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M. Andrew Holowchak

Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence

A Document, Timely & Timeless. A Historical & Philosophical Appraisal

SERIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Summary

The Declaration of Independence is alive, because its sentences are crafted with elegance and concision—and the Congress much contributed to its concision—and because the author, not just the drafter, of the document captured things commonly known, yet profound, concerning human nature and human wellbeing. The Declaration of Independence, thus, is not just a proclamation to the world, of Americans' independence and of the reasons for it, but it is also, and most singularly, a moral document that grounds a rich and robust liberal political philosophy. The bedrock of that political philosophy, argues Holowchak, is human equality, not human liberty.

About the author

Dr. M. Andrew “Colonel” Holowchak is a professor of philosophy and history, who taught at institutions such as University of Pittsburgh, University of Michigan, and Rutgers University. He has published over 75 books and 400 essays on ethics, ancient philosophy, science, pedagogy, psychoanalysis, critical thinking, and Ukraine. His current research is on Thomas Jefferson—he is the world's foremost authority—and has published over 300 essays, formal and informal, and 31 books on Jefferson.

Holowchak's “Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence: A Document, Timely & Timeless” adds to ever-growing publications of books on Jefferson. He continues his assault on revisionist, debunking accounts of Jefferson in favor of a laudatory approach is written in an immersive, 18-19th century prose that cripples readers' acceptance of 21st century standards of contemporary historians to judge Jefferson. The prose stresses into think like Jefferson. Holowchak sticks to his methodology of extensive citations of source materials, that he turns into a basis for philosophical analyses and crafty, sometimes petulant, lawyering that draws firm, against-the-prevailing-current orthodoxy about the Declaration of Independence and Jefferson the man. So, readers will encounter a stream of original sources that scold recent debunking historians about the Declaration's origins and Jefferson in favor of Holowchak's traditional, heroic assessment of him. So, buy the book, read it, debate it, learn from it, and compare it to the methods of historians like Lewis Namier or Maya Jasanoff, whose work on the 18th century and other periods relies on traditional methods.

Dr. Michael Lavin
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