

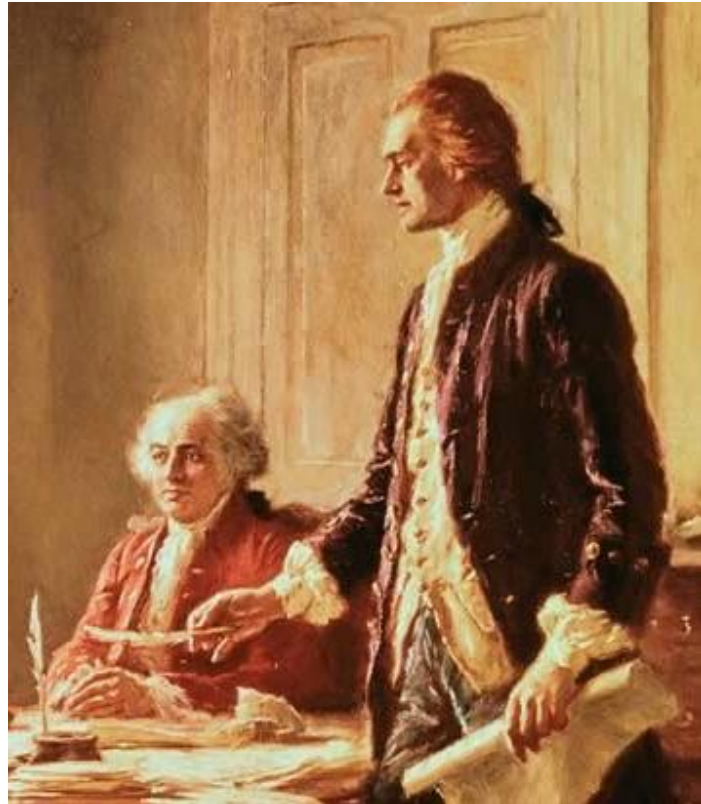
**American Minute with Bill Federer**  
**JEFFERSON & ADAMS - 50 years after the**  
**Declaration of Independence - they died on SAME**  
**DAY, July 4, 1826**

Both served in the Continental Congress.

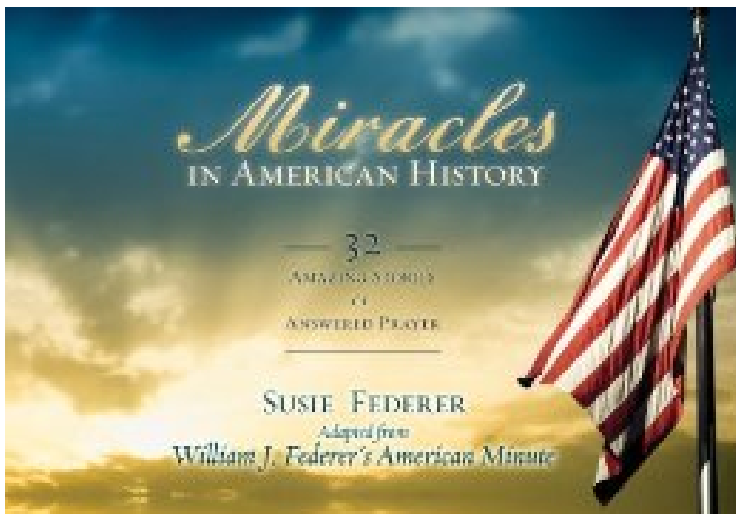
Both signed the Declaration of Independence.

Both served as U.S. Ministers in France.

Both were U.S. Presidents, one elected the **2nd President** and the other the **3rd**.



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[Miracles in American History](#)

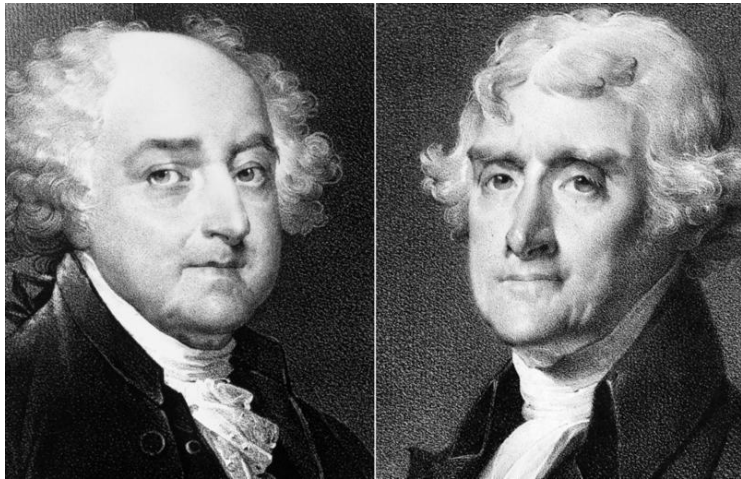
Once political

enemies, they became close friends in later life.

