

Class 4
Fall 2021
HT-502

The Development of American Methodism
Eighteenth-Century Revivalism:
Wesley and Wesleyanism

The American Revolt and the
Separation from Britain

*John Benjamin Wesley
and the
Methodists*

THE LIFE OF JOHN WESLEY

14 June 1738: *Converted at a Moravian meeting on Aldersgate St.*

1739: *Preached First Open-air Sermon*

1741: *Division with Whitefield and other Calvinists over Predestination*

1744: *First Methodist Conference*

1751: *Married Widow, Molly Vazeille*

1758: *Wife Left Him*

2 March 1791: *Died*

1720: *Entered Oxford*

1725: *Ordained Deacon*

1726: *Elected Fellow at Oxford*

1728: *Ordained Priest*

1729: *Returned to Oxford and Joined "Holy Club"*

1735: *Sailed for America*

1736: *Arrived in Savannah*

1737: *Left for England depressed by Failure with Ministry and with Sophia Hopkey*

17 June 1703: *Born*

1707: *Charles Born*

1709: *Rescued from Fire*

1714: *Admitted to Charterhouse*

1703-1720

EARLY
YEARS

1720-1735

OXFORD
YEARS

1735-1738

GEORGIA
YEARS

1738-1791

PRODUCTIVE
YEARS

METHODISM

1739

1791

Beginnings

Within the
Church of
England

Separation from
the Church of
England

Original Sin

“Original sin is conceived as inbred sin, as innate corruption of heart and the innermost nature, as an evil root in man from which all other sin springs forth, both inward and outward sins.”

~Wesley

Original Sin

“All who deny this, call it ‘original sin,’ or by any other title, are but heathens still, in the fundamental point which differences Heathenism from Christianity. They may, indeed, allow that man have many vices; . . . But here is the shibboleth: Is man by nature filled with all manner of evil? Is he void of all good? Is he wholly fallen? Is his soul totally corrupted? Or to come back to the text, is ‘every imagination of the thoughts of his heart only evil continually’? Allow this, and you are so far a Christian. Deny it, and you are but an Heathen still.”

~Wesley

Human Freedom

“Both Mr. F(letcher) and Mr. W(esley) absolutely deny natural freewill. We both steadily assert that the will of man is by nature free only to evil. Yet we both believe that every man has a measure of freewill restored to him by grace.”

Human Freedom

“This faculty seems to be what is usually meant by those who speak of natural conscience; an expression frequently found in some of our best authors, but yet not strictly just. For though in one sense it may be termed natural, because it is found in all men; yet properly speaking, it is not natural, but a supernatural gift of God, above all his natural endowments. No; it is not nature, but the Son of God, that is ‘the true light, which enlighteneth every man that cometh into the world.’ So that we may say to every human creature, ‘He,’ not nature, ‘hath showed thee, O man, what is good.’ And it is his Spirit who giveth thee an inward check, who causeth thee to feel uneasy, when thou walkest in any instance contrary to the light which he hath given thee.” ~Wesley

Repentance

“God does undoubtedly command us both to repent, and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance; which if we willingly neglect, we cannot reasonably expect to be justified at all: therefore both repentance, and fruits meet for repentance, are, in some sense, necessary to justification. But they are not necessary in the same sense with faith, nor in the same degree. Not in the same degree; for those fruits are only necessary conditionally; if there be time and opportunity for them. Otherwise a man may be justified without them, as was the thief upon the cross . . .; but he cannot be justified without faith; this is impossible . . . Repentance and its fruits are only remotely necessary; necessary in order to faith; whereas faith is immediately and directly necessary to justification.”

Justification

“ . . . we abhor the doctrine of Justification by Works as a most perilous and abominable doctrine; . . . we hereby solemnly declare, in the sight of God, that we have no trust or confidence but in the alone merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for Justification or Salvation either in life, death or the day of judgment; and though no one is a real Christian believer (and consequently cannot be saved) who doth not good works, where there is time and opportunity, yet our works, have no part in meriting, or purchasing our salvation from first to last, either in whole or in part.”

Justifying Faith

“ ‘[Faith] is the gift of God.’ No man is able to work it in himself. It is a work of omnipotence. It requires no less power thus to quicken a dead soul, than to raise a body that lies in the grave. It is a new creation. . . .”

