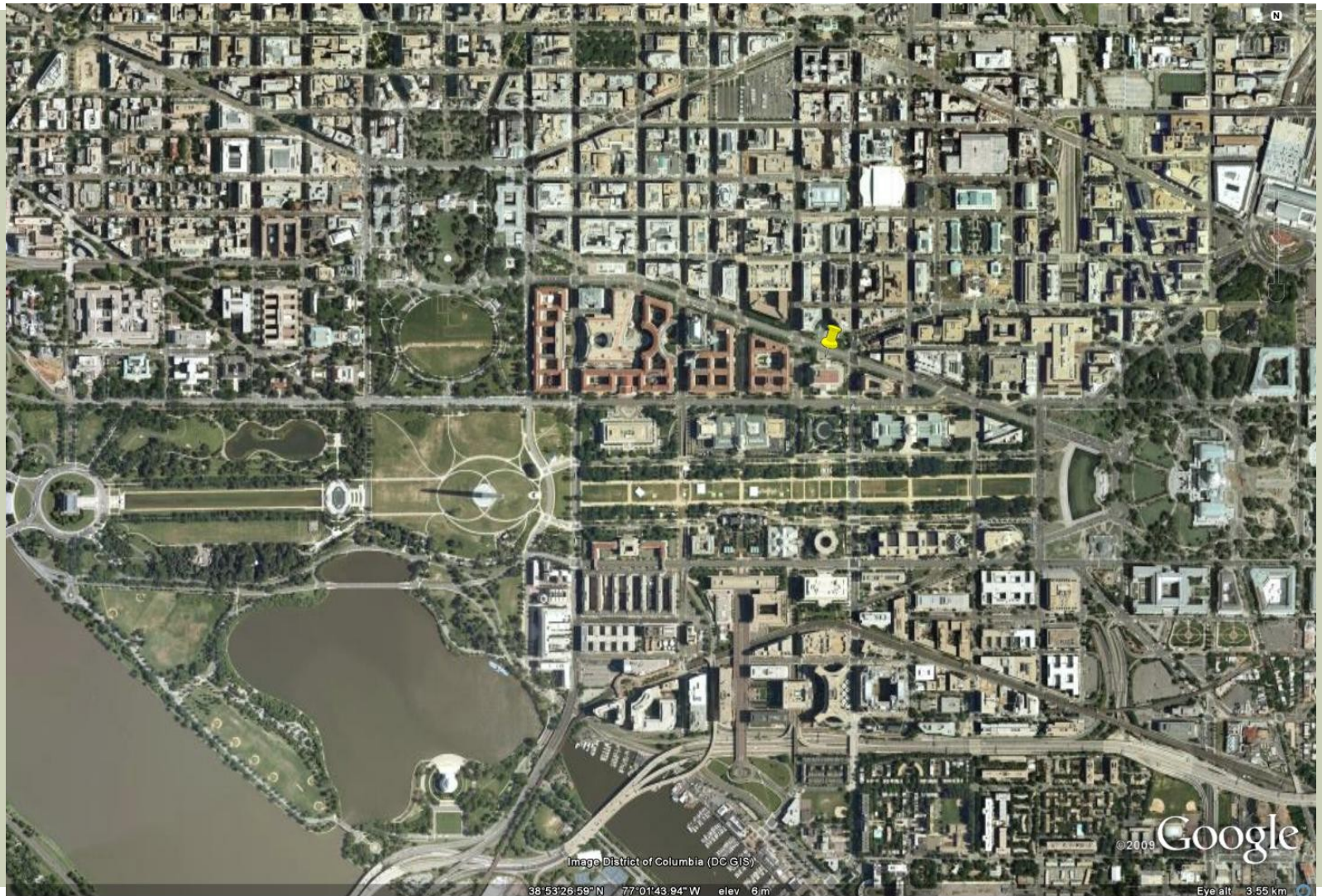
RELIGIOUS STRUCTURES: CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, JEWISH AND MUSLIM



WHAT IS THIS BUILDING?



