

**U.S. DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE:  
“PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS”  
(In perspective of Aristotle and Cicero)**

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Composing the document, the eminent fathers of the American independence emphasized their ideological connections with the antique thinkers. It was particularly true in their basic statement that men: “[...] are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”. Aristotle and Cicero were named among most influential authors of the past.

In Aristotelian texts, the happiness was interpreted in the light of one of crucial concepts of his philosophical system, *completion (entelechy)*. It indicated the motion of every righte-ous thing to its genuine end which was thought to be identical with the universal order led by Natural (or Divine) Law. In social life, the completion was combined with the happiness of communities and human beings reached through high intellectual and moral virtues and relevant habits. The role of outstanding legislators and statesmen was appreciated by Aris-totle as key condition for social progress.

In Cicero’s texts, the concept of happiness was also linked with the Natural Law: “[...] the ultimate good of man is life in accordance with Nature”. The author proceeded from the Stoic theory, viewing in the Universe a republic (consisting of stars, planets, animals, men) led by Logos. Men are held as the main object of Logos emanation, and it is present in their soul as the reasonable part. As a result, virtues; “[...]”

spring from reason, the most divine element in man”. In communal life, the connection with Logos was brought about by outstanding statesmen, who, after death, dwelt in “a high place full of stars, shining and splendid”. They turn into the heavenly patrons of Rome personifying its basic virtues – *virtus*, *gravitas*, *dignitas*, *fides*, *clementia*. *Felicitas* (happiness) was assessed as a balance of them. According to Cicero, the best state form capable to secure the happiness of citizen was the republic with mixed government system uniting the elements of monarchy, aristocracy and democracy.