| **Enlightenment Idea** | **Specific Excerpt from the Declaration of Independence** |
| --- | --- |
| National Sovereignty | *When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation*  *That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to 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.*  *Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do* |
| Due Process of Law | *For protecting them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States"; "He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.* |
| Equality of All Persons | *that all men are created equal* |
| Natural Law | *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 an absolute Tyranny over these States* |
| Self-Evident Truth | *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* |
| Popular Sovereignty | *He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures." "For imposing taxes on us without our consent.* |
| Limited Government | *Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed*  *We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us* |
| Unalienable Rights | *For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of trial by jury.";* *"He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people."; "He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.* |
| Social Contract | *For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments.* |