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES ARE LOCATED ON PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

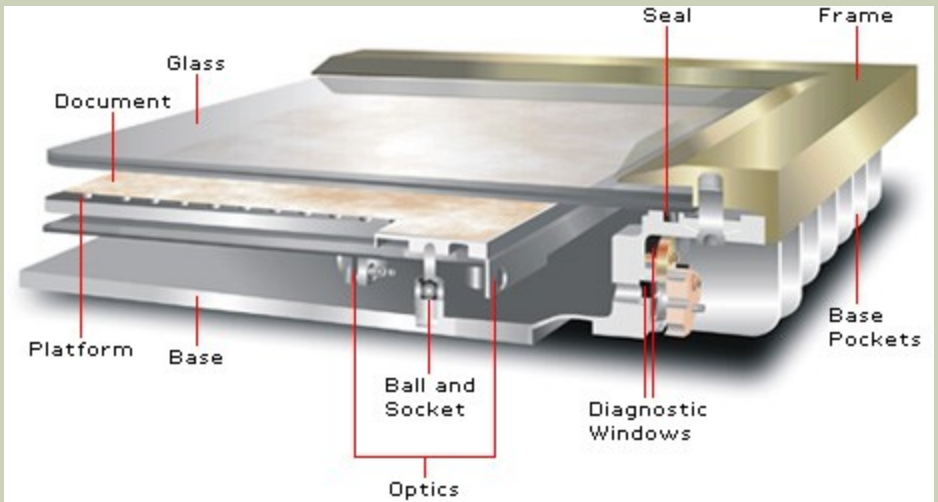


DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

- **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”**
- **The next slide contains more images of the National Archives’ interior and the specially designed storage case holding the Charters of Freedom**

PRESIDENT & MRS. BUSH AT THE REOPENING OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES





