



1776

ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL

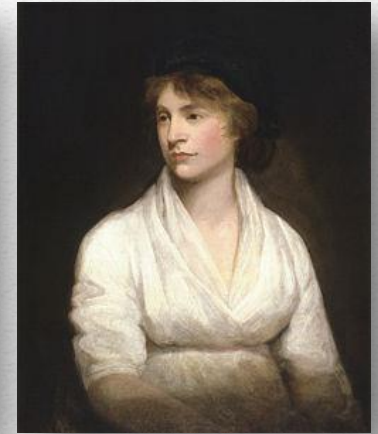


The speed of travel was three miles per hour.

1776



- Jane Austen was a one year old baby.
- Mary Wollstonecraft was 17.
- Voltaire was 82.
- John Locke died 72 years before.
- Montesquieu was 21.
- It was 7 years before Símon Bolívar would be born in Carcas.
- It was 33 years before Abraham Lincoln would be born.
- It was 153 years before Martin Luther King would be born.



In 1776

- There were 539,000 slaves in the British colonies.
- Adam Smith wrote *The Wealth of Nations*.
- Edward Gibbon published the first volume of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.
- Twenty-year-old Mozart composed *Haffner Serenade*.
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpIvjctOqbY>)
- Beethoven was 6.

In 1776

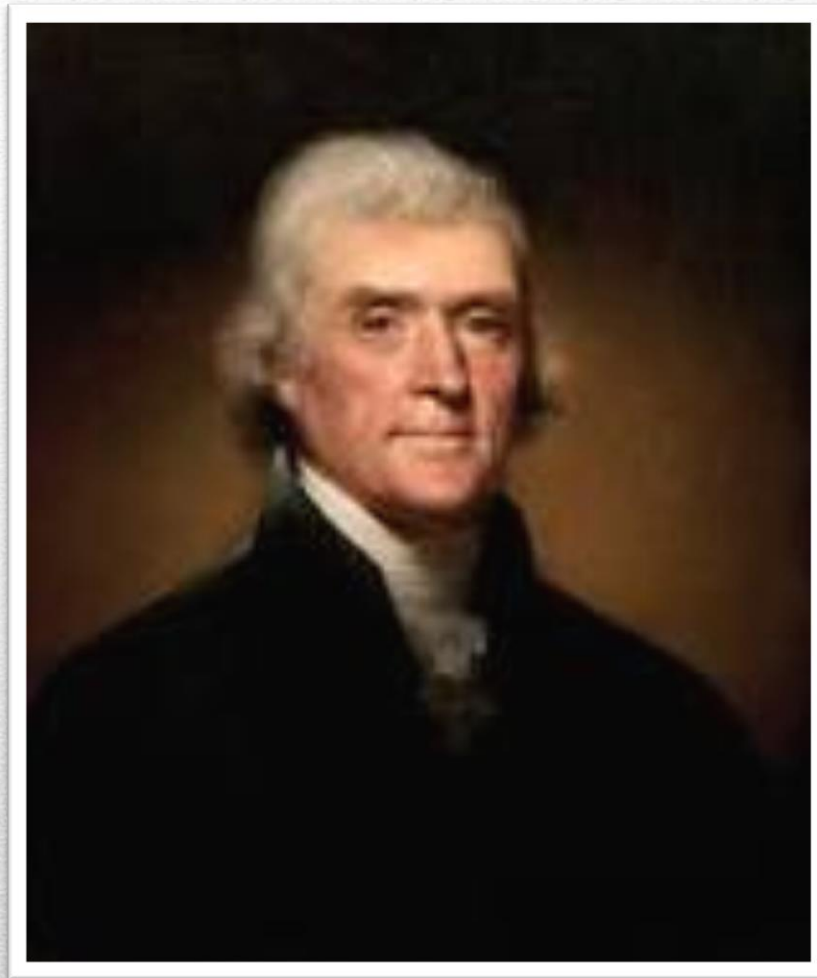
- In the whole world, there was no democracy.
- England and France were ruled by kings.
- Frederick the Great was the Hohensollern King of Prussia and Catherine the Great, 47 years old, had been the Czarina of Russia for 14 years.
- China was ruled by an emperor and Japan by a Shogun.
- In Europe kings had been said to rule by divine right as the chosen of God.
- San Francisco was founded by Spain, which was ruled by King Charles III.
- North America was the territory of France, Spain, and England which was the superpower of the world.
- There had never been a president and Washington, D.C. was a nameless swamp filled with mosquitos.
- Colonial resentment of British rule in the colonies had become bitter.
- Thomas Paine published Common Sense, a revolutionary pamphlet.
- Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution to the Continental Congress stating that the United Colonies ought to be free and independent states.

