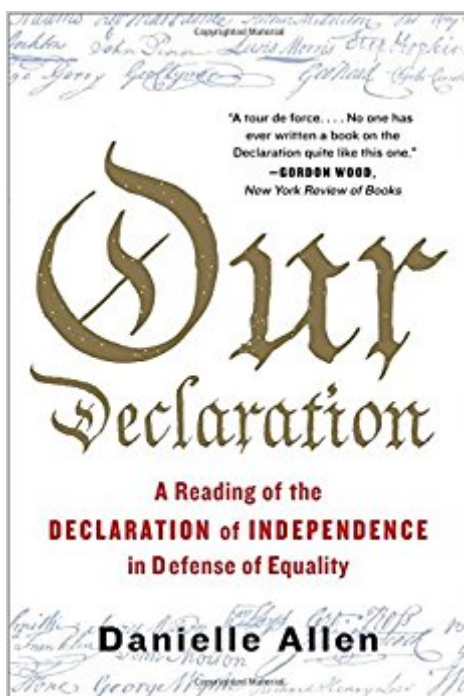


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# Our Declaration: A Reading Of The Declaration Of Independence In Defense Of Equality



## Synopsis

Winner of the Francis Parkman Prize, Society of American Historians “A tour de force. . . . No one has ever written a book on the Declaration quite like this one.” — Gordon Wood, New York Review of Books Featured on the front page of the New York Times, *Our Declaration* is already regarded as a seminal work that reinterprets the promise of American democracy through our founding text. Combining a personal account of teaching the Declaration with a vivid evocation of the colonial world between 1774 and 1777, Allen, a political philosopher renowned for her work on justice and citizenship reveals our nation’s founding text to be an animating force that not only changed the world more than two-hundred years ago, but also still can. Challenging conventional wisdom, she boldly makes the case that the Declaration is a document as much about political equality as about individual liberty. Beautifully illustrated throughout, *Our Declaration* is an “uncommonly elegant, incisive, and often poetic primer on America’s cardinal text” (David M. Kennedy). 35 illustrations

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“The book is a tour de force of close textual analysis.” — Gordon S. Wood, New York Review of Books “Our Declaration is an artful, often elegiac meditation on the meaning of Jefferson’s famous words for our time. Allen brings the analytical skills of a philosopher, the voice of a gifted memorialist, and the spirit of a soulful humanist to the task at hand, and manages to do something quite rare, find new meaning in Jefferson’s understanding of equality.” — Joseph J. Ellis, author of *Revolutionary Summer: The Birth of American Independence* “Our

Declaration sets forth a bold thesis. Allen's passion for each of the Declaration's 1,337 words is admirable. - Steven B. Smith, New York Times Book Review

"This wise and rich book is what we need in these troubled times. A robust and persuasive defense of equality and liberty grounded in our national scripture. Danielle Allen is a towering political philosopher of the democratic art of being and a force for good! - Cornel West, author of Democracy Matters: Winning the War on Imperialism

"Danielle Allen celebrates the Declaration of Independence by reading it closely. A line by line, comma by comma and invites her fellow citizens to do the same. The result is a richly rewarding book that demonstrates the pleasures of slow reading, the power of words to shape events, and the importance of equality to democratic life. - Michael Sandel, author of What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets

"Danielle Allen's poignant and personal reflection on the Declaration of Independence is a rare and singular work. [S]he has written a book that throws open a door to a large circle of readers: anyone with a stake in democracy. Her observations about the importance of language in building and sustaining a republic are especially resonant and worthy of the towering rhetoric of the Declaration. Our Declaration holds the promise of both discovery and rediscovery whether you've never read the Declaration or have memorized each of its 1,337 words. - Ann Marie Lipinski, curator, Nieman Foundation for Journalism, Harvard University

"Our Declaration is a primer on all that we have been missing. Not just an invaluable civics lesson but also a poignant personal memoir. Allen is an evangelist for this romantic moment in American history when men of uncommon vision and political deftness stated their case and listed their grievances against the most powerful nation on Earth. - Thane Rosenbaum, The Washington Post

"An astounding new book that should reinvigorate public understanding of the founding document of the United States. Reading Ms. Allen makes reading the Declaration meaningful and enjoyable. A powerful enough lesson it is in its own right. - Sarah J. Purcell, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

"At once simple, sharp and deftly executed. - Kirkus Reviews

Danielle Allen is the James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard University and author of *Cuz and Our Declaration*, winner of the Parkman Prize. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Great background if you are serious about understanding the DI. Not hard to read, but a detailed description. Well worth your time. An important document which has influenced people and governments around the world. The book is used in college classes and could be used in high

school. I taught U.S. Gov't in HS for 35 years. You don't need to be a scholar to read this book, but it's quality reaches that level.

An excellent read. This book is a wonderful discussion on the importance of equality in our understanding of American democracy. This is a great book to read deeper into our cultural foundation as a nation and reminded me of how much work we have to reclaim the Declaration today.

Quality of the book was as described and sent timely as promised. Thank you...

A timely, important and useful work. I especially enjoyed the author's personal notes as they illuminated otherwise tenuous and vague insights, opinions and ideas, she brought the topic alive and into our own day and age. I recommend this book. My singular disappointment was the chapter that dealt with "Nature's God". The god of the Declaration was in fact not the Christian God, it was the god of Spinoza, Nature. I recommend the following book to those who want to follow up. Nature's God, by Matthew Stewart.

Great product and service.

Awesome book!

Great book!

it is ok.

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