

Declaration of Independence

Committee of 5 Chosen to write it:

Roger Sherman - CT

Robert Livingston - NY

Benjamin Franklin - PA

John Adams - MA

Written by Thomas Jefferson - VA

Four Main sections:

Preamble - introduction

Purpose of government - Main ideas:

(Based on John Locke's "Social Contract Theory")

- * Governments get their power from the people.
- * The purpose of government is to protect the people's basic rights
- * The people's basic rights are: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness
- * If the government does NOT protect the people's rights, they have the right to rebel and get a new government that does.

Indictment - List of things the king did wrong. for Example:

- * Taxed us without representation
- * Closed Boston harbor
- * Killed our people
- * Violated our Rights

Declaration- Americans declare that they are no longer part of Great Britain, and are an independent nation called: the United States of America

The Declaration of Independence was accepted by Congress on:
July 4, 1776