In 1776



- A young Virginian, only 33 years old, took his seat in the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.
- His personal library would contain over 6,000 volumes.
- He studied philosophy, poetry, mathematics, architecture, agriculture, science, Latin and Greek.
- He attended William and Mary at 16.
- He was a lifelong slave owner.
- He was complex and full of contradictions.
- He was soft spoken and taciturn and preferred writing.
- He was history's foremost voice of freedom.
- Who was he?

In 1776



Thomas Jefferson

Kimberly Waite, MTI, Barringer Fellow, 2014

After deliberation, the Continental Congress appointed a committee of Five –

- John Adams
- Robert Sherman
- Benjamin Franklin
- Robert Livingston
- Thomas Jefferson

To draft a *Declaration Independence* that would support Richard Henry Lee's resolution that the colonies "are of right and ought to be free and independent states". Jefferson was chosen to pen the document.



In 1776

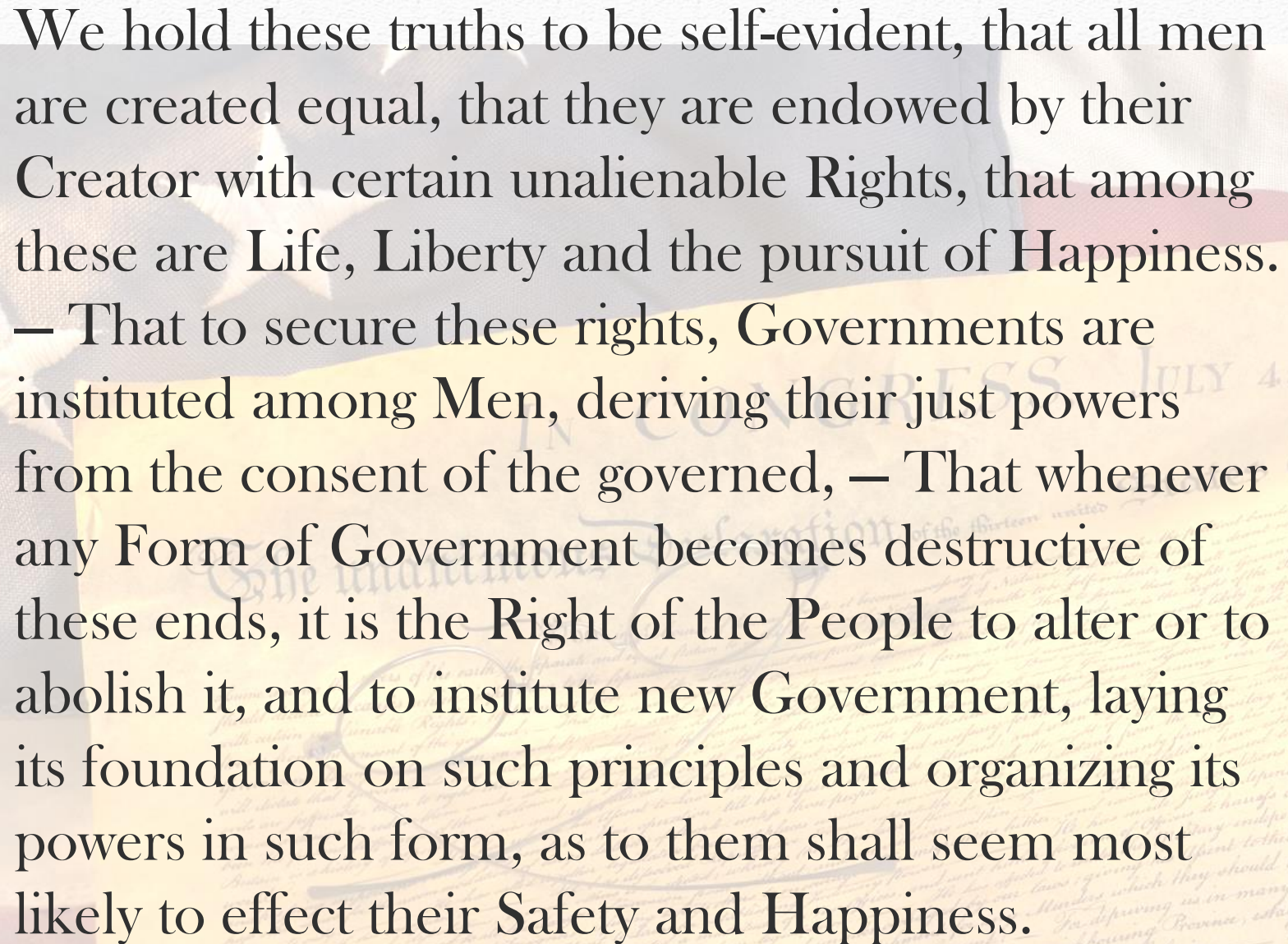
- Without his books, without notes, in the rented room of a bricklayer's house in Philadelphia, Jefferson wrote *The Declaration of Independence*.
- *The Declaration of Independence* would be approved on July 2, and signed by the twelve colonies on July 4, 1776.
- Jefferson's work was anonymous. His authorship would not be known to the public until 1784.
- The immediate result of *The Declaration of Independence*, a revolutionary document, was to make official what had been going on for a year: revolutionary war.

