

# The Declaration of Independence from Faction

*A Living Record of Grievances Against the Captured Party State*

July 4, 2026

The Examined Life Institute

**W**hen, in the course of a republic's life, the institutions created to secure liberty become instruments of faction, it becomes necessary for the people to examine the powers that govern them, the parties that claim to represent them, and the systems that have grown beyond their consent.

This Declaration is not a call to dissolve the Union. It is a call to restore it.

It is not an appeal against one party alone, nor against one administration alone, though some administrations may more openly reveal the danger. It is a public record of a long train of structural abuses: abuses committed, attempted, excused, repeated, inherited, expanded, and normalized by factions that place power above principle, loyalty above law, and victory above the common good.

This Declaration is a living record. As new grievances arise, as courts rule, as Congress acts or refuses to act, as administrations test the limits of constitutional government, and as new evidence becomes available, this record shall be amended, sourced, corrected, and expanded.

Its purpose is not to preserve outrage.

Its purpose is to preserve memory.

A free people cannot correct what they are trained to forget.

We hold that the American people are entitled to a government of laws, not parties; of representation, not manipulation; of public reason, not private ambition; of constitutional limits, not emergency permanence.

We hold that governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed, and that consent becomes corrupted when citizens are forced to choose between factions that entrench themselves, shield their allies, punish their enemies, and treat public office as an instrument of permanent campaign.

Prudence requires that institutions long established should not be condemned for light and transient causes. But when a long train of abuses reveals a design—not always conscious, not always coordinated, but persistent nonetheless—to reduce the people from sovereign citizens into managed constituencies,

the people have the right, and the duty, to name those abuses and build new guards for their future security.

The history of modern faction in the United States is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, tending toward the concentration of power, the weakening of representation, and the erosion of constitutional restraint.

To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid people.

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### **I. Refusal to Faithfully Execute Law**

They have refused, delayed, reinterpreted, or selectively enforced laws most wholesome and necessary for the public good, treating statutes enacted by Congress as obstacles to be avoided rather than commands to be faithfully executed.

### **II. Obstruction of Urgent Governance**

They have obstructed laws and policies of immediate and pressing importance, allowing urgent public needs to remain suspended while factional advantage, administrative delay, or executive preference determines whether government will act.

### **III. Conditional Representation**

They have conditioned public benefits, legal recognition, funding, or institutional cooperation upon political compliance, making the rights and interests of communities dependent not upon equal citizenship, but upon their usefulness to factional power.

### **IV. Procedural Exhaustion**

They have used procedural chaos, shutdown threats, administrative burden, and institutional fatigue to wear down opposition, forcing compliance not by persuasion or law, but by exhaustion.

### **V. Assaults on Representative Institutions**

They have weakened, bypassed, intimidated, or delegitimized representative institutions when those institutions oppose their designs, treating legislatures not as coequal guardians of the public will, but as hurdles to be overcome.

## **VI. Manipulation of Democratic Renewal**

They have tolerated or encouraged delays, suppression, distortion, and procedural manipulation in the mechanisms by which the people renew their representation, weakening accountability while claiming to speak for the people.

## **VII. Citizenship and Migration Restriction**

They have made citizenship, migration, lawful presence, and belonging into instruments of executive power; expanding, restricting, suspending, or threatening rights by administrative decree where durable legislation and equal justice are required.

## **VIII. Obstruction of Justice and Oversight**

They have obstructed the administration of justice by weakening courts, prosecutors, inspectors general, watchdogs, and lawful oversight; shielding allies from consequence while directing scrutiny toward enemies.

## **IX. Politicization of the Judiciary**

They have sought to make judges dependent upon factional will: not always by salary or tenure, but by loyalty tests, ideological capture, public intimidation, strategic appointment, and the demand that courts serve political victory rather than impartial law.

## **X. Coercive Administrative Expansion**

They have erected offices, agencies, task forces, enforcement programs, and administrative machinery not merely to serve the public, but at times to harass, burden, surveil, or control the people in the service of factional objectives.

## **XI. Standing Armies and War-Powers Drift**

They have kept and used armed force without meaningful legislative consent, allowing undeclared conflict, emergency deployments, and permanent national-security infrastructure to become ordinary features of government.

## **XII. Military Above Civil Power**

They have blurred the line between military authority and civil government, using armed force or military logic to answer problems that belong to law, representation, public safety, and civil accountability.

**XIII. Extraordinary Jurisdiction**

They have invoked extraordinary jurisdictions, emergency statutes, foreign arrangements, and exceptional processes outside the ordinary safeguards of constitutional law, claiming necessity where accountability is most needed.

**XIV. Domestic Armed Presence**

They have imposed armed domestic presence and coercive enforcement postures upon communities without sufficient local consent, transforming civil disagreement and public disorder into occasions for military display.