~Wesley

“Only beware thou do not deceive thy own soul, with regard to the nature of this faith. It is not, as some have fondly conceived, a bare assent to the truth of the Bible, of the articles of our Creed, or of all that is contained in the Old and New Testament. The devils believe this, as well as I or thou! And yet they are devils still. But it is, over and above this, a sure trust in the mercy of God, through Christ Jesus. It is a confidence in a pardoning God. It is a divine evidence or conviction that ‘God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing to them their former trespasses’ and in particular, that the Son of God have loved me, and given Himself for me; and that I, even I, am now reconciled to God by the blood of the cross.”

Believer's Security

“ . . . we preach assurance as we always did, as a common privilege of the children of God; but we do not enforce it, under the pain of damnation, denounced on all who enjoy it not.”

“The testimony of the Spirit is an inward impression of the soul, whereby the Spirit of God directly witnesses to my spirit, that I am a child of God; that Jesus Christ hath loved me, and given Himself for me; and that all my sins are blotted out, and I, am reconciled to God.”

Believer's Security

“ ‘The answer of a good conscience toward God.’ By the fruits which He hath wrought in your spirit, you shall know the testimony of the Spirit of God. Hereby you shall know that you are in no delusion, that you have not deceived your own soul.”

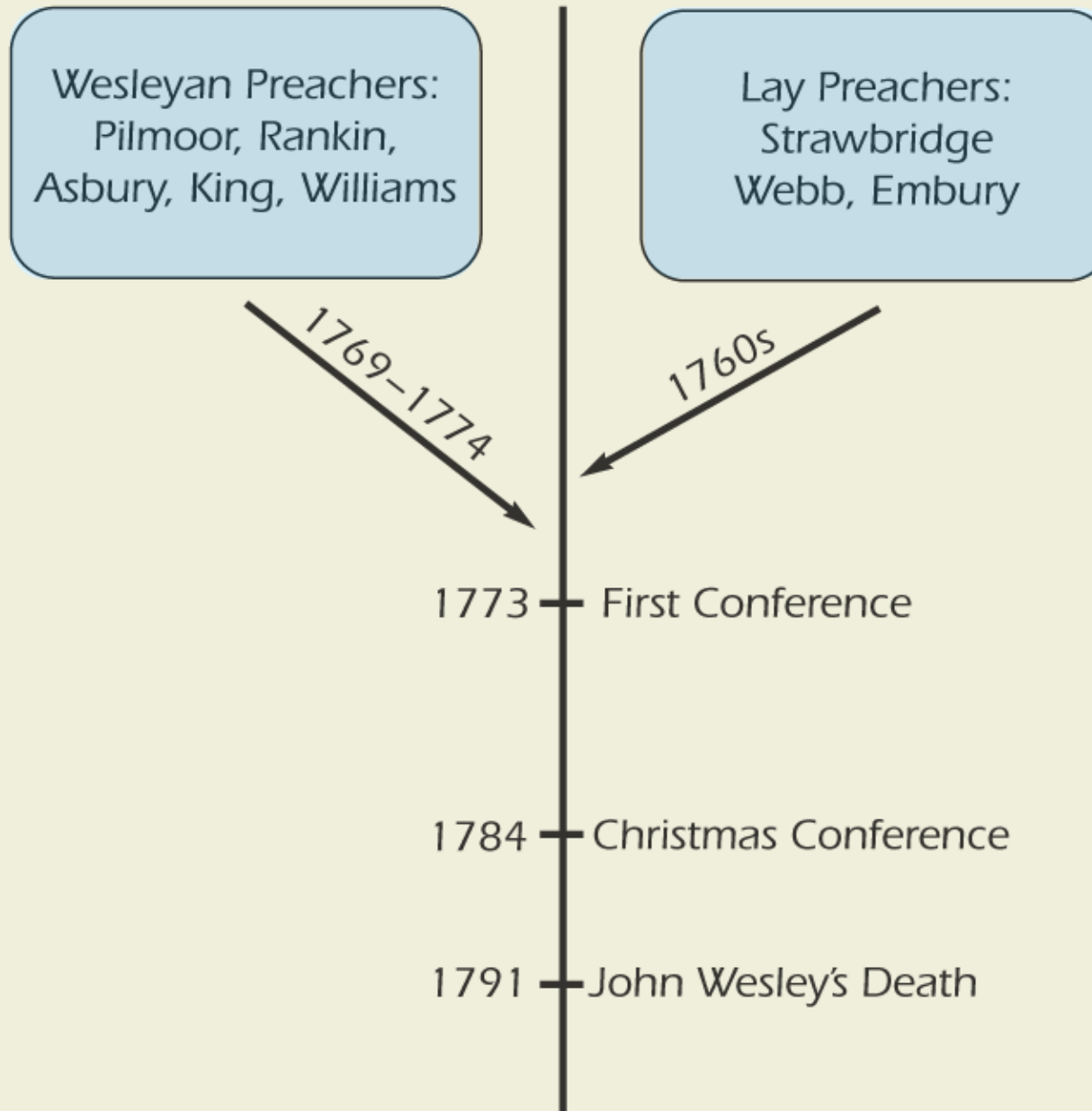
Christian Perfection

“I know no persons living who are so deeply conscious of their needing Christ both as Prophet, Priest, and King as those who believe themselves, and whom I believe, to be cleansed from all sin—I mean all pride, anger, evil desire, idolatry, and unbelief. These very persons feel more than ever their own ignorance, littleness of grace, coming short of the full mind that was in Christ, and walking less accurately than they might have done after their Divine Pattern; are more convinced of the insufficiency of all they are, have, or do to bear the eye of God without a Mediator; are more penetrated with the sense of the want of Him than ever they were before. . . . ‘Are they not sinners?’ Explain the term one way, and I say, Yes; another, and I say, No.”

Christian Perfection

“I dislike your supposing man may be as perfect as an angel; that he can be absolutely perfect; that he can be infallible, or above being tempted; or that the moment he is pure in heart he cannot fall from it.”