It was a REVOLUTION

Thomas Jefferson's words, "*all men are created equal*" were a catalyst that changed the chemistry of the world.

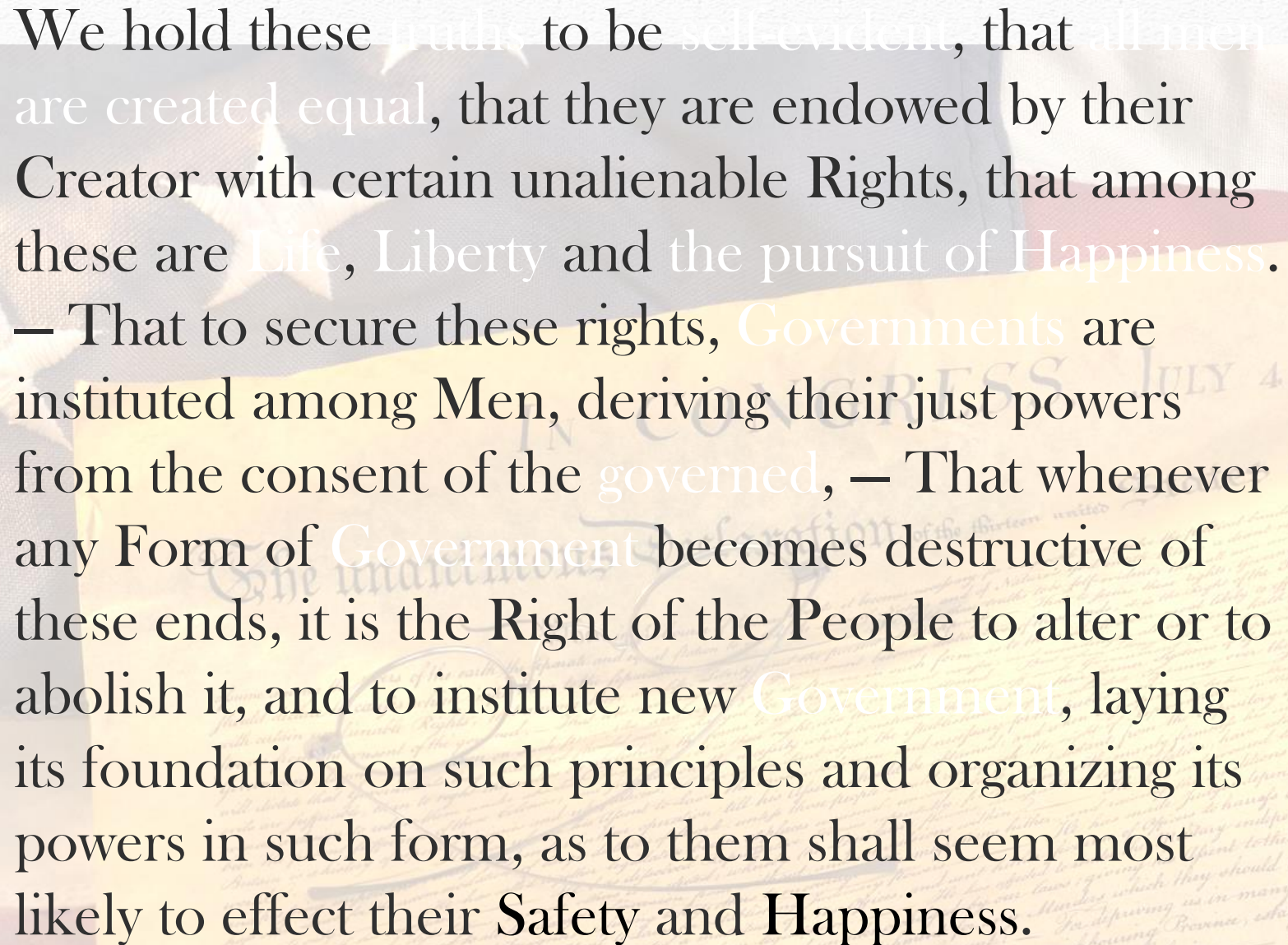
- What influenced this man?
- Why were these words so powerful and so revolutionary?
- Why, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, are these words "the proposition to which the United States is dedicated"?

