

In Defense of French America's “The Queen of Heaven” & Star of the Seas

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The End of the Era of Forced Colonialism, American Suppression, History Erasure, Intellectual Property Theft, and Slavery

The historical origins of the Statue of Liberty deserve to be preserved and accurately represented.

The monument was conceived by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi as a gift from France to the United States, symbolizing liberty, friendship between the two nations, and the ideals associated with American independence. Its artistic influences drew upon Bartholdi's heritage, and ancestry, the classical Greek, Roman, and Egyptian traditions that inspired his vision.

Over time, many individuals, writers, *anarchist activists*, and political movements have interpreted the Statue of Liberty through their own *religious and ideological* perspectives. While many of these interpretations have been positive or historically significant, later perspectives, including those associated with figures such as Emma Goldman, should be **clearly distinguished** from the monument's original purpose and historical context.

Historical interpretation should preserve the distinction between the statue's French and American origins and later political or philosophical commentaries. Maintaining that distinction allows the public to better understand both the monument's creation and the evolution of its symbolism over time. For many Acadians and others of French heritage, the Statue of Liberty has represented liberation from oppression, war, and slavery. It has stood as a symbol of friendship between the French and American peoples and of the enduring ideals of liberty.

During a time when, Russian anarchist activists are targeting Americans, including Acadians, through modern forms of slavery, exploitation, and ideological conflict, preserving the original historical meaning of the Statue of Liberty is more important than ever.

The monument's creator, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, lived through the profound consequences of the Franco-Prussian War. France's defeat resulted in the annexation of his *native region of Alsace* by the newly unified *German Empire*. Like many people from the region, Bartholdi experienced the personal and national upheaval that followed the war. These events reinforced his commitment to the ideals of liberty, *national identity*, and the enduring friendship between France and the United States, which were reflected in his vision for the Statue of Liberty.

Proposal and Petition

This petition requests that educational materials and interpretive displays associated with the Statue of Liberty clearly distinguish between the monument's original French and American historical purpose and later interpretations by political activists, writers, or commentators.

The goal is to remove later interpretations associated with Russian anarchist activism from the monument's official historical interpretation, ensuring that they are not presented as part of the monument's original meaning. The two were very separate histories and interpretations.

- Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi (French creator, French and American slavery abolitionist)
- Emma Goldman (Anarchist who forged over original intent and meaning, intellectual property theft)