

# HOW I SEE IT: Egypt: Our Declaration and their Revolution

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Published: February 16, 2011

[Thomas Jefferson](#) wisely said once “Timid men prefer the calm of despotism to the tempestuous sea of liberty.”

On [July 4th](#) 1776 the continental congress assembled and approved a document that was breakthrough (but nothing new) for it's time and it set down the grand rules for any good revolution.

First laying down the principle of natural rights, then second that government exists only to protect those rights and third that when government doesn't do this it is the citizenry's right and duty to abolish or alter that government and set up a new. Very simple, very straight forward principles (see John Locke's two treaties of government for further study on this).

Yet somewhere along the line our 21st century sensibilities has left these principles intact for sure but erased their practical meaning and use. Words like “abolish” and “alter” has been dulled down to let's “tolerate” and “compromise.” Revolt against any government no matter how totalitarian seems barbaric to our ears.

This is illustrated no better then in the media's handling of the Egyptian Revolution.

You would think, considering our own history, that Americans would understand when to spot tyranny and when a society has a thirst for liberty but most of what I've heard and seen of the American media has been contempt for the Egyptian protesters. It seems the Right is afraid that we will loose a so called 'friend' in the middle east and the Left, well they just get queasy every time a rock is thrown.

The Declaration of Independence was written for us, yes, but it's a universal document for all. It has yet to be seen wither the people of [Egypt](#) have the capacity for self-government but we Americans should focus on doing what we've historically done best, set the example and cheer from afar.

We are doing these people no favors by poking our nosy heads in there internal affairs. Why don't we get our own house in order then give wise instruction. We are becoming those timid men of whom M.R [Jefferson](#) spoke. Let us refresh ourselves in so doing inspire others.

For further liberty-minded commentary on this matter I recommend Doug Bandow's article 'Revolution in Egypt? Exhilaration and Fear' and Malou Innocent's piece 'U.S. Should Stand With the Egyptian People.' All of which can be found at the Cato Institutes website, [cato.org](#).