All Men are Created Equal

The background features a faded image of the United States Constitution, with the words 'CONSTITUTION' and 'JULY 4, 1776' visible. A person is seen in the background, holding and reading the document. The text is overlaid on this image.

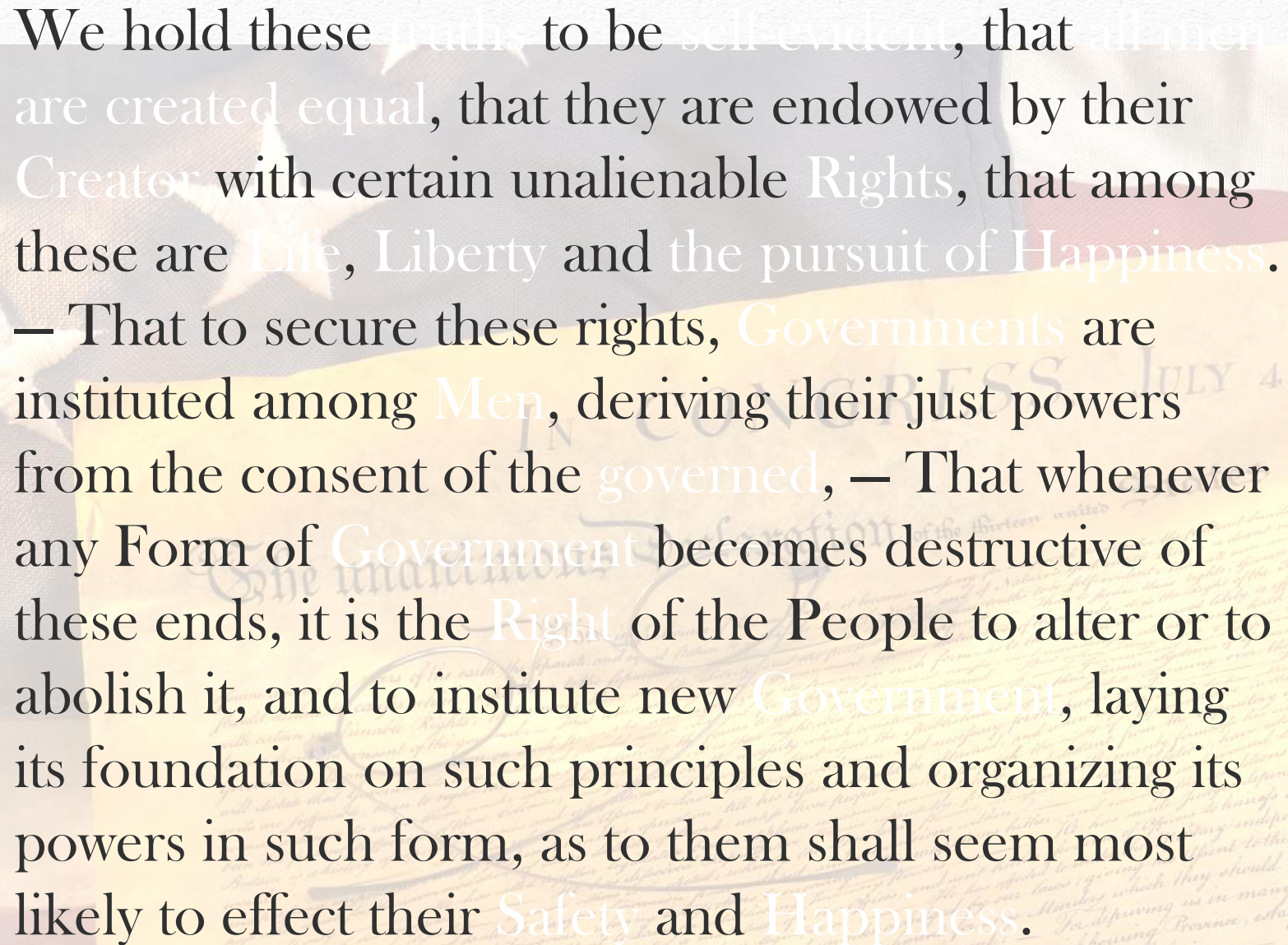
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers 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.

