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CRITICAL HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: IDEALS VERSUS REALITY WITH THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

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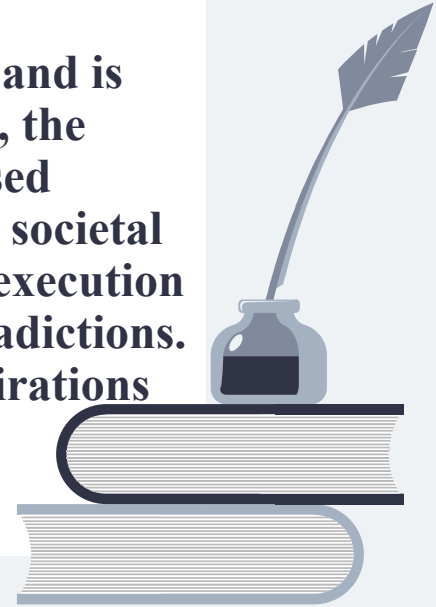
CONTEXT

The Declaration of Independence is known as the document that established independence from the British on July 4, 1776.





As a High School student that was born and is currently residing in the United States, the Declaration of Independence expressed revolutionary ideas for it's time, but given societal standards and mentality of the people, the execution of those principles ended up showing contradictions. It's historical significance lies in both aspirations and limitations.





WHAT KEY FACTORS LED TO THIS VERDICT?

Restrictive laws such as the Sugar Act, Townshend Act, and the Stamp Acts, issued by the British, led to a dispute amongst the Modern-Day American people. These legal bypasses led to the famous quote “No taxation without representation.” This is also why the Boston Tea Party occurred.

Americans argued that getting taxed by a parliamentary government is against their constitutional rights. These disputes and battles led to the Continental Congress, in which the Declaration of Independence was declared and official.

HUMANS RIGHTS THAT WERE MENTIONED



LIFE

Your existence is valid and protected from unlawful harm.

LIBERTY

Freedom in which it wouldn't theoretically harm others.

PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

The rights of autonomy towards success of one's enjoyment.

CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED

Governmental power is not absolute. It must make the people under it feel equal and protected.



RIGHT TO ABOLISH AND REBUILD

If a government doesn't abide by establishing and protecting the following rights, the majority/the people have the right to abolish the government, and re-establish a new government in which will help the people.



**“All men are created equal!”
-Thomas Jefferson.**



THE TRUTH.

Were all men created equal under the law?





ISSUES

WOMEN

Women didn't have rights,
as they were considered as
"Property of a man."

VOTING

Voting rights were
severely limited.

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SLAVERY

Despite the laws, slavery
was still legal.

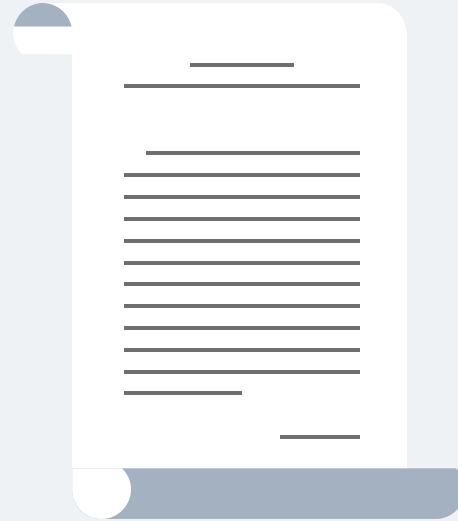
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The Native Americans
had no citizenship under
this document.



WHAT IS A NATION?

A nation refers to a state that emphasises the collective identity of the people, rather than just political or physical territory. **How come the United States failed to do that under the Declaration of Independence? We, the people thought all men were created equal.**



MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES



SLAVES

People who worked under a white society didn't have any human rights in their favour, and even so, it led to the 3/5th compromise.



WOMEN

Women were also considered as property, and basic rights for a woman didn't occur until AFTER the women's suffrage movement in the 1930's.

CAUCASIAN MEN

The common rich, white man, had rights in his favour entirely—they were the basis for what we call it “The One Percent.”



USAGE OF THE DECLARATION

CIVIL RIGHTS

Under Abraham Lincoln, when the Civil War occurred, regarding the rights of a human, between north and south, the Declaration of Independence was used to support the minority.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Known for her speech “On Women’s Right to Vote,” she uses the Preamble of the United States Constitution, which also established the rights written on the Declaration of Independence.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Frederick Douglass QUESTIONED the Declaration of Independence, and proved that it wasn’t protecting EVERYONE’S LIBERTY, as he was a refugee from slavery.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR

When Dr. King protested for the rights of people of colour, and women, he references Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi, and the Declaration of Independence.





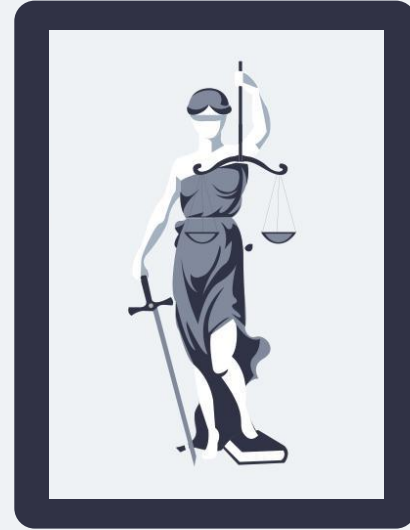
THE VERDICT OF TODAY

Is this still an issue?



YES.

To this day in age, there are still cases in which one's rights are violated under the United States Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence. There is always a right, and will to protest. Remember, no one is above the law.



THANK YOU!

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