



Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality

By Danielle Allen

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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

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Editorial Review

Review

“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?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't own right.” (Sarah J. Purcell - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)

“At once simple, sharp and deftly executed.” (Kirkus Reviews)

About the Author

Danielle Allen is the James Conant Bryant University Professor at Harvard University and author of *Our*

Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality, winner of the Parkman Prize. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joyce Cassady:

This book untitled Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, here is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book store or you can order it by using online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this reserve from your list.

Joseph Esparza:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the entire day to reading a book. The book Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book has high quality.

Diane Lomas:

The book untitled Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains your ex idea with easy approach. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was published by famous author. The author brings you in the new time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can available their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice learn.

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