The Birth of American Methodism

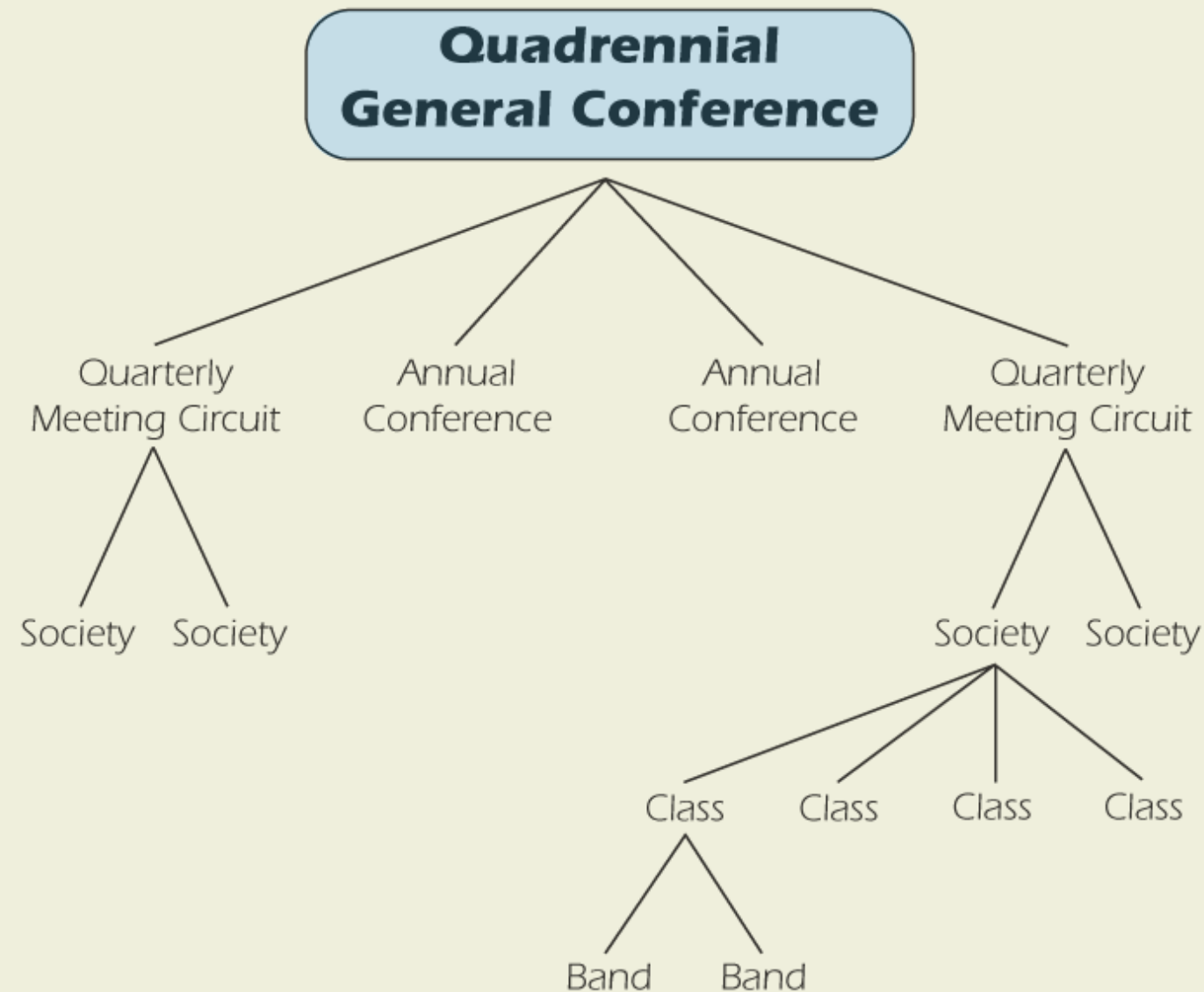


Francis Asbury's Circuit



Chart 73

The Ecclesiastical Structure of Methodism



Religion and the American Revolution

Two basic questions that must be addressed when we look at the American separation from Britain.

- 1) Is the resulting war, a “just war?” And, is this war justifiable in light of biblical teaching about respect for the authority of the government?**
- 2) What is the role of Christianity and the Bible on the thinking of the Founding Fathers?**

Northwest Territory



THE BIBLE

King Alfred the Great
“Book of Dooms (Laws)”
9th century AD

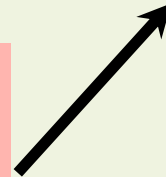
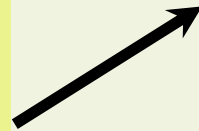
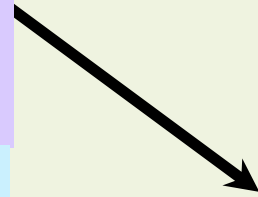
Rabbi Moses ben Maimon
“Maimonides”
Jewish commercial law
12th century AD

Church Canon Law
Lanfranc, Thomas a Becket,
John of Salisbury

Magna Carta
1215
English King is under the law;
King empowered by Barons
1689 English Bill of Rights

John Locke;
Sir William Blackstone
Judge
Oxford Law Professor
*Commentaries on the
Laws of England, 1765–
1769*

**Declaration of
Independence;
US Constitution**



“The Holy Scriptures were the most important source of authority for America’s founders.”

~Mark David Hall

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“In 1776, every colonist, with the exception of about two thousand Jews, identified himself or herself as a Christian. Approximately 98 percent of them were Protestants, and the remaining 2 percent were Roman Catholics.”

~Mark David Hall, *Did America Have a Christian Founding?*

Donald Lutz

- 1. 1983—Dr. Donald Lutz, Political Science Prof., Univ. of Houston. Ten-year project analyzed over 15,000 political documents from 1760–1805; 3,154 citations evaluated.**
- 2. The most-often-quoted source for political ideas was the Bible, mostly the Old Testament, over 1/3rd of all direct quotes.**
- 3. The next most-quoted source is quoted 1/4th as frequently, John Locke.**
- 4. Another 60% of all references came from authors whose original source goes back to the Bible.**

“I do believe in one God, the creator and governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and the punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments to be given by Divine inspiration.”

~Oath for every legislator to take, Pennsylvania constitution, 1776

“With us, Christianity and religion are identified. It would be strange, indeed if with such a people our institutions did not presuppose Christianity ...”

~John Marshall, Chief Justice

“We’ve staked our future on our ability to follow the Ten Commandments with all of our heart. We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We’ve staked the future of all our political institutions upon our capacity ... to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

~James Madison, Fourth President of the USA [1778 to the General Assembly of the State of Virginia]

“We the people of the United States, in a firm belief of the being and perfections of the one living and true God, the creator and supreme Governor of the world, in His universal providence and the authority of His laws.”

~Connecticut’s William Williams who was both a signer of the Declaration, and a member of CT’s ratification convention for the Constitution.

“The holy Scripture is to me, and always will be, the constant guide of my belief, and I shall always hearken to it, as containing infallible truth relating to the things of the highest concernment.”