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, — And 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 Resentment hath been, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by violating the Forms to which they are accustomed. — But when a long Train of abuses and Misdeeds, 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 Oppressions, all having in direct and plain 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 they should first 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, in order to weary them into Compliance 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 Confusion within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States, for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Strangers, refusing to pass others to encourage their Migration hither, 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 created 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 compelling them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these Colonies: — 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 benefits 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 one time an Empire, and at another time a Kingdom: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Government: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by assuming us out of this Declaration 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 combat the Works of Death, Destruction and Tyranny, already begun, with Circumstances of Cruelty and Opprobrium scarcely parallelled in the most barbarous Ages, and betraying the Heart 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 Swords. — He has excited domestic Animations 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 Age, Sex and Condition. — In every Stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: — Our repeated Petitions have been answered by insult and Injury. — A Petition, whose Character is thus marked by every Act which may define a Tyrant is unjust to the Rules of a free People. — Now have We no Remedy left in our Power, but to throw off such Government, and to appeal to the Supreme Judge of the World for Redress of our Grievances. — We have therefore, by the unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, in and for the State of New York, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly published and declared, 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 Honors.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| John Hancock | John Hancock | John Hancock | John Hancock | John Hancock | John Hancock |
| Samuel Adams | Samuel Adams | Samuel Adams | Samuel Adams | Samuel Adams | Samuel Adams |
| John Adams | John Adams | John Adams | John Adams | John Adams | John Adams |
| Thomas Jefferson | Thomas Jefferson | Thomas Jefferson | Thomas Jefferson | Thomas Jefferson | Thomas Jefferson |
| Benjamin Franklin | Benjamin Franklin | Benjamin Franklin | Benjamin Franklin | Benjamin Franklin | Benjamin Franklin |
| George Washington | George Washington | George Washington | George Washington | George Washington | George Washington |
| Richard Henry Lee | Richard Henry Lee | Richard Henry Lee | Richard Henry Lee | Richard Henry Lee | Richard Henry Lee |
| John Jay | John Jay | John Jay | John Jay | John Jay | John Jay |
| Francis Pickens | Francis Pickens | Francis Pickens | Francis Pickens | Francis Pickens | Francis Pickens |
| William Ellery | William Ellery | William Ellery | William Ellery | William Ellery | William Ellery |
| Proger Sherman | Proger Sherman | Proger Sherman | Proger Sherman | Proger Sherman | Proger Sherman |
| John Huntington | John Huntington | John Huntington | John Huntington | John Huntington | John Huntington |
| John Mifflin | John Mifflin | John Mifflin | John Mifflin | John Mifflin | John Mifflin |
| Charles Carroll | Charles Carroll | Charles Carroll | Charles Carroll | Charles Carroll | Charles Carroll |
| George Mason | George Mason | George Mason | George Mason | George Mason | George Mason |
| James Wilson | James Wilson | James Wilson | James Wilson | James Wilson | James Wilson |
| John Rutledge | John Rutledge | John Rutledge | John Rutledge | John Rutledge | John Rutledge |
| Edward Livingston | Edward Livingston | Edward Livingston | Edward Livingston | Edward Livingston | Edward Livingston |
| John Jay | John Jay | John Jay | John Jay | John Jay | John Jay |
| Francis Pickens | Francis Pickens | Francis Pickens | Francis Pickens | Francis Pickens | Francis Pickens |
| William Ellery | William Ellery | William Ellery | William Ellery | William Ellery | William Ellery |
| Proger Sherman | Proger Sherman | Proger Sherman | Proger Sherman | Proger Sherman | Proger Sherman |
| John Huntington | John Huntington | John Huntington | John Huntington | John Huntington | John Huntington |
| John Mifflin | John Mifflin | John Mifflin | John Mifflin | John Mifflin | John Mifflin |
| Charles Carroll | Charles Carroll | Charles Carroll | Charles Carroll | Charles Carroll | Charles Carroll |
| George Mason | George Mason | George Mason | George Mason | George Mason | George Mason |
| James Wilson | James Wilson | James Wilson | James Wilson | James Wilson | James Wilson |
| John Rutledge | John Rutledge | John Rutledge | John Rutledge | John Rutledge | John Rutledge |
| Edward Livingston | Edward Livingston | Edward Livingston | Edward Livingston | Edward Livingston | Edward Livingston |

THE CONSTITUTION
The 1823 facsimile of the parchment (engrossed) copy

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: INTRODUCTION

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.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: PREAMBLE (1)

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.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: PREAMBLE (2)

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.—

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: INDICTMENT OF GEORGE III (1)

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.

...

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: INDICTMENT (2)

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.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: INDICTMENT (3)

