

The Lamentations of Jeremiah Compared to The Articles of Grievances in Thomas Jefferson's Draft for the Declaration of American Independence

Chapter 3

I am the man that hath seen affliction by the rod
of his wrath.

2 He hath led me, and brought me into darkness,
but not into light.

3 Surely against me is he turned; he turneth his
hand against me all the day.

4 My flesh and my skin hath he made old;

he hath broken my bones.

5 He hath builded against me, and compassed me
with gall and travel.

6 He hath set me in dark places, as they that be
dead of old.

The Draft Grievances

He has refused his assent to laws the most
wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of
immediate and pressing importance, unless
suspended in their operation till his assent should be
obtained; and, when so suspended, he has utterly
neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the
accommodation of large districts of people, unless
those people would relinquish the right of
representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to
them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places
unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the
depository of their public records, for the sole
purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his
measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly
and continually for opposing with manly firmness his
invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time after such
dissolutions to cause others to be elected, whereby
the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have

	<p>returned to the people at large for their exercise, the state remaining, in the meantime, exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without and convulsions within.</p>
<p>7 He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out:</p>	<p>He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for the naturalization of foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.</p>
<p>he hath made my chain heavy.</p>	<p>He has suffered the administration of justice totally to cease in some of these states refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.</p>
<p>8 Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer.</p>	<p>He has made our judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.</p>
<p>9 He hath inclosed my ways with hewn stone,</p>	<p>He has erected a multitude of new offices, by a self-assumed power and sent hither swarms of new officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.</p>
<p>he hath made my paths crooked.</p>	<p>He has kept among us in times of peace standing armies and ships of war without the consent of our legislatures.</p>
<p>10 He was unto me as a bear lying in wait, and as a lion in secret places.</p>	<p>He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.</p>
<p>11 He hath turned aside my ways, and pulled me in pieces:</p>	<p>He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitutions and unacknowledged by our laws, giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation for....</p>
<p>he hath made me desolate.</p>	<p>He has abdicated government here withdrawing his governors, and declaring us out of his allegiance and protection.</p>
<p>12 He hath bent his bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow.</p>	<p>He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.</p>
<p>13 He hath caused the arrows of his quiver to enter into my reins.</p>	<p>He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy unworthy the head of a civilized nation.</p>
<p>14 I was a derision to all my people; and their song all the day.</p>	

15 He hath filled me with bitterness,

he hath made me drunken with wormwood.

16 He hath also broken my teeth with gravel-
stones,

he hath covered me with ashes.

17 And thou hast removed my soul far off from
peace: I forgot prosperity.

He has constrained our fellow citizens taken captive on the high seas to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions of existence.

He has incited treasonable insurrections of our fellow citizens, with the allurements of forfeiture and confiscation of our property.

He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of INFIDEL powers, is the warfare of the CHRISTIAN king of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce.

And that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them, by murdering the people on whom he also obtruded them: thus paying off former crimes committed against the LIBERTIES of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the LIVES of another.