U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL ADDRESSES. GEORGE WASHINGTON, FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1789 Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: Among the vicissitudes incident to life no event could have filled me with greater anxieties than that of which the notification was transmitted by your order, and received on the 14th day of the present month. On the one hand, I was sumoned by my Country, whose voice I can never hear but with veneration and love, from a retreat which I had chosen with the fondest predilection, and, in my flattering hopes, with an immutable decision, as the asylum of my declining years--a retreat which was rendered every day more necessary as well as more dear to me by the addition of habit to inclination, and of frequent interruptions in my health to the gradual waste committed on it by time. On the other hand, the magnitude and difficulty of the trust to which the voice of my country called me, being sufficient to awaken in the wisest and most experienced of her citizens a distrustful scrutiny into his qualifications, could not but overwhelm with despondence one who (inheriting inferior endowments from nature and unpracticed in the duties of civil administration) ought to be peculiarly conscious of his own deficiencies. In this conflict of emotions all I dare aver is that it has as been my faithful study to collect my duty from a just appreciation of every circumstance by which it might be affected. All I dare hope is that if, in executing this task, I have been too much swayed by a grateful remembrance of former instances, or by an affectionate sensibility to this transcendent proof of the confidence of my fellow-citizens, and have thence too little consulted my incapacity as well as disinclination for the weighty and untried cares before me, my error will be palliated by the motive which mislead me, and its consequences be justly imputed to myself, rather than to those who have kindly chosen me for the post of danger, in which the service of my country may place me. In the execution of this task, I have found great difficulties and embarrassments, which are inseparable from my situation, for reasons which have not been in my power to remove, or which I could not, without hazard, disclose. And while I feel myself most deeply impressed with the importance of the occasion, and with my own inadequate qualifications, I feel myself also solaced with the reflection that the Author of the Universe, who rules over the affairs of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large less than either. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency; and in the important revolution just accomplished in the system of their united government the tranquil deliberations and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities from which the event has resulted can not be compared with the means by which most governments have been established without some return of pious gratitude, along with an humble anticipation of the future blessings which the past seem to presage. These reflections, arising out of the present crisis, have forced themselves too strongly on my mind to be suppressed. You will join with me, I trust, in thinking that there are none under the influence of which the proceedings of a new and free government can more auspiciously commence. By the article establishing the executive department it is made the duty of the President "to recommend to your consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." The circumstances under which I now meet you will acquit me from entering into that subject further than to refer to the great constitutional charter under which you are assemb led, and which, in defining your powers, designates the objects to which your attention is to be given. It will be more consistent with those circumstances, and far more congenial with the feelings which actuate me, to substitute, in place of a recommendation of particular measures, the tribute that is due to the talents, the rectitude, and the patriotism which adorn the characters selected to devise and adopt them. In these honorable qualifications I behold the surest pledges that on one side, no disposition will misdirect the comprehensive and equal eye which ought to watch over this great assemblage of communities and interests, so diversified in their local p rejudices and attachments, no separate views nor party animosities will misleard the performance of the arduous task, which is assigned to you, and that on the other, the same virtue and patriotism which have brought you together will be preserved to animate your deliberations and to render your decisions the offspring of those pure and elevated motives which ought to govern the conduct of an assembly, whose proceedings are to be so much under the inspection of their fellow-citizens. The preeminence of free government be exemplified by all the attributes which can win th e affections of its citizens and command the respect of the world. I dwell on this prospect with every satisfaction which an ardent love for my country can inspire, since there is no truth more thoroughly established than that there exists in the economy and course of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness; between duty and advantage; between the genuine maxims of an honest and magnanimous policy a nd the solid rewards of public prosperity and felicity; since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained; and since the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered, perhaps, as deeply, as fina lly, staked on th e experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people. Besides the ordinary objects submitted to your care, it will remain with your judgment to decide how far an exercise of the occasional power delegated by the