From the consent of the governed that whatever form of government becom
destructive of these ends it is the right of the People to alter or abolish it and
institute new government laying its foundation on such principles
and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most
likely to effect their safety and happiness. 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 suffer which evils are
sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which
they are accostomed But when a long train of abuses and usurpations
pursuing invariable the same object evinces a design to reduce them
under absolute despotism it is their right it is their duty to throw off
such government and to provide new guards for their future security
Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies and such is now
the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of
government The history of the present King of Great Britain is a
history of repeated injuries and usurpations all having in direct object
the establishment of our absolute tyranny over these states To prove
this let facts be submitted to a candid world. He has refused his
absent to Laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good
He has forbidden his governors to pass Laws for immediate and pressing
importance unless suspended in the operation till his absent should
be obtained and so suspended he has utterly neglected to attend to them
He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large
districts of people unless those people would relinquish the rights of repre-
sentation in the Legislature a right inestimable to them and formidable
to Tyrans only He has called together legislative bodies at
places unusual uncomfatable and distant from the depository of their
public Records for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance
with his measures He has dissolved representative houses
repeatedly for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the
rights of the people He has refused for a long time after such
dissolutions to cause others to be stated 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.
He has endeavoured 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 He has obstructed the
administration of Justice by refusing his assent to Laws for establishi
Judiciary powers He has made Judges dependant on his
Will alone for the tenure of their offices and the amount and
payment of their Salaries He has erected a multitude of
new Offices and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and
Eat out their Substance He has kept among us in times of peace
Standing Armies without the consent of our Legislatures He has
affected to render the military independent of and superior to the Civil
power 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
act of their pretended legislation For quartering large
bodies of Armed Troops among us For protecting them by a mock
trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the
Inhabitants of these States For cutting of our trade with all
parts of the world For imposing Taxes on us without our
consent For depriving us in many cases of the benefits of trial by Jury
For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences
For abolishing the free system of english Laws in a neighbouring province
establishing therein an arbitrary Government and enlarging its bounda-
ries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for Introducing
the same absolute rule into these colonies For taking away our
Charters abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally
the forms of our governments For suspending our own
legislatures and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for
us in all cases whatsoever He has abdicated government here
by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us; He
He has plundered our seas ravaged our coasts Court our Towers and destroyed
the lives of our people He is at this time transporting larg
Armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of Death desolution and
tyranny already begun with circumstances of cruelty and persidy
Scarcely parralleled in the most barbarous ages and totally unworthy the
head of a civilized nation 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 He has excited domestic insurrections amongst
us and has endeavoured 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 In every stage
of these oppressions we have petioned 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 free people
Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren
We have warned them from time to time of attemps of their
legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us We
have reminded them of the Circumstances of our emigration and
Settlement here We have appealed to their native Justice and
magnanimity and we have conjured them by the ties of our
common kindred to disavow these usurpations which would
inevitable interrupt our connexions and correspondence they too
have been deaf to the voice of Justice and of consanguity We
must therefore acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our