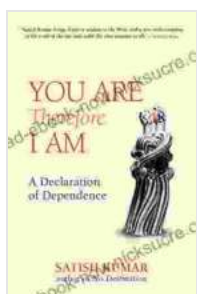


# The Declaration of Dependence: A Call for American Independence

The Declaration of Independence, adopted on July 4, 1776, is widely recognized as the foundational document of American independence. However, lesser known but equally significant is the Declaration of Dependence, a document that paved the way for the Declaration of Independence and played a pivotal role in the American Revolution.



## You are Therefore I am: A Declaration of Dependence

by Satish Kumar

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 688 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 226 pages

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## Origins and Purpose

The Declaration of Dependence was drafted in July 1776 by Thomas Jefferson, at the request of the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia. It was intended to address the growing tensions between the American colonists and the British government, particularly the perceived grievances and oppressive policies imposed by British rule.

The document was initially entitled "A Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms" and was later revised to become the Declaration of Dependence. It outlined the grievances of the colonists, asserting that the British government had violated their inherent rights and liberties.

## **Key Principles**

The Declaration of Dependence expressed several key principles that would later be enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution:

- **Natural Rights:** The colonists asserted that all individuals possess certain inalienable rights by virtue of their existence, including the rights to life, liberty, and property.
- **Self-Determination:** The colonists argued that they had the right to govern themselves and make laws that were in their best interests.
- **Consent of the Governed:** The colonists maintained that governments derive their authority from the consent of the people they govern.
- **Taxation Without Representation:** The colonists protested the British government's imposition of taxes without their consent, violating the principle of no taxation without representation.

## **Impact and Legacy**

The Declaration of Dependence served as a rallying cry for the colonists and a powerful statement of their determination to break free from British

rule. It was widely circulated among the colonies, inspiring support for the independence movement.

The document's principles became the foundation for the Declaration of Independence, adopted two months later, which formally declared American independence from Great Britain. The Declaration of Dependence laid the groundwork for the ideals of liberty, self-governance, and the pursuit of happiness that would shape American society.

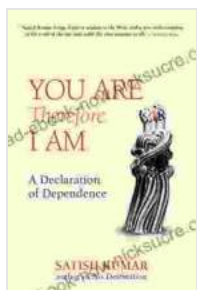
### **Comparison to the Declaration of Independence**

While the Declaration of Dependence and the Declaration of Independence share many similarities, there are some key differences:

- **Purpose:** The Declaration of Dependence focused on outlining the grievances against British rule and justifying the colonists' decision to take up arms.
- **Tone:** The Declaration of Dependence was more moderate in tone, emphasizing the colonists' desire to reconcile with Britain if their grievances were addressed.
- **Historical Context:** The Declaration of Dependence was drafted before the Battle of Bunker Hill, a pivotal event that escalated tensions and made reconciliation less likely.

The Declaration of Dependence stands as a testament to the American colonists' unwavering spirit of independence and their commitment to self-determination. It played a crucial role in shaping the course of the American Revolution and the eventual establishment of the United States of America.

Its principles continue to resonate today, reminding us of the importance of liberty, equality, and the right to govern ourselves.



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