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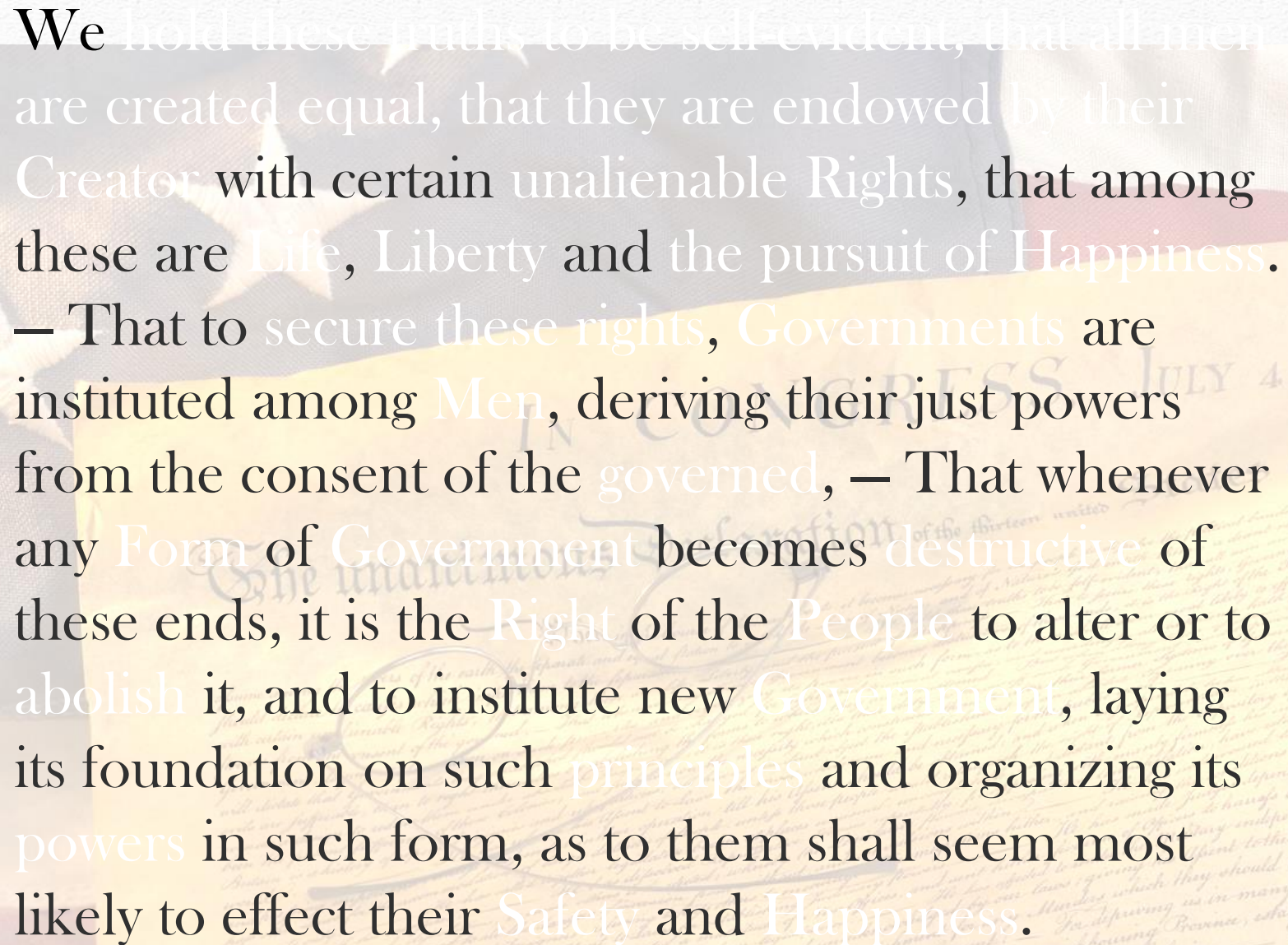
