

**Message Recorded for Broadcast to Americans Overseas, July 4, 1959**  
Dwight D. Eisenhower

*My Fellow Americans:*

One hundred eighty-three years ago a dramatic event took place in our country—the proclamation of our independence and the establishment of our Nation.

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On this national holiday, I take this opportunity to talk to you directly about what you represent.

First of all, the significance of July fourth. This date annually commemorated and renews our dedication to the principles of freedom, of government elected by the people, of equal opportunity for all.

These are not static principles. What began in 1776 was a continuing, dynamic experiment. Let us look at the United States today, to see what we have accomplished, since 1776, in carrying out the American experiment. In these 183 years we have developed an industrialized society while maintaining our personal freedoms. Despite the predictions of Karl Marx, our economy has developed swiftly through unprecedented teamwork on the part of those who toil and those who invest and manage. During this development, the working man has obtained an increasingly larger share of the fruits of his labors. We live under the rule of law, which jealously guards our freedom from illegal restraint. It guarantees our freedom of information, our freedom of movement. I do not suggest that all of these achievements exist constantly or uniformly throughout our land. The goals for which America strives are not always easy of attainment.

But we have an abiding determination to reach those goals without sacrifice of principle, and to further the cause of freedom at home and abroad.

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