

# To What Extent Are The Ideas In The "We Hold These Truths To Be Self-Evident" Paragraph of the Declaration of Independence Consistent With Epicurean Philosophy?

Post by "Cassius" of April 18, 2018 at 1:50 PM

I am not sure that I have written anything that develops this that would be useful. There is a lot of raw material in the [Thomas Jefferson collection](#) I put together, especially in the "earth belongs to the living" argument in [the letter to James Madison](#) - I thought I had on my page but don't! Especially the part about "I set out on this ground which I suppose to be self evident, " [that the earth belongs in usufruct to the living;](#)" that the dead have neither powers nor rights over it. The portion occupied by an individual ceases to be his when himself ceases to be, and reverts to the society. If the society has formed no rules for the appropriation of its lands in severalty, it will be taken by the first occupants. "

This is a huge topic for which there is a lot of material. Almost every time I type something I think "this is why I wanted to set things up as a forum like this so we can start talking and lay the groundwork where we can return and find it and build on it. "