

# Declaration of Independence

The authors of the Declaration of Independence made no anti-imperial or antigovernment statement. Instead, Thomas Jeffereson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, John Jay, and their fellow members of the Second Continental Congress proclaimed their commitment to a Patriot government that would promote American development. The Declaration marked not the end of empire but the beginning of a new and energetic government in North America.

**Steve Pincus, *The Heart of the Declaration***  
[Patriots believed in governments promoting economic development by raising consumer demand, subsidizing immigrants, helping the poor, taxing the rich, eliminating slavery]