**XV. Official Impunity**

They have protected officials, agents, allies, and instruments of power from accountability, allowing legal shields, selective prosecution, procedural privilege, or political pardon to substitute for equal justice.

**XVI. Executive Trade Restriction**

They have restricted trade, imposed barriers, and disrupted commerce through unilateral or emergency authority, treating powers granted for limited purposes as instruments of broad economic command.

**XVII. Fiscal Power Without Congress**

They have imposed fiscal burdens, tariffs, fees, freezes, cancellations, and financial commands without proper legislative consent, weakening the constitutional principle that public money and public burdens must answer to the people's representatives.

**XVIII. Loss of Ordinary Process**

They have deprived persons in many cases of ordinary process, relying on administrative detention, immigration shortcuts, security determinations, emergency classifications, or executive judgment where courts and juries should stand guard.

**XIX. Removal Beyond Review**

They have transported, removed, detained, or threatened persons beyond meaningful review, using geography, custody, immigration status, or national-security claims to place human beings outside ordinary legal protection.

**XX. Arbitrary Governance Models**

They have imposed or tested arbitrary forms of governance in particular jurisdictions, agencies, territories, or legal categories, creating examples that may later be expanded against others.

**XXI. Alteration of Institutional Safeguards**

They have weakened civil service protections, independent agencies, inspectors general, legal guardrails, and other institutional forms designed to restrain concentrated power, altering the structure of government without the full consent of the governed.

**XXII. Executive Lawmaking**

They have suspended the practical authority of legislatures by claiming power to legislate through executive order, emergency declaration, signing statement, agency rule, legal memo, or administrative command in cases where lawmaking belongs to Congress and the people.

**XXIII. Selective Protection**

They have treated some persons, cities, states, groups, or classes as outside the full protection of government, granting concern selectively and enforcing law unevenly according to factional preference.

**XXIV. Destructive State Power**

They have used or tolerated destructive state power—through war, enforcement, raids, coercion, neglect, or security operations—in ways that destroy lives, homes, towns, livelihoods, and trust in lawful government.

**XXV. Outsourced Coercion**

They have outsourced coercive power to contractors, detention systems, private actors, foreign partners, and indirect instruments, evading responsibility while preserving control.

**XXVI. Compelled Complicity**

They have compelled citizens, officers, public servants, soldiers, workers, and institutions to participate in policies that may violate constitutional duty, professional obligation, conscience, or the public trust.

## **XXVII. Factional Incitement**

They have excited domestic division among us, turning citizen against citizen, region against region, institution against institution, and neighbor against neighbor, so that faction may profit from the distrust it creates.

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## **Petition and Redress**

In every stage of these abuses, citizens have petitioned, protested, voted, litigated, organized, investigated, reported, warned, and appealed.

Too often, petitions have been answered with delay.

Warnings have been answered with denial.

Oversight has been answered with obstruction.

Judgments have been answered with evasion.

Public concern has been answered with spectacle.

And lawful disagreement has been answered with accusations of disloyalty.

A faction whose character is marked by contempt for limits, disdain for truth, and hunger for permanence is unfit to be the master of a free people.

But the American people do not require masters.

They require institutions worthy of their consent.

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## **Declaration**

We, therefore, as citizens committed to constitutional renewal, do solemnly publish and declare:

- That the American people are, and of right ought to be, free from domination by faction.
- That no party is entitled to permanent loyalty.

- That no administration is entitled to obedience beyond law.
  - That no officer is entitled to power without accountability.
  - That no emergency is entitled to become ordinary government.
  - That no court, legislature, agency, or executive office should serve party above Constitution.
  - That the purpose of government is not to preserve the machinery of faction, but to secure the rights, safety, representation, and happiness of the people.
  - We do not declare independence from our country.
  - We declare independence from the forces that reduce our country to faction.
  - We do not reject the Constitution.
  - We appeal to it.
  - We do not abandon the republic.
  - We seek to restore it.
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## **Commitments of Renewal**

To that end, we commit ourselves to the peaceful, lawful, and sustained work of civic reconstruction:

- To expose abuses of power, regardless of party.
- To document grievances with evidence, not rumor.
- To distinguish what was attempted from what was completed.
- To distinguish what was alleged from what was proven.
- To correct the record when facts change.
- To preserve sources for public inspection.
- To defend constitutional limits even when our preferred faction is restrained by them.
- To strengthen institutions that make self-government possible.
- To support reforms that reduce factional control over representation, lawmaking, elections, districts, courts, money, and public service.
- To train and encourage citizens who serve law before party, truth before victory, and country before career.

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on reason, law, evidence, and the courage of free citizens, we mutually pledge our attention, our labor, our integrity, and our resolve.

The Examined Life Institute

A Nonpartisan Institute for Constitutional Renewal

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