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Summarize for Comprehension: Daniel Leonard's Letter, January 9, 1775

The security of the people from internal violence, and from	Most important text:
foreign invasion, is the end and design of government. The	
simple forms of government are monarchy, aristocracy and	
democracy, that is, where the authority of the state is vested in	
one, a few, or the many A government, formed upon these	
three principles in due proportion, is the best calculated to	
answer the ends of government, and to endure. Such a	
government is the British constitution, consisting of King, Lords	In your own words
and Commons It is allowed, both by Englishmen and	
foreigners, to be the most perfect system that the wisdom of	
ages has produced. The distributions of power are so just, and	
the proportions so exact, as at once to support and controul	
each other. An Englishman glories in being subject to and	
protected by such a government.	
The colonies are a part of the British empire. The best writers	Most important text:
upon the law of nations tell us, that when a nation takes	
possession of a distant country, and settles there, that country,	
though separated from the mother-country, naturally	
becomes a part of the state, equal with its ancient possessions.	
Two supreme or independent authorities cannot exist in the	
same state If then we are a part of the British empire, we	
must be subject to the supreme power of the state, which is	In your own words:
vested in the estates of parliament	
This doctrine is not new; but the denial of it is. It is beyond a	
doubt that it was the sense both of the parent country and our	
ancestors, that they were to remain subject to parliament It	
is not less our interest, than our duty, to continue subject to the	
authority of parliament	

The principal argument against the authority is this; the Most important text: Americans are entitled to all the privileges of an Englishman. . . . Thus, the supposition of our being independent states, or exempt from the authority of parliament, destroys the very idea of our having a British constitution. . . . it deprives us of the bill of rights, and all the benefits resulting from the revolution, of English laws, and of the British constitution. In your own words: Our patriots have been so intent upon building up American rights, that they have overlooked the rights of Great-Britain, and our own interest. Instead of proving, that we were entitled to privileges which our fathers knew our situation would not admit us to enjoy, they have been arguing away our most essential rights. If there be any grievance, it does not consist in our being Most important text: subject to the authority of parliament, but in our not having an actual representation in it. Were it possible for the colonies to have an equal representation in parliament, and were refused it upon proper application, I confess, I should think it a grievance: But . . . the colonies are distant from Great-Britain a thousand transmarine leagues. If that be the case, the right or privilege In your own words: that we complain of being deprived of, is not withheld by Britain; but the first principles of government, and the immutable laws of nature, render it impossible for us to enjoy it. . . . Allegiance and protection are reciprocal. It is our highest interest to continue a part of the British empire; and equally our duty to remain subject to the authority of parliament. . . . In this case, the major must rule the minor. . . .

