

"The Laws of Nature" Cited in Declaration of Independence

by [Mountain Publius Goat](#) on Sat Mar 21, 2009 7:16 pm

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The influence of Vattel and his writings about the **Natural Law** in his magnificent legal treatise in 1758 known as the "**Law of Nations**" is clear to the intellectually honest who study the founders of the USA in 1776 and framers of the Constitution in 1787. But I thought some examples should be provided here for those who get into debates with others elsewhere about this.

One example: In the Declaration of Independence is the famous quote, "**life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness**". That is a concept and principle of the "natural law" writings of Vattel right out of Vattel's writings in the Law of Nations in 1758. But did you all also know/remember that "the Laws of Nature" was mentioned right in the opening paragraph of the Declaration of Independence? Here is that paragraph:

""When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which **the Laws of Nature** and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation."

Thus, the O-Bots who wish to argue that Vattel and his "natural law" was not used by the founders and framers are totally off base. Vattel's inspiration writings as to the need for a new form of government inspired our founding fathers and are quoted directly and indirectly in both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Vattel wrote about the need to have a written Constitution as the supreme law of the land. Vattel also wrote that one goal of a government was to always to strive to "perfect" itself to better serve the people. Thus in the preamble of the Constitution we have as part of the reasoning for writing it, i.e., to form a more perfect union.:

"We the People of the United States, in Order to **form a more perfect Union**, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

And in the Constitution itself the "**Law of Nations**" is mentioned explicitly in Article I Section 8 as part of the enumerated powers granted to the federal government by We the People in the new Constitution: "To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations"

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"The American people will never knowingly adopt Socialism. But under the name of liberalism they will adopt every fragment of the Socialist program, until one day America will be a Socialist nation without knowing how it happened." Norman Thomas



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