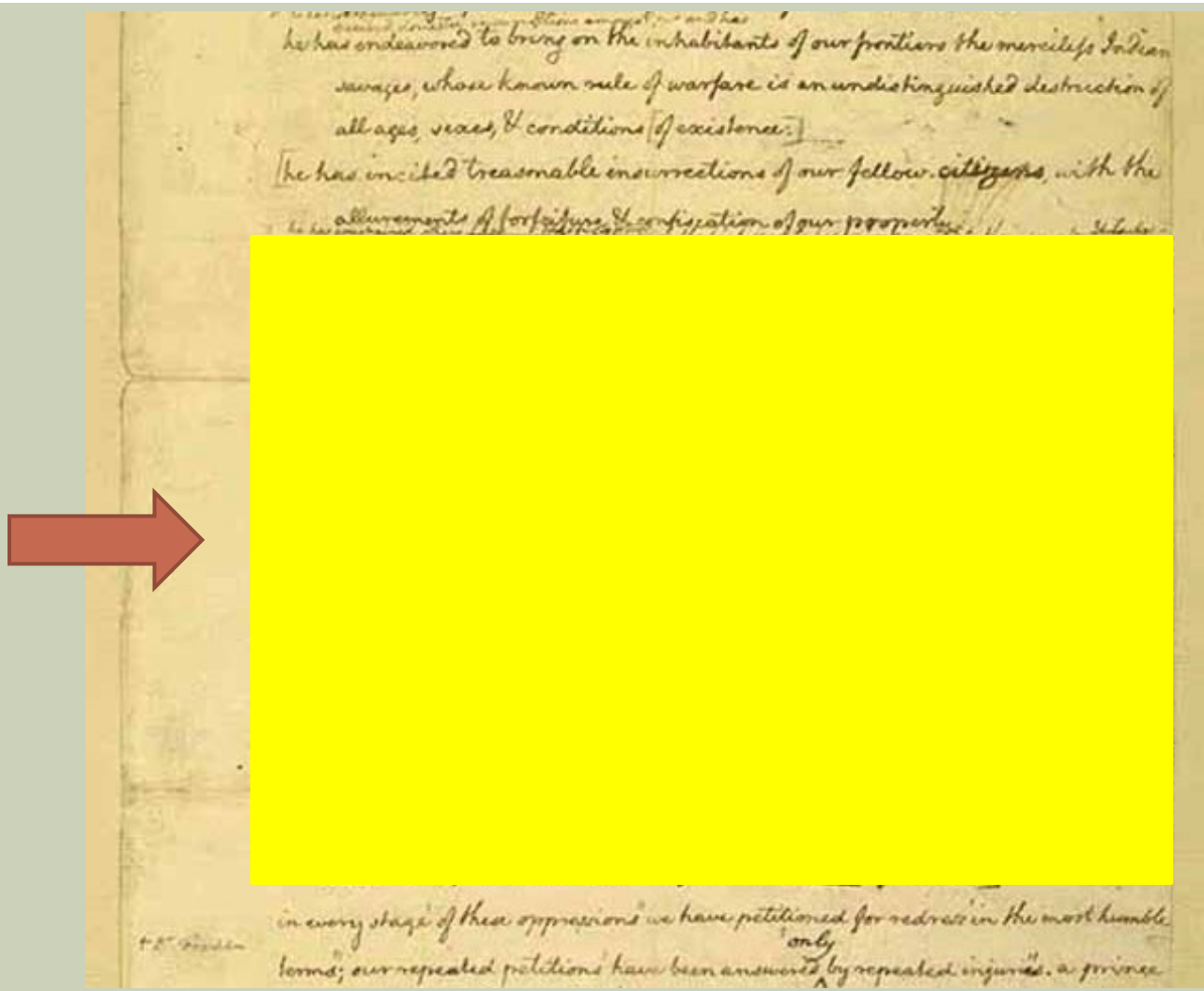
He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants 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.

