

The Los Angeles Silhouette Club

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, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

By The Consent Of The Governed

INDEPENDENCE DAY, which we celebrate each year on July 4th is much more than just another holiday. It commemorates the greatest single event in American history and deserves our serious attention. The American Declaration of Independence, which was given to the peoples of the world in 1776, is an assertion of the principles of that form of government in which the human dignity and freedom of the individual is recognized as the foundation upon which the authority of sovereign power of the state properly can rest. It declares that upon the dignity of the individual rests the dignity of the state. It is a declaration that no proper government can exist except by the consent of the governed.

It was this declaration of the principal of the independence of the citizen backed by the displayed willingness to fight for that principle, which relit the long extinguished torch beckoning men to freedom throughout the world. No document in modern history so stimulated the morale of the peoples of the world. It inspired and encouraged the whole revolutionary movement of the 18th century. It is the underlying theme in the search for independence by small nations today.

Unfortunately, the sound of the Liberty Bell of 1776 grows dimmer. In to many places it's sturdy notes have been supplanted by the weak tinkle of bells chained around the necks of individuals seeking security under the domination of the state. We Americans slowly but steadily are being molded to conform to the big government pattern. It is a trend, and if we succumb to it, we will lose everything that made this nation and brought it to greatness because it will cost us individual initiative, individual courage and individual thought.

The disappearance of the sturdy, independent minded, freedom loving individual and his replacement by a servile, mass mentality is one of the GREATEST HUMAN MENACES OF OUR TIME. Freedom is not a thing that can be imposed from without. It can only be created from within. It's very essence is that of self creation. Nations do not, cannot make free men - men make free nations. Freedom of the individual is the foundation stone of American Liberty. The basic "Rights" guaranteed to the people in the Constitution of the United States, all of them, not just the ones that happen to *not* effect certain individuals, are a priceless heritage. When any "one of our Rights" are encroached upon, "every one of our Rights" are weakened and we should all be shocked and outraged to action.

The message of the Liberty Bell ringing on July 4th, 1776, has been listened to with rapt attention by men all over the world because it proclaimed the freedom of man. Listen carefully for the sound of this bell to make sure it is ringing in your heart and in the hearts of everyone you know. The future of America and of the free world depend on you and me.

Upon The Consent Of The Governed

American Rifleman

July, 1961

Author unknown

Reprinted with permission

I am freeing men from the **burden of freedom** which **only** a few can bear. [Adolf Hitler](#)

Among the many misdeeds of the British in India, history will look upon the **act of depriving** a whole nation of arms as the blackest. [Gandhi, From his Autobiography <The Story of My Experiments With The Truth>](#)

"The Constitution does not say government shall decree the right to keep and bear arms. **The Constitution says** 'the right of the people to keep and bear arms **shall not be infringed.**' [President Ronald Reagan](#)

We find in the Bill of Rights Amendment 2, authorizing a decentralized militia, **guaranteeing** the right of the people to keep and bear arms. [Earl Warren](#), Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court - 1953-1969

The most foolish mistake we could make would be to allow the **subjected people** to carry arms; history shows that all **conquerors** who have allowed their subjected people to carry arms have prepared their own fall. [Adolf Hitler - From speech of March 18, 1938](#)

"The Bill of Rights contained in the first ten amendments to the Constitution, is every American's **guarantee of freedom.**" [President Harry S. Truman](#)

"Let us remember that if we suffer tamely a lawless attack on our liberty, **we encourage it.**" [Samuel Adams](#)

The conclusion is thus inescapable that the history, concept, and wording of THE SECOND AMENDMENT ... as well as its interpretation by every major commentator and court in the first half century after its ratification, indicates that what is protected is an individual right of a private citizen to own and carry firearms in a peaceful manner. [U.S. Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution, 1982](#)

"The people never give up their freedom . . . **Except under some delusion.**" [Edmund Burke](#)

"No man who refuses to bear arms can give sound reason why he should be allowed to live in a free country" [Teddy Roosevelt](#)

"Any Person Willing To Give Up A Freedom For A Security . . . Deserves Neither" !!
Benjamin Franklin

"Ideas Are More Powerful Than Guns. We Don't Let The People Have Guns. Why
Should We Let Them Have Ideas"? Joseph Stalin

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument
of tyrants. . . . It is the creed of slaves." William Pitt

"The people never give up their freedom . . . Except under some delusion." Edmund
Burke

[The Los Angeles Silhouette Club Front Page](#) [Index to all LASC Articles](#)