An awe swept America when **they both died on the same day, JULY 4, 1826, exactly 50 years since they approved the Declaration of Independence.**

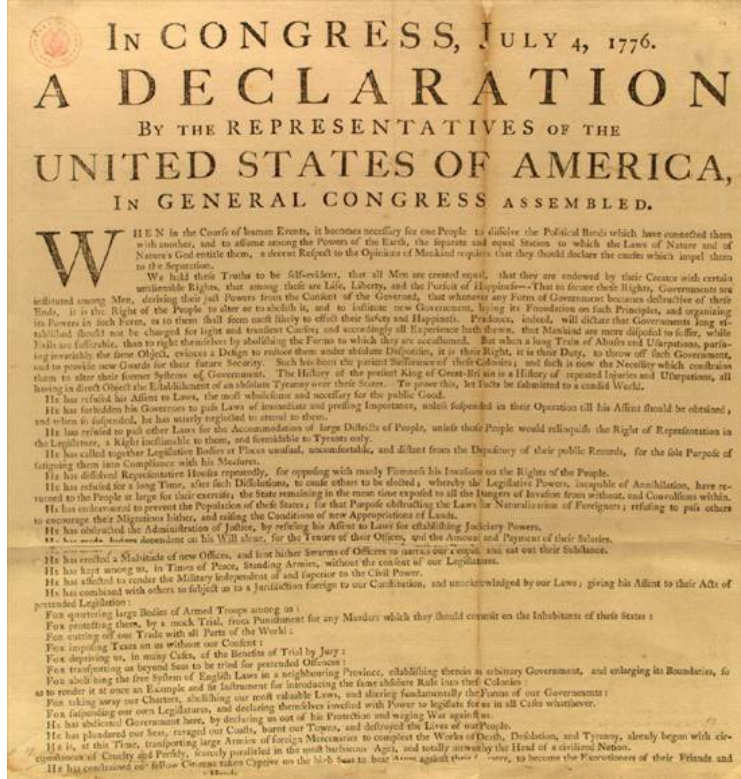


Their names were **John Adams** and **Thomas Jefferson.**



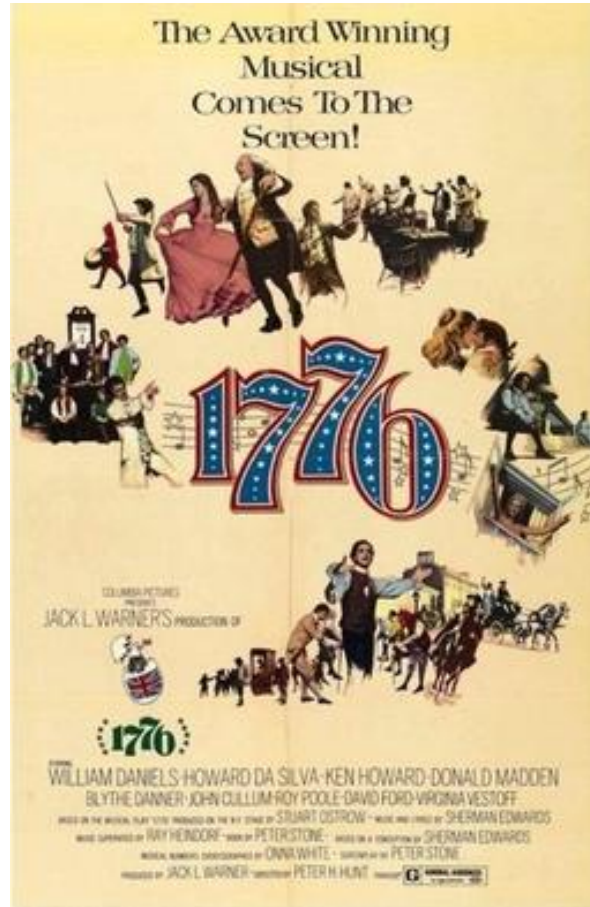
**Thomas Jefferson's** handwritten Declaration of Independence used the wording "**inalienable** rights" as seen in the copies at the American

Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, the New York Public Library, and the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston.



John Adams hand copied Jefferson's original draft and changed the spelling to "unalienable rights" when he oversaw the printing of the Declaration on the Dunlap broadside.