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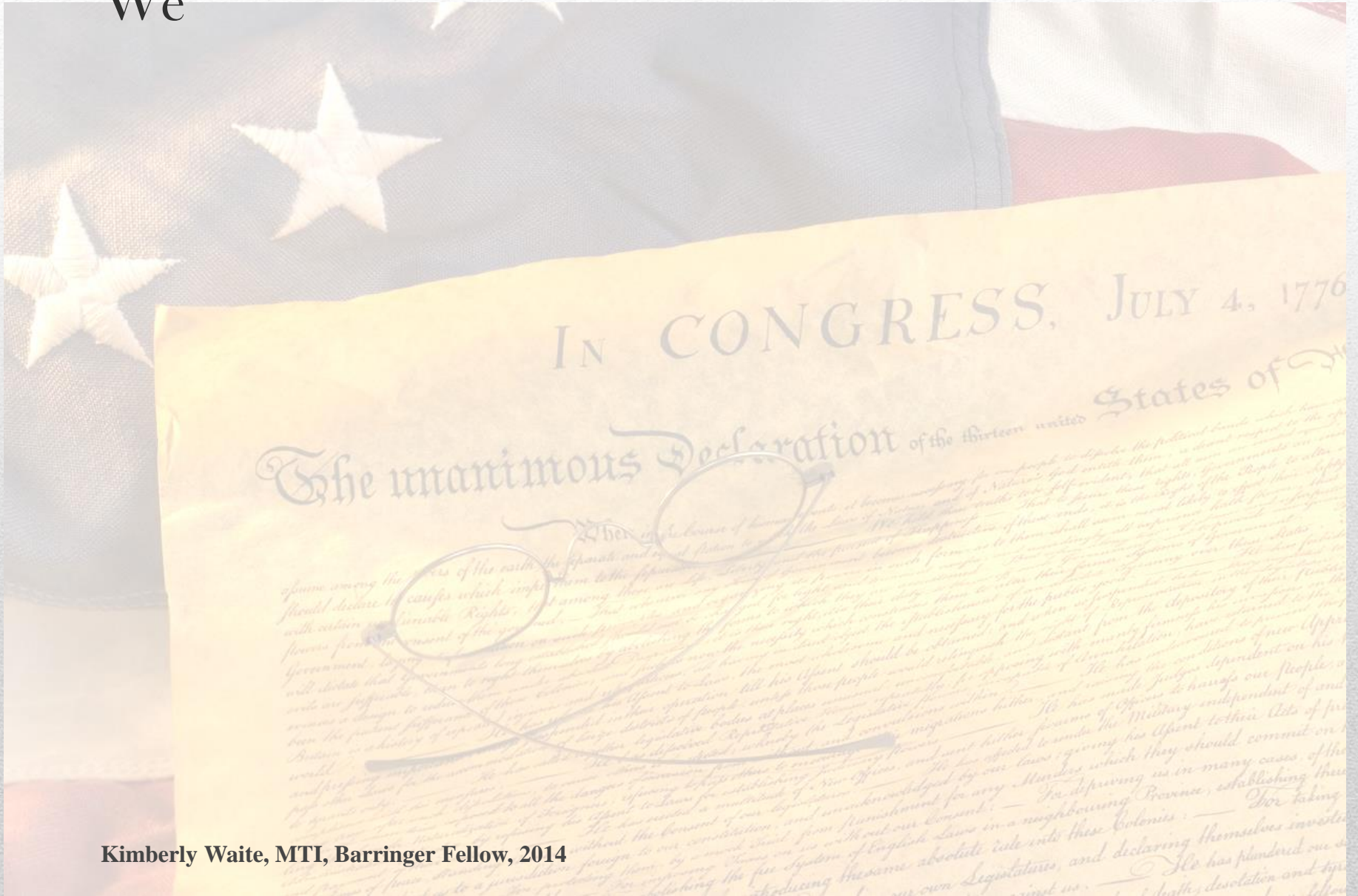
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