

Video 3

Renaissance One, correction!

Oops! I made a mistake. In the previous video, “What is a Renaissance? Part One”, I made a mistake. I’m sorry.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the immortal words, “All men are created equal” . . . not in 1775, but in 1776.

I had recently been talking with a friend about the beginning of the American Revolution. That long war began in April of 1775 in Lexington, Massachusetts. So the year 1775 popped into my mind when I was making the video.

But it was during the early summer of 1776 when Thomas Jefferson, living in a rented room in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, wrote the Declaration of Independence, the document in which America declared itself as a new nation, independent from the British Empire. In the second sentence of that sacred document, and thus almost at the very beginning, Jefferson wrote,

“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.”

The word “unalienable” means that these rights cannot be taken away. They cannot be made “alien”, but are always a part of every human being.

This passage, known today around the world, is the spirit, the essence, the *heart* . . . of the Enlightenment of the 18th Century.

The words, **All men, and all women, and all children are created equal**, must be at the heart of the Renaissance of the 21st Century, *your* Renaissance, *your* century.

You can do it. Thomas and John and Abigail and Samuel and Benjamin and George and Martha, they all believe in you. You can do it, not just in America, but in every country all around the world.