~John Locke

“Not that any to whom the gospel hath been preached shall be saved, without believing Jesus to be the Messiah; for all being sinners, and transgressors of the law, and so unjust, are all liable to condemnation unless they believe, and so through grace are justified by God for this faith, which shall be accounted to them for righteousness.”

~Locke, *Reasonableness of the Christian Faith*, 52, sec 227

Scottish Common Sense Realism

- 1. There is a God.**
- 2. God placed into every individual a conscience, a moral sense written on his or her heart.**
- 3. God established first principles in areas such as law, government, education, politics, and economics and these first, or transcendent, guiding principles could be discovered by the use of common sense, logic and reason.**
- 4. There was no conflict between reason and revelation.**

The Foreign Policy of the British Government Toward the British American Colonies

1721

1763

1776

Period of
Undefined Policy

Period of
Statutory Neglect

Period of
Intense Legislation

Navigation Act, 1660
Navigation Act, 1663
Navigation Act, 1673
Navigation Act, 1696
Woolens Act, 1697

Hat Act, 1732
Molasses Act, 1733
Iron Act, 1750

Sugar Act, 1764
Currency Act, 1764
Stamp Act, 1765
Quartering Act, 1765
Townshend Act, 1767
Tea Act, 1773
Coercive Act, 1774

The Events Leading to the American Revolution

British Policy

Colonial Response

The Grenville
Tax Program

Sugar Act (1764)
Currency Act (1764)
Stamp Act (1765)
Quartering Act (1765)

Stamp Act Congress (1765)
(Internal vs. External Tax)

Rockingham
The Townshend
Tax Program

Glass, Lead, Paint,
Paper, Tea Acts (1767)

Boston Massacre (1770)
Committee of Correspondence (1772)
Boston Tea Party (1773)

The North
Tax Program

Tea Act (1773)

Coercive Acts (1774)
Quebec Act (1774)

First Continental Congress (1774)
Declaration of Rights and Grievances

Battles at Lexington and Concord (1775)

Second Continental Congress (1775)
Declaration of the Causes and
Necessity of Taking up Arms
Bunker Hill (1775)

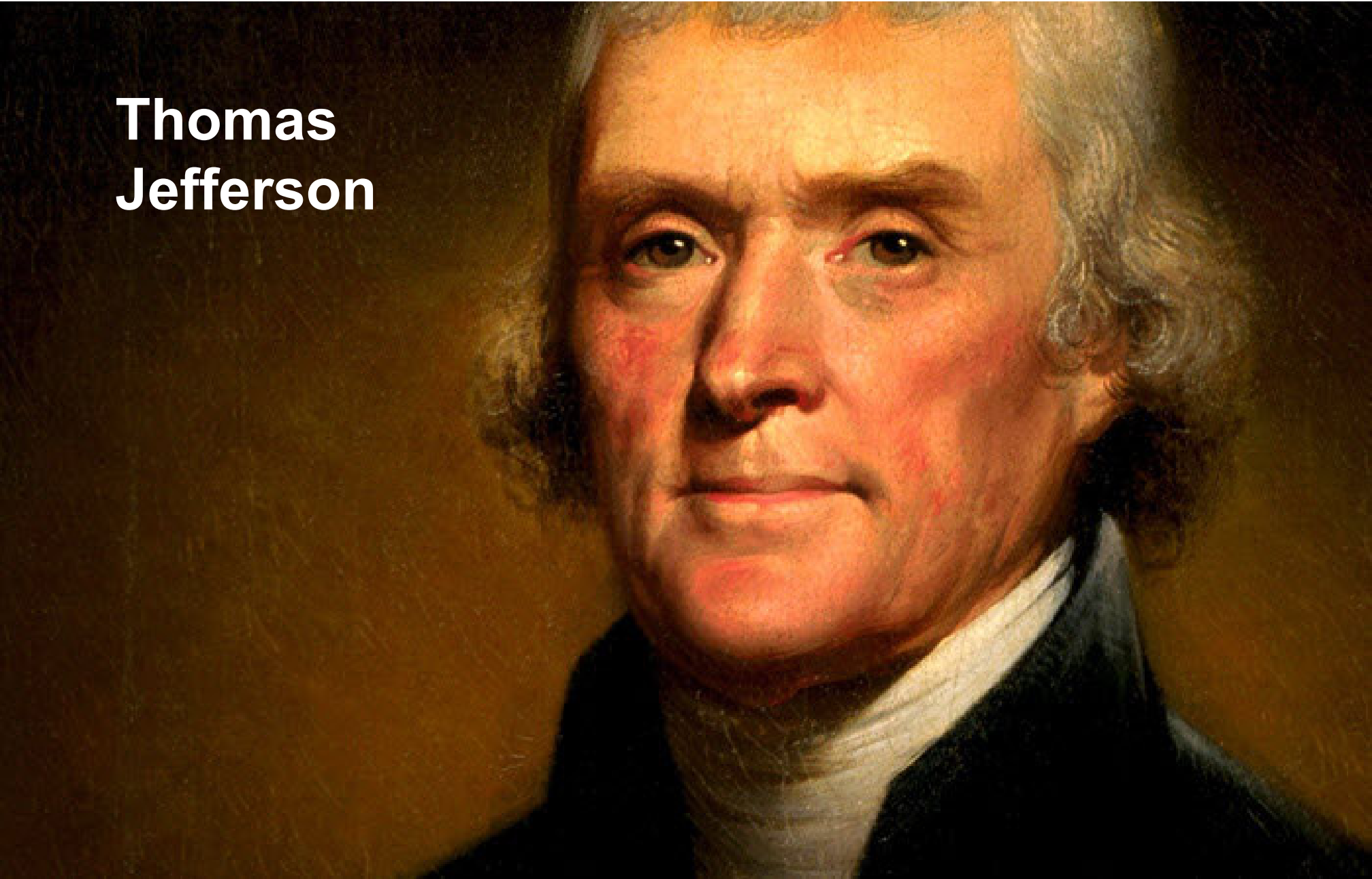
Declaration of Independence (1776)

