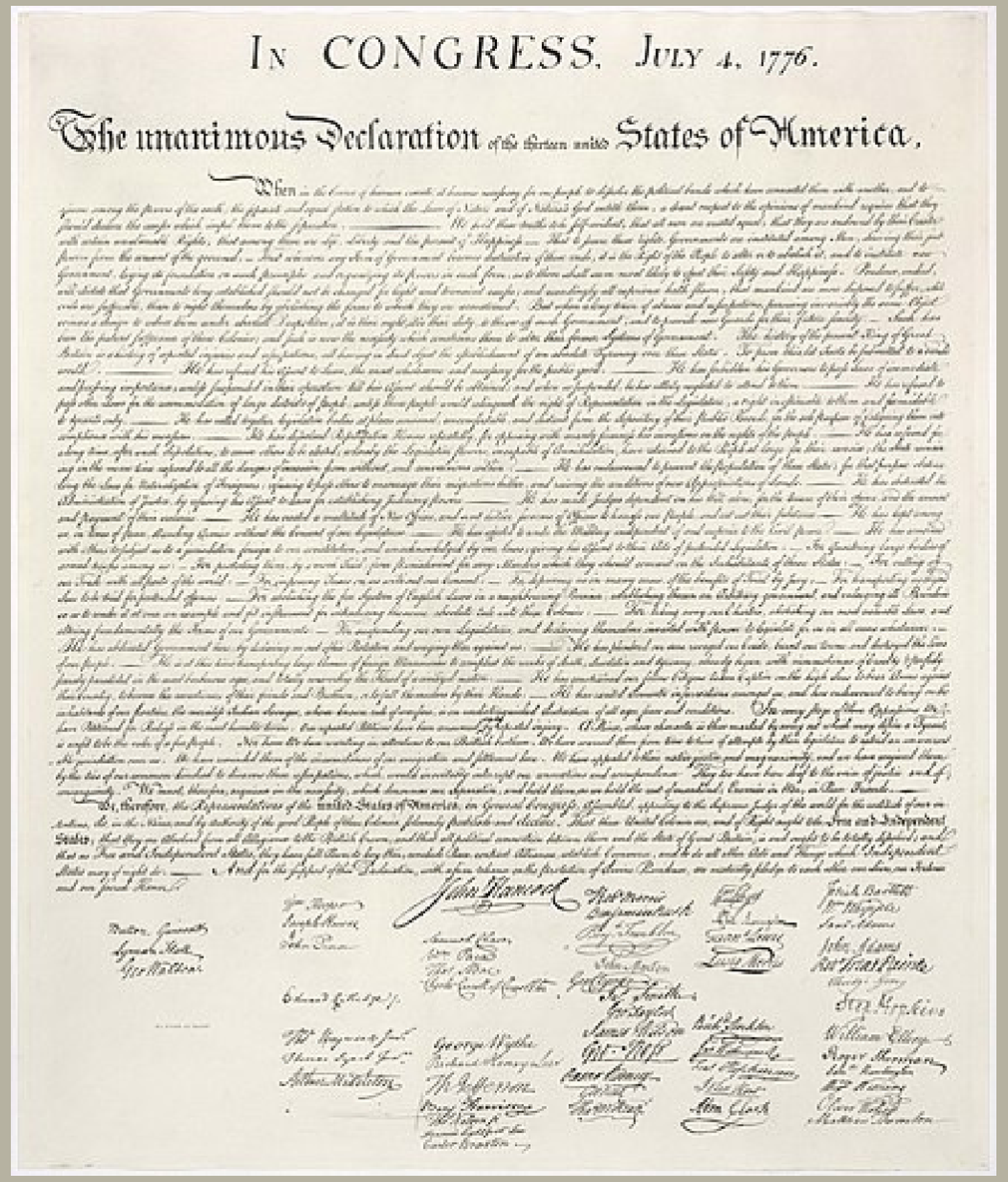
IN CONGRESS. JULY 4. 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

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.

—United States Declaration of Independence—

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The concept that "all men are created equal" became one of the most powerful ever upheld by a nation. We can be grateful for this in many ways, but a word of warning is in order.

In recent decades, Americans foolishly have rallied around the banner of equality alone when, in the original statement on America's "birth certificate," the meaning of the word equal *is informed, tempered, and shaped by the word* created. Created, *in turn, is linked inseparably to the divine title* Creator. *The implications of these realities, of course, are enormous.*

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