

Christian civilization? Shifts in the relation between state and religion

USA Declaration of Independence (1776)

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. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, 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.



Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

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France: The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789):

The **representatives of the French people, constituted into a National Assembly**, considering that ignorance, forgetting or contempt of the rights of man are the sole causes of public misfortunes and of the corruption of governments, are resolved to expose, in a solemn declaration, **the natural, inalienable and sacred rights of man ...** In consequence, the **National Assembly recognizes and declares, in the presence and under the auspices of the Supreme Being**, the following rights of man and of the citizen...

Article I - Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions can be founded only on the common good.

Article III - The principle of any **sovereignty resides essentially in the Nation**. No body, no individual can exert authority which does not emanate expressly from it.

Article X - No one may be disturbed for his opinions, even religious ones, provided that their manifestation does not trouble the public order established by the law.

Article XI - The free communication of thoughts and of opinions is one of the most precious rights of man: any citizen thus may speak, write, print freely, except to respond to the abuse of this liberty, in the cases determined by the law.

Jewish civilization?

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The State of Israel, Declaration of Independence 1948 (מגילת העצמות)

The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books. After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom. Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses [...] The State of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.



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The Treaty of Lisbon (“the Constitution of Europe”, 2009)

His majesty, the king of Belgium [and other representatives of the member states...]

- resolved to mark a new stage in the process of European integration undertaken with the establishment of the European Communities,
- drawing **inspiration from the cultural, religious and humanist inheritance of Europe, from which have developed the universal values of the inviolable and inalienable rights of the human person**, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law
- recalling the **historic importance of the ending of the division** of the European continent and the need to create firm bases for the construction of the future Europe,
- confirming their attachment to fundamental **social rights** as defined in the European Social Charter signed at Turin on 18 October 1961 and in the 1989 Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers
- confirming their attachment to the principles of liberty, democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and of the rule of law,
- desiring to deepen the solidarity between their peoples while respecting their history, their culture and their traditions,
- desiring to enhance further the democratic and efficient functioning of the institutions so as to enable them better to carry out, within a single institutional framework, the tasks entrusted to them,
- resolved to achieve the strengthening and the convergence of their economies and to establish an economic and monetary union including, in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty and of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, a single and stable currency.