

Excerpt 1:

“I have as much muscle as any man and can do as much work as any man. I have plowed and reaped and husked and chopped and mowed and can any man do more than that?”

Sojourner Truth

Speech at Akron, Ohio 1851

Excerpt 2:

“Education, then, beyond all other devices of human origin is the great equalizer of the conditions of men, - the balance-wheel of the social machinery.”

Horace Mann

Massachusetts State Board of Education Report, 1848

Excerpt 3:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press. . . .”

*First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution*

Excerpt 4:

“My motive and object in all my political works, beginning with **Common Sense**, the first work I ever published, have been to rescue man from tyranny and false systems...of government, and enable him to be free...”

Thomas Paine, 1806

Excerpt 5:

“It is a national blessing that the conscription has been imposed... It should now be settled, once for all, whether this government is or is not strong enough to compel military service in its defense. More than any other one thing, this will determine our durability as a republic and our formidableness as a nation.”

*“The Conscription a Great National Benefit”*

New York Times, July 13, 1863

Excerpt 6:

“We have done everything that could be done to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned...Our petitions have been slighted... There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free... we must fight!”

Patrick Henry

1775

Excerpt 7:

“A national debt, if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing: it will be a powerful cement of our union.”

Alexander Hamilton

1781

Excerpt 8:

When our moneyed classes...found out that living and gathering riches on the half-paid toll of workers was a pleasant thing they had no further scruples...They seemed to adopt Vepasian’s famous maxim, “ill-gotten gains do not stink.”

Excerpt from an unsigned editorial in the *Labor Standard*, June 1877

<p>Excerpt 9:</p> <p>“The freedom of the press is one of the greatest safe guards of liberty, and can never be restrained but by severe governments.</p> <p>George Mason, 1787</p>	<p>Excerpt 10:</p> <p>“The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible....It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world...</p> <p>George Washington</p> <p>Farewell Address</p>
<p>Excerpt 11:</p> <p>“There, in a space not wider than the clerk’s desk, and three-hundred yards long, lay the dead bodies of 543 of my colored comrades, slain in the defense of their country....Feeling I had wronged them in the past, and believing what was the future duty of my country to them, I swore to...defend the rights of the men who have given their blood for me and my country this day and for their race forever.</p> <p>Benjamin F. Butler, Retired Union General</p> <p>Report to 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress</p>	<p>Excerpt 12:</p> <p>“We think they (people of African ancestry) are ...not included, and were not intended to be included, under the word “citizen” in the Constitution, and can therefore claim none of the rights and privileges which that instrument provides for and secures to the citizens of the United States.”</p> <p>Dred Scott vs. Sandford</p> <p>Supreme Court Case</p>

<p>Excerpt 13:</p> <p>“That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men. . . . Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it. . . .”</p> <p>Declaration of Independence</p>	<p>Excerpt 14:</p> <p>“Who, that was not a witness, could imagine that the most violent local prejudices would cease so soon, and that men who came from the different parts of the continent, strongly disposed . . . to despise and quarrel with each other, would instantly become but one patriotic band of brothers. . . .”</p> <p><i>Farewell Orders to the Continental Army, November 2, 1783</i></p>
<p>Excerpt 15:</p> <p>“Here they are become men: in Europe they were as so many useless plants. . . . They withered, and were mowed down by want, hunger, and war; but now by the power of transplantation, like all other plants they have taken root. . . .”</p> <p>Letters from an American Farmer, <i>J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, 1782</i></p>	<p>Excerpt 16:</p> <p>“I had no hesitation to declare that I had but one gentleman in my mind for that important command, and that was a gentleman from Virginia . . . whose skill and experience as an officer, whose independent fortune, great talents, and excellent universal character, would command . . . and unite . . . all the colonies better than any other person in the Union.”</p> <p><i>John Adams, Delegate from Massachusetts,</i></p>

Excerpt 17:

“For score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal....that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth....

Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1963

Excerpt 18:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense...Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the President of the United States...,The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes...The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America....

United States Constitution, 1787

Excerpt 19:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness....That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Declaration of Independence

1776

Excerpt 20:

Having undertaken for the Glory of God and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honor of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first colony in the northern Parts of Virginia;...do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinance, Acts, Constitutions, and Offices, from time to time as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony...

Mayflower Compact, 1620

MEANING:

I am as strong as a man. I can do the work of a man. I have done the same work as a man. What more do you want me to do to be treated equally?

MEANING:

Education, more than any other thing, makes us equal – it levels the playing field - we all have the same opportunity.

MEANING:

The government cannot make any laws telling us how to worship, or what we can say – spoken or in print.

MEANING:

The reason I got involved in politics and wrote **Common Sense** was to save men from unfair kings and unfair government so they could be free.

**MEANING**

It is a good thing for the United States that the draft has been enacted. The required service in the military will determine if we will survive as a strong nation and last as a republic.

**MEANING:**

We have asked and been ignored. We have made every effort we could. We give up. It is time to fight.

**MEANING:**

A small amount of debt is a good thing for the United States. It will force us to work together.

**MEANING:**

When the rich found out they could get richer and richer off the work of the poor, all of that money made them forget how bad it could be for the worker.

**MEANING:**

To stay truly free you must have freedom of the press. When the government does not allow for this, all of our freedoms are threatened.

**MEANING:**

Trading with foreign countries is good for the United States. However, getting in their political business is not.

**MEANING:**

When I look back on the war and realize how many African Americans died fighting to save the Union, I believe the United States owes their race and should defend their rights.

**MEANING:**

We believe the rights and privileges granted by the United States Constitution are only for white people.

**MEANING:**

Governments are formed to protect the rights of the people. When they no longer do that, the people should overthrow them.

**MEANING:**

If I had not seen it, I would not have believed it – that men put aside all of their differences and prejudices and become “brothers” with the same purpose.

**MEANING:**

Here, we can be men. In Europe, we had no hope, but in this new land, we have the opportunity to do well.

**MEANING:**

There is only one man who has the skills, the experience and the personality it will take to lead and unite the colonies.

**MEANING:**

87 years ago our country was founded on the idea that all men are equal. So, please do not let these soldiers' deaths mean nothing. We need to make sure we continue to be a government of, for and by the people that lasts forever.

**MEANING:**

As a country trying to be more perfect, we want to plan for justice, peace at home and abroad. Every law must be approved by the House, the Senate and signed by the President. Only our elected officials can raise and collect taxes. We will be lead by an elected President.

**MEANING:**

We believe that every person is created equal and has certain rights. It is the government, that gets its power from us, that is responsible for protecting these rights.

**MEANING:**

As we establish this colony in the new world (Virginia) we will pass the following laws to form a self-governing colony for the benefit of all.

## **KEY: Excerpts and Meanings**

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