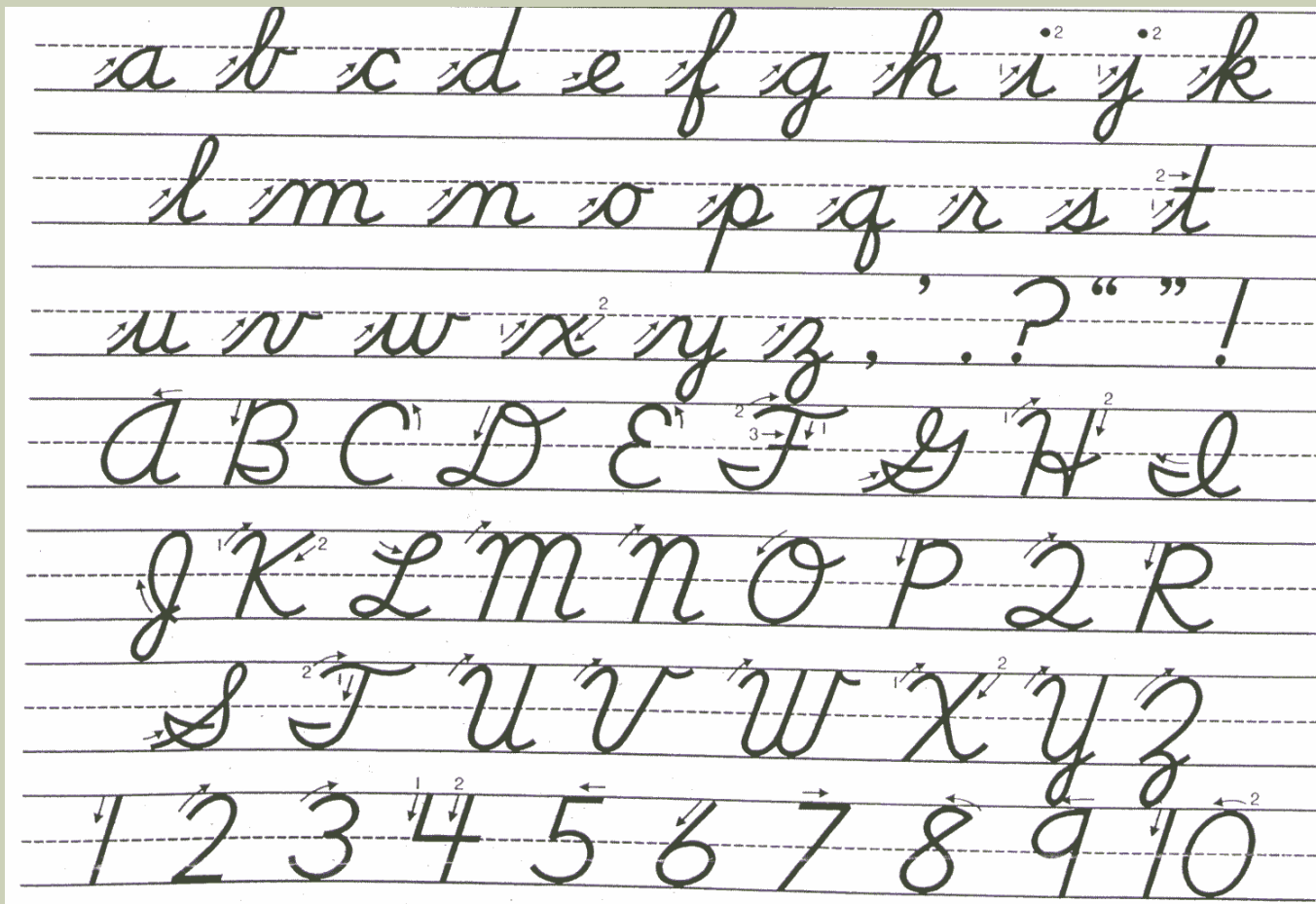
THE MISSING INDICTMENT

- 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:

JEFFERSON'S ORIGINAL DRAFT:



AMERICAN HANDWRITING (CURSIVE)



TEXT OF THE MISSING INDICTMENT

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, 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.

*Opprobrium -- something that brings disgrace, public disgrace or ill fame that follows from conduct considered grossly wrong or vicious

WHO WAS THOMAS JEFFERSON (1743-1826)?

- Thomas Jefferson, quintessential Enlightenment figure
 - Author of Declaration of Independence
 - Founder of University of Virginia (1825)
 - Author of the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom
 - Designed and ran Monticello
 - *Notes on the State of Virginia*
 - A comprehensive natural history and
- The Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. (1943)



