**Uddrag af uafhængighedserklæringen, underskrevet af repræsentanter fra de 13 stater 4. juli 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.

**I 1787 kom en forfatning, der dog ikke kom ind på mange punkter. Derfor har man siden vedtaget tilføjelser, den såkaldt bill of rights.**

**Bill of Rights er en tilføjelse til forfatningen, vedtaget i 25. september 1789.**

**Article the third...** Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

**Article the fourth...** A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript>

Uafhængighedserklæringen – på dansk. <https://verdenfoer1914.systime.dk/?id=103>

*Introduktion: I sommeren 1776 mødtes repræsentanter for Storbritanniens nordamerikanske kolonier til en kongres, som d. 4. juli 1776 vedtog den amerikanske uafhængighedserklæring.*

*Det var en revolutionær handling, hvor forsamlingen på den nordamerikanske (hvide) befolknings vegne erklærede den engelske overhøjhed over kolonierne for afskaffet.*

Erklæringen lyder:

Når det under de menneskelige be­givenheders forløb bliver nødvendigt for et folk at løse de politiske bånd, som har forbundet det med et andet, og at indtage den særskilte og ligeberetti­gede stilling blandt jordens magter, som naturens love og naturens Gud beret­tiger det til, så kræver en sømmelig respekt for menneskehedens dom, at det angiver de grunde, som tvinger det til adskillelsen.

Vi anser disse sandheder for indlysende:

-at alle mennesker er skabt lige;

-at de af deres Skaber har fået visse umistelige rettigheder;

-at blandt disse er liv, frihed og stræben efter lykke.

-at regeringer er oprettet mellem menne­sker for at sikre disse rettigheder, idet de udleder deres berettigede magt af de regeredes samtykke;

-at det, når en regeringsform bliver ødelæggende for disse formål, er det folkets ret at ændre eller afskaffe den og indsætte en ny re­gering, idet det fastlægger dens grund­lag på sådanne principper og ordner dens myndighed på den måde, der fore­kommer det bedst egnet til at virkelig­gøre dets sikkerhed og lykke. …

 Sådan har disse koloniers tålmodige lidelse været, og sådan er nu den nødvendighed, der tvinger dem til at forandre deres tidli­gere regeringssystemer. Den nuvæ­rende konge af Storbritanniens histo­rie er en historie om gentagne kræn­kelser og magtovergreb, der alle som direkte mål har at oprette et absolut tyranni over disse stater. …

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**Article the fourth...** A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed. (blive berørt)

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