Research Skills Lab 4

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Among other vital things, the Declaration of Independence mentions about the importance of government. Though many of the delegates involved had different ideas and visions about American democracy, majority of them agreed that the government has the duty to protect the rights of its citizens. Thomas Jefferson, who was among the founding members of the document, wrote a separate note about the importance of government, which many believes is enough to gauge the value of government in America. The declaration refers to the American government as a set of individuals working together for a similar goal. Owing to this importance, Davidson believes that a *decent respect to the opinions of mankind is providing them the due rights*[[1]](#footnote-1). These ideals and importance suggest that democratic ideals and the ideas about government are still relevant today.

Though there were many reasons for the American colonies to get independence, therefore they were not unjustified in waging a war against the British monarch. They broke from the British Empire to become the United States of America, for the reason that England was not fulfilling the demands of ordinary Americans. These claims had merits, owing to the prevailing situations in the colonies, which they believed were inhumane and disastrous. In addition to this, Davidson’s claims are based on the assumption that *England wanted to form a government on principles and organizational patterns that were most likely to affect the safety and security of the American people*[[2]](#footnote-2).

Consent of the governed is a political philosophical phrase which entails that a government’s legitimacy is only confirmed if the people consent to its making. It contrasts to the idea of the divine right of the Kings, which remained the overarching principle of governance in the previous centuries. Davidson believes that *consent of the governed was important since it provided a new sense to the people of America and they started rising against the oppression they faced from the British monarch*[[3]](#footnote-3). For the American beliefs, it holds a primary value, since American democracy holds the values of people participation and overrides authoritarianism.

***Bibliography:***

Davidson, James West, and Mark H. Lytle. *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection*. Vol. 1. McGraw-Hill, 2004.

1. Davidson and Lytle, *After the Fact*, 1:81. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Davidson and Lytle, 1:81. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Davidson and Lytle, 1:82. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)