

Most of the language in the document is sourced from the Declaration of Independence. Some of it is my own. Don't confuse the two.

<http://www.ushistory.org/Declaration/document/index.htm>

Project Charter

A New State: The United Colonies

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The Continental Congress

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1 Project Charter Purpose

The Project Charter provides guidance on the objectives, priorities and parameters associated with a project. The Project Charter clarifies high-level objectives and deliverables, which will subsequently be refined and validated against a detailed project management plan. Dates and resource targets are not a commitment, but only reflect the information available at very early stages of the project.

2 Problem Statement

2.1.1 The rights of man and the purpose of government

1. We believe the following are 'self-evident'
 - a. all men are created equal
 - b. endowed by the creator with certain unalienable rights
 - i. life, liberty and pursuit of happiness
2. Government exists to protect these rights
3. Government gets its power by consent from the governed

2.1.2 The protection of rights

1. Whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to:
 - a. to alter or abolish
 - b. to institute new government
 - c. founded on the self evident principles
 - d. organized to ensure safety and happiness
 - e. do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do

2.1.3 Current Government Failures

The current government is failing to protect our rights and along the following broad areas: All Men are Created Equal, Government gets its power by consent from the governed, unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, Government exists to protect these rights. A set of facts is presented in each area:

1. All Men are Created Equal

- a. For protecting them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States.

2. Government gets its power by consent from the governed

- a. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.
- b. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.
- c. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.
- d. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.
- e. For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

- f. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.
- g. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.
- h. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

3. Unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness

- a. He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.
- b. For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:
- c. For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:
- d. For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury:
- e. For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:
- f. For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies
- g. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.
- h. He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty

& Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

- i. He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.
- j. He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.
- k. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

4. Government exists to protect these rights

- 1. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.
- 2. He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.
- 3. He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.
- 4. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

5. He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:
6. For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments.
7. For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.
8. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

3 Conceptual Solution

1. These united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States
2. They are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown,
3. All political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved;
4. As Free and Independent States, they have full Power
 - a. to levy War,
 - b. to conclude Peace,
 - c. to contract Alliances,
 - d. to establish Commerce, and to
 - e. do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.

4 Deliverables

1. New State Structures
2. New Central Government Structures

5 Success Criteria

1. Complete independence from Britain
2. States are Free and Independent
3. Ability to contract alliances
4. Ability to establish commerce
5. Ability to conduct war
6. Ability to conclude peace
7. Ability to do all other Acts which independent states may of right do

6 Assumptions

Stated

1. Throwing off a government is not a light or transient matter.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed

2. The British Government is aware of our concerns

Implied

1. The new government will be stated on our beliefs in the inalienable and self-evident rights of men
2. Assumed that _____ number of stakeholders must agree to changes
3. A new central structure will have to be created that clearly elaborates the relationships of the free and independent states

7 Constraints

1. Our connections and correspondence will be interrupted

8 Known risks

1. Death if unsuccessful

9 Stakeholders

1. The Continental Congress will manage the project
2. Executive Sponsors – Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, George Washington
3. Project Manager – George Washington
4. New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton
5. Massachusetts: John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry
6. Rhode Island: Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery
7. Connecticut: Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott

8. New York: William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris
9. New Jersey: Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark
10. Pennsylvania: Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross
11. Delaware: Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean
12. Maryland: Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton
13. Virginia: George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton
14. North Carolina: William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn
15. South Carolina: Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton
16. Georgia: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton