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Fact sheet - Declaration of Independence

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.

General facts

- Explanation of the formal declaration two days earlier
- Written by Thomas Jefferson
- Announced on 4th July 1776
- Independence of the 13 British colonies in the USA
- Accepted by the Continental Congress
- Based on the philosophy of John Locke

Reasons

- Colonies support Britain in the Seven Years' War (1763)
- High costs
  → Higher taxes
  → Protests of the Colonists (→ Boston tea party)
- "No taxation without representation" (no money, if the colonists have no political influence in Britain)
- Violent conflicts between British and Colonists
  → Desire of independence

Content

- Three parts:
  1. Rights of an individual (based on John Locke)
     ➔ *When* do we have the right to be independent?
  2. Infringement of the human rights by the British Empire (no allegiance any more)
     ➔ *Why* do we have the right to be independent?
  3. Necessity and legitimization of independence
     ➔ *Conclusion:* we have the right to be independent

Outcome

- The Colonies are no longer a part of the British empire
- 4th July is the national holiday
- The basic ideas are still significant for today's political liberalism

Sources: wikipedia
uni-protokolle