JEFFERSON PORTRAIT AND TOMBSTONE



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

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



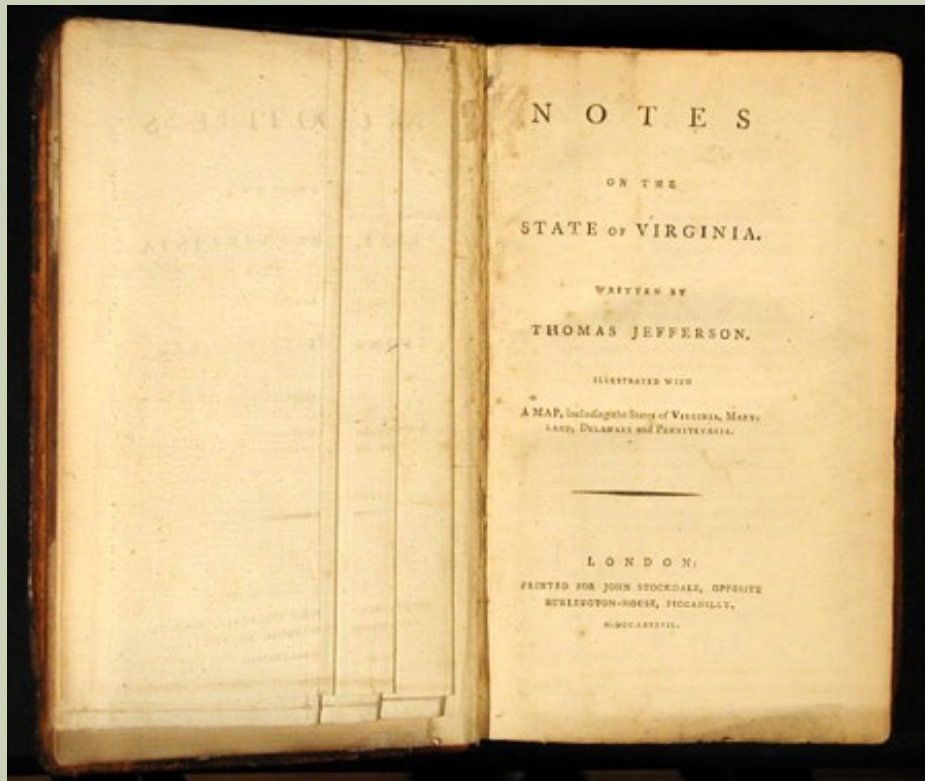
MONTICELLO

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



© 2001 Jim Wark, Airphoto

NOTES ON THE STATE OF VIRGINIA (1781)



AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY. 544

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

| | | |
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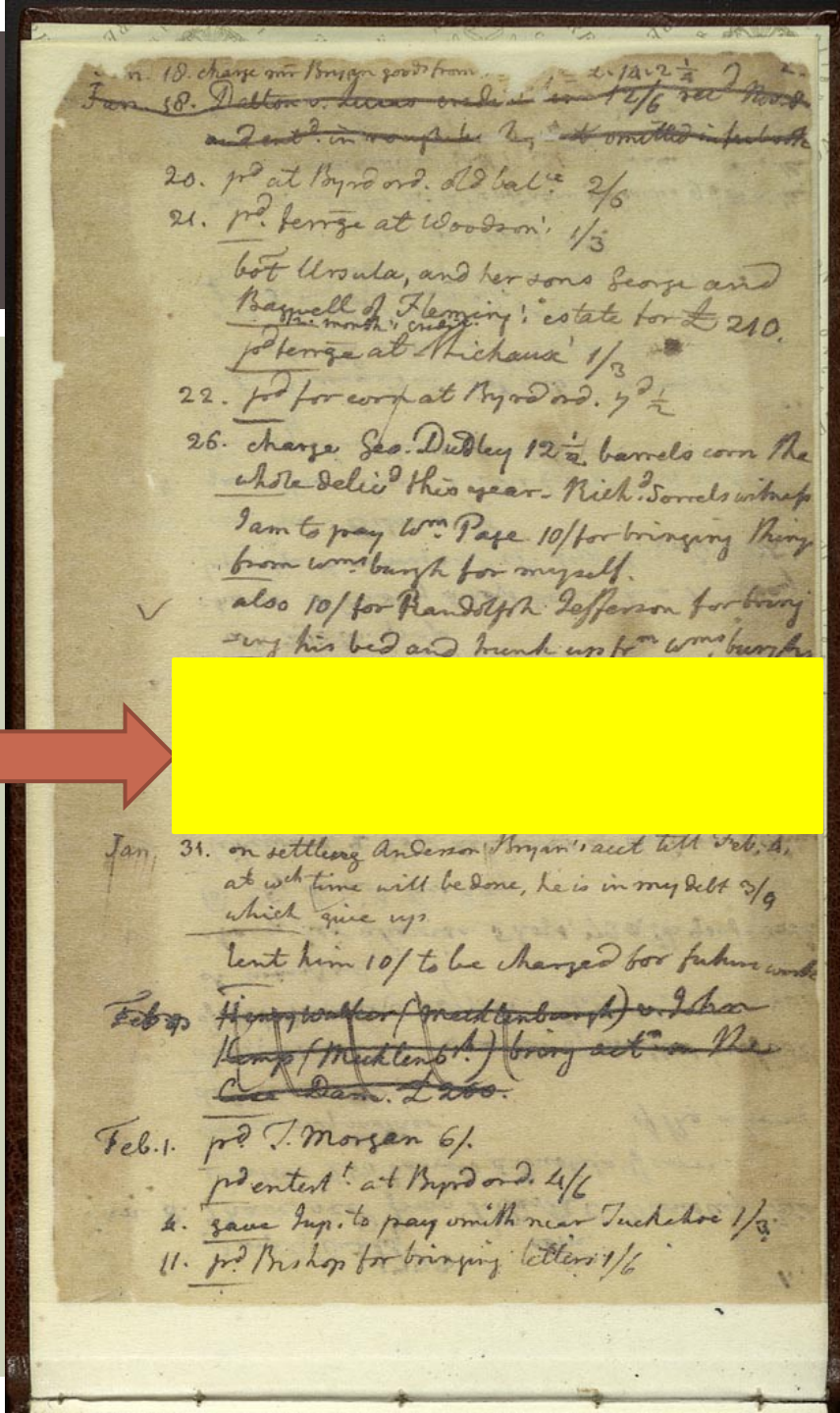
MDCCLXXXII.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, SLAVE OWNER