fifth article of the Constitution is rendered expedient at the present juncture by the nature of objections which have been urged against the system, or by the degree of inquietude which has given birth to them. Instead of undertaking particular recommendations on this subject, in which I could be guided by no lights derived from official opportunities, I shall again give way to my entire confidence i n your discernment and pursuit of the public good; for I assure myself that whilst you carefully avoid every alteration which might endanger the benefits of an united and effective government, or which ought to await the future lessons of experience, a reverence for the characteristic rights of freemen and a regard for the public harmony will sufficiently influence your deliberations on the question how far the former c an be improbably fortified or the latter be safely and advantageously promoted. To the foregoing observations I have one to add, which will be most properly addressed to the House of Representatives. It concerns myself, and will therefore be as brief as possible. When I was first honored with a call into the service of this country, then on the eve of an arduous struggle for its liberties, the light in which I co ntemplated my duty required that I should relinquish every pecuniary compensation. From this resolution I h ave in no instance departed; and being still under the impressions which produced it, I must decline as inapplicable to myself any share in the personal emoluments which may be indispensably included in a permanent provision for the executive department, and must accordingly pray that t he pecuniary estimates for the station in which I am placed may during my continuance in it be limited t o such actual expenditures as the public good may be thought to require. Having thus imparted to you my sentiments as they have been awakened by the occasion which brings us together, I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the benign Parent of the Hu tion that since He has been pleased to favor the American people with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquillity, and dispositions for deciding with unparalleled unanimity on a form of governmen t for the security of their union and the advancement of their happiness, so His divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, th wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend. GEORGE WASHINGTON, SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1793 Fello w Citizens: I am again called upon by the voice of my country to execute the functions of its Chief Magistrate. When the occasion proper for it rrive, I shall endeavor to express the high sense I entertain of this distinguished honor, and of the confidence which has been reposed in me by the people of united America. Previous to t he execution o f any official act of the President the Constitution requires an oath of office. This oath I am now about to take, and in you r presence: That if I shall be found during my administration of the Government I have in a nstance violated willingly or knowingly the injunctions thereof, I may (besides those penalties to which I am subject by law) be subjected to the pen alties which are now witnesses of the present solemn ceremon ADAMS INAUGURAL ADDRESS THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1797 When it was first perceived, in early times, that no middle course for America re mained betwe en unlimited submission to a foreign legislature and a total independence of its claims, men of refle ct ion were less in number. Reflecting, however, on the purity of their intentions, the justice of the ca use, and the integrity and intelligence of the people, under an overruling ence which had so signally protected this country from the first, the repre sentatives of th e people of this n ation, then consisting of little more than half its present number, not only brok e the yoke of government, commanded a degree of order sufficien t, though not without frankly cut asunder the ties which had bound them, and launched int o uncertainty. The zeal and ardor of the people during the Revolutionary war, sup plying the place of government, commanded a degree of order sufficien t, though not without t emporary preservation of society. The Confederation which was e stablished, and which was found adequate to the exigencies of the times, was necessary was prepared from the models of the Batavian and Helvetic confede racies, the only examples which remain with any detail and precision which the people at large were well acquainted with, and which they had tried in so many particulars between this country and those where ac ourier may go from the seat of government to the frontier in a singl e day, it was discovered, that, in the form of government, the principles of liberty and property were not sufficiently secured. But reflecting o n the difference in so many particulars between this country and those where a c sobedience to its authority, not only in individuals but in States, s ome with powerful and others with feeble governments, and recollecting that the former had, in the c ourse of their contest, found it necessary to suspend or modify their commerce, discouragement of necessary manufactures, universa l fall in the value of lands and their produce, contempt of public ed in their present state, and that, in the event of a war with Europe, the aid to be expected from t he principal European powers would be in proportion to the importance attached to their friendship, Negligence of its regulations, inattention to its recommendations, if not di national calamity. In this dangerous crisis the people of Ameri tion and commerce, discouragement of necessary manufactures, universa l fall in the value of lands and their produce, contempt of public binations, partial conventions, and