The Revolutions in America and France

	American	French
	1776	1789
Foundation	The Bible Locke (Two Treatises on Government, 1689)	Voltaire Rousseau Diderot
Nature	mild	radical
Cause	Enchantment with Rationalism	Disillusion with Rationalism
	Post-Millennialism	State Religion Industrial Revolution

The Language of the Declaration

**Thomas
Jefferson**



“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

“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.—”

~Declaration of Independence

“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God

Claim: This phrase was used by Jefferson and the other founders and is an expression derived from Deism (through Locke) and is grounded on Enlightenment rationalism intentionally rejecting a Judeo-Christian theism.

True or False?

“Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his creator, for he is an entirely dependent being ... And consequently as man depends absolutely upon his maker for every thing, it is necessary that he should in all points conform to his maker’s will. This will of his maker is called the law of nature.”

~Blackstone, *Commentaries*, emphasis added.

“The law of nature is that which God at the time of creation of the nature of man infused into his heart, for his preservation and direction; and this is lex aeterna, the moral law also called *the law of nature*.”

~Sir Edward Coke

**1764—James Otis protests the Stamp and Sugar Acts,
British rights were founded “in the law of God and nature.”**

**Early 1600s William Ames, *The Marrow of Theology*, law of
nature synonymous with the law of God written on the
hearts of all men.**

Lawgiver

The Mass. Constitution of 1780:

“We, therefore, the people of Massachusetts, acknowledging, with grateful hearts, the goodness of the great legislator of the universe in affording us, in the course of His providence, an opportunity, deliberately and peaceably, without fraud, violence, or surprise, of entering into an original, explicit, and solemn compact with each other, and of forming a new constitution of civil government, for ourselves and posterity; and devoutly imploring His direction in so interesting a design, do agree upon, ordain, and establish, the following Declaration of Rights, and Frame of Government, as the CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.”

“The fundamental of Xty [Christianity] as found in the Gospels are 1. Faith 2. Repentance. That faith is everywhere explained to be a belief that Jesus was the Messiah Who had been promised. Repentance was to be proved by good works.

“The fundamentals of Christianity were to be found in the preaching of our Savior which is related to the Gospels. ... The Apostles Creed was by them taken to contain all things necessary to salvation and consequently to a communion.”

~Jefferson

“The doctrines thus delivered we call the revealed or divine law, and they are to be found only in the holy scriptures ... As then the moral precepts of this law are indeed of the same original with those of the *law of nature*.”

~Blackstone, *Commentaries*, emphasis added

The First Amendment in the Bill of Rights

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.