## THE KING DECLARES AMERICA IN REBELLION

On August 23, 1775, King George III of Great Britain declared that the American colonies had rebelled against British rule. Fighting between American and British forces had been gone on for months, but the Americans claimed they still wanted to work things out with their king. Ten months later, the Americans decided to declare their independence from Great Britain when they adopted the Declaration of Independence.





HEREAS many of Our Subjects in divers Parts of Our Colonies and Plantations in North America, milled by dangerous and ill-defigning Men, and forgetting the Allegiance which they owe to the Power that has protected and furtained them, after various diforderly Acts committed in Difturbance of the Publick Peace, to the Obftruction of lawful Commerce, and to the Oppreffion of Our loyal Subjects carrying on the fame, have at length proceeded to an open and avowed Rebellion, by arraying themselves in hostile Manner to withstand the Execution of the Law, and traitorously preparing, ordering, and levying War against Us; And whereas there is Reason to apprehend that such Rebellion hath

been much promoted and encouraged by the traitorous Correspondence, Counsels, and Comfort of divers wicked and desperate Persons within this Realm: To the End therefore that none of Our Subjects may neglect or violate their Duty through Ignorance thereof, or through any Doubt of the Protection which the Law will afford to their Loyalty and Zeal; We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby declaring that not only all Our Officers Civil and Military are obliged to exert their utmost Endeavours to suppress such Rebellion, and to bring the Traitors to Justice; but that all Our Subjects of this Realm and the Dominions thereunto belonging are bound by Law to be aiding and affisting in the Suppression of such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all traitorous Conspiracies and Attempts against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; and all other Our obedient and loyal Subjects, to use their utmost Endeavours to withstand and suppress such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all Treasons and traitorous Conspiracies which they shall know to be against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; and for that Purpose, that they transfinit to One of Our Principal Secretaries of State, or other proper Officer, due and full Information of all Persons who shall be found carrying on Correspondence with, or in any Manner or Degree aiding or abetting the Persons now in open Arms and Rebellion against Our Government within any of Our Colonies and Plantations in North America, in order to bring to condign Punishment the Authors, Perpetrators, and Abettors of such traitorous Designs. divers wicked and desperate Persons within this Realm: To the End therefore that none of Our Subjects

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the Twenty-third Day of August, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the Fisteenth Year of Our Reign.

God fave the King.

Printed by Charles Eyre and William Strahan, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1775.



Go to the next page to read a transcription of the king's proclamation of rebellion.



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## A Proclamation by the King

Many people in the Colonies of North America listened to a bunch of men who were lying and made them forget that everyone should be loyal to the British Crown, which has protected them in the New World. These Americans have been causing trouble and organizing riots; they have been interfering with the laws of the land; they have been bothering people who have been trying to follow the laws. They are using violence to fight British soldiers. And all these troublemaking Americans are working together to coordinate their efforts. Everyone knows what's going on, but just to make sure we are all clear about this, I am saying outright that the Americans are in rebellion.

The British government is going to do everything it can to stop this rebellion and restore law and order to the colonies. We are going to hunt down the people who organized this rebellion and make sure they stop. And anyone who helps these people will also be guilty of rebelling against the British government.

August 23, 1775 from the Court at St. James, where the king lives. He has been king for 15 years.

\*This text has been edited to make it easier to read.