insurrection, threatening some great domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, prom o concert a plan to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure tranquillity, and secure the blessings of liberty, T he public disquisitions, discussions, and deliberat ions issu ed in the present happy Constitution of Government. Employed in the service of my country abroad during the whole course of t ed States in a foreign country. Irritated by no literary a animated by no public debate, heated by no party animosity, I read i t with great satisfaction, as the result of good heads prom pted by good hearts, as an experiment better adapted to the genius, character, situation, and relations of this country than any which had ever been proposed or suggested. In it s general principles and great outlines it was conformab le to such a system of government as I had ever most es teemed, and in some States, my own native Sta lar, had contributed to establish. Claiming a right of suffrage, in co mmon with my fellow-citizens, in the adoption or rejecti on of a constitution which was to rule me and my posterity, as well as them and theirs, I did not hesi ss my approbation of it on all occasions, in public and in private. It was not then, nor has been since, any objection to it i n my mind that the Executive and Senate were not more permanent. Nor have I ever entertained a th oting any alteration in it but such as the people themselves, in th e course of their experience, should see and feel to be necessary or expedient, and their representatives in Congress and the State legislatures, accor ding to the mode prescribed in it, stitution itself, adopt and ordain. Returning to the bosom of my c ountry after a painful separation from it for ten years, I had the honor to be elected to a station under the new order of things, and I have repeatedly laid of its friends, and from an habitual attention to it, satisfaction in its administration, and delight in i t. What other form of government, indeed, can so well deserve our esteem and love? There may b e most serious obligations to support the Constitution. The operat ion of it has equaled the most sanguine expectations ntelligences, but this is very certain, that to a benevolent human mind there can be no spectacle pr esent ing more pleasing, more noble, majestic, or august, than an assembly uired an habitual attachment to it and veneration for he other Chamber of Congress, of a Government in which the Executive authority, as well as that of e the most pleasing objects in the sight of superior i general good. Can anything more pleasing, anything more magnificent, be ad ded to ent idea that congregations of men into cities and nations ar e like that which has so often been seen in this and t d in remote antiquity than when it springs fresh from the hearts and judgments of an honest an d enligh re pleasing, more noble, majestic, or august, than an assembly ty their neighbors to make and execute laws for the ery legitimate government, under whatever form it may appear. The existence of such a gove rnment ment is, in fact, the foundation of all the blessings of liberty. Ten years ago, the United States, b eing ple ople, and that we are represented. It is their power and maj ds the descends from accidents or institutions establishe ople. What object or consideration more pleasing than this can be presented to the huma n mind? esty that is reflected, and only for their good, in ev on of national innocence, information, and benevolence. In the midst of these pleasing ideas we should be unfai r ge and virtue throughout the whole body of the p y of our free, fair, virtuous, and independent elections. If an election is to be determined by a majority of a si ngle vote, and that can be p roc ured by a me is a full proof of a general dissemination of knowled er or riches, grandeur or glory, but from convicti ty of the ngle vote, and that can be p roc ured by a d or violence, by terror, intrig ue, just ifiable or excusable it is when it springs, not from pow hou ld ever lose sight of the danger to our liberties if anyt hing partial or extraneous should infect the purit ty of the ng ethe choice of a party for its own ends, not ter, the Government may not be the choice of the Am ericanpeople, but of foreign nations. It may be foreign nati ch it may be expose inspired with the same vir terity. In that retirement which i penning from year to year. His name islatures and the people throughout the ode prescribed in it; if a respectful atte outhern, an eastern or western, pos d every institution for propagating kn spirit of party, the spirit of intrigue, t s for necessity, conven determination t o main ess ment (and such are some of the abuses to whi es of Congr them, and power a have b res th nd be d id mperance, and fortitude, conducting a people nations, and secured immortal glory with pos the future fortunes of this country which is o ses of Congress and by the voice of the leg reference, upon principle, of a free republican g ents and wishes of the people, expressed in the m on, without preference or regard to a northern or s age schools, colleges, universities, academies, an m its natural enemies, the spirit of sophistry, the prove agriculture, commerce, and manufacture ens to be more friendly to them; if an inflexible ent and so solemnly sanctioned by both Hous in a residence of seven years chiefly among rica and the internal sentiment of their own gotiation a reparation for the injuries that they may consider what further measu ions, and maintain peace, friendship, a ll and never been deceived; if elevate f the people deeply engraven on my r people who profess and call the

ly with your wishes, it shall be my same American people pledged of my power. And may that Bei cess and effectual guard. w I a and t engag he auspic ue, an m, of virt ing el ed ed ed