- Inherited more than 2,000 hectares and between 20-40 slaves in 1757 from his father
 - This land included the Monticello estate
- 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 paiable [sic] in
June. From which
deduct £9.4.8. my
present debt with
him; leaves £90.15.4.
to be sec'd [secured]



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.”

'A PHILOSOPHIC COCK'

- Attributed to James Akin, Newburyport, Massachusetts, ca. 1804.
- “Tis not a set of features or complexion or tincture of a Skin that I admire”
 - Joseph Addison (1672-1719), *Cato*, Act 1



WHO WERE HIS SLAVE CHILDREN?

- 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 (*passing*).
- 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 Eaton 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 HEMMING



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.”

Monticello Apr. 22. 20. (1820)

I thank you, Dear Sir, for the copy you have been kind
as to send me of the letters & your comments on the Missouri question...
it is a perfect justification to them. I had for a long time ceased to read
newspapers or pay any attention to public affairs, confident they were
in good hands, and content to be a passenger in our boat to the shore from
which I am not distant. but this momentous question, like a fire bell in the
night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as
the knell of the Union. it is hushed indeed for the moment. but this is a
reprieve only, not a final sentence, a geographical line, coinciding with
a marked principle, moral and political, once conceived and held up
to the angry passions of men, will never be obliterated; and every new
will mark it deeper and deeper. I can say with conscious truth that there is
not a man on earth who would sacrifice more than I would, to relieve us from
this heavy reproach, in any practicable way. The cessation of that kind of pro-
-perty, for so it is misnamed, is a bagatelle which would not cost us a second
thought, if in that way a general emancipation and expatriation could be
[redacted]

thing I am certain, that as the passage of slaves from one state to another
would not make a slave of a single human being who could not be so without it,
so their diffusion over a greater surface would make them individually happier
and proportionally facilitate the accomplishment of their emancipation, by
dividing the burthen on a greater number of co-adjutors. an objection too
from this act of power would remove the jealousy excited by the undertaking
of Congress to regulate the condition of the different descriptions of men com-
-posing a state. this certainly is the exclusive right of every state, which nothing

38780 John Holmes esq.