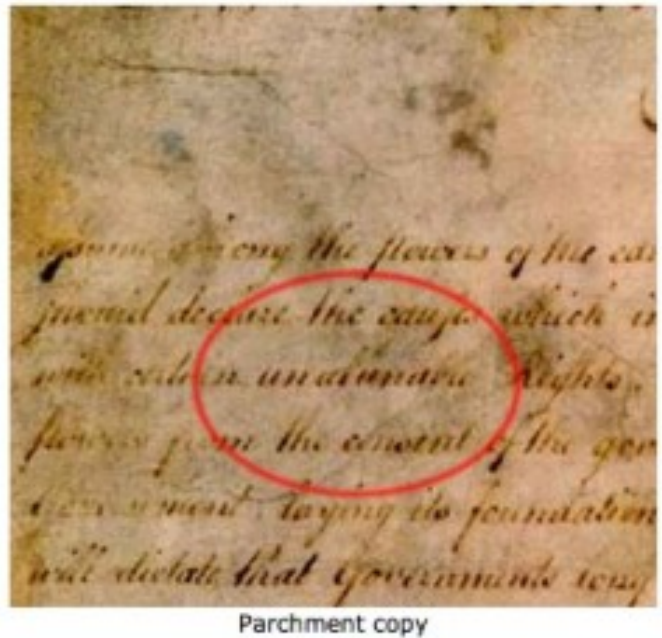
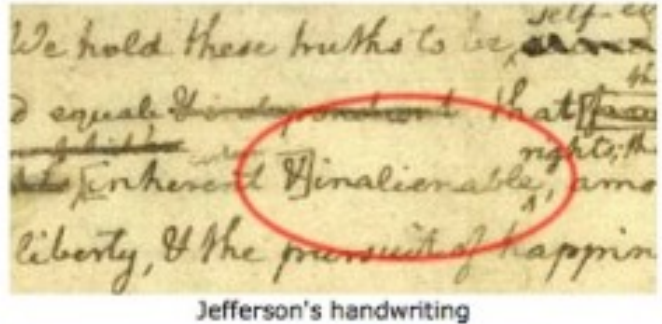
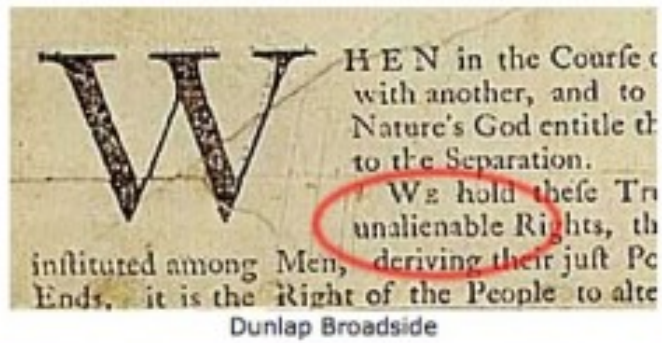
The Broadway musical **1776** even has a scene portraying their disagreement over the spelling.



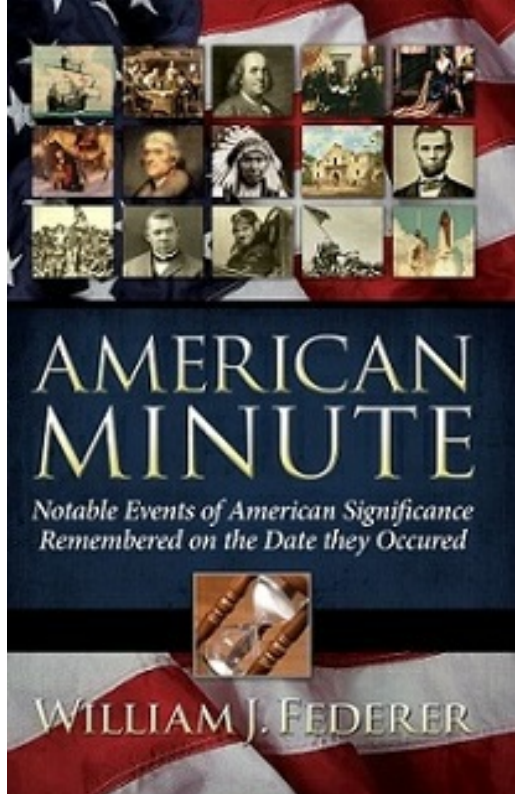
According to *The American Heritage Guide to Contemporary Usage and Style* (Houghton Mifflin

Co.), "unalienable" and "inalienable" both mean:

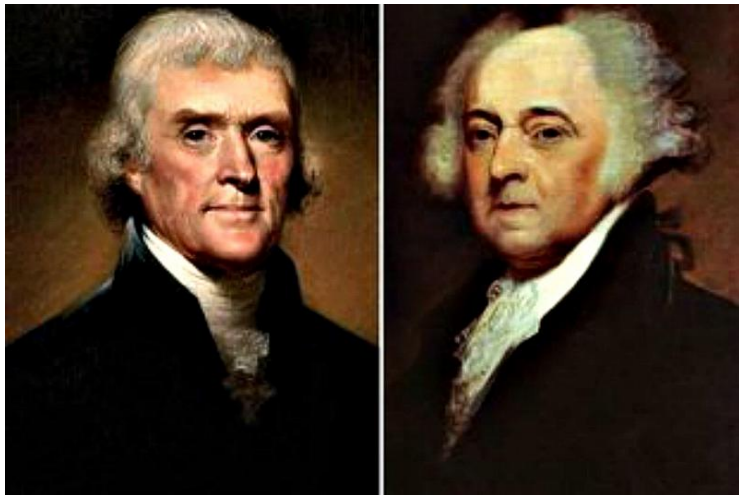
"that which cannot be given away or taken away."



[American Minute-Notable  
Events of American  
Significance Remembered on  
the Date They Occurred](#)



**John Quincy Adams**, son of **John Adams**, was the 6th President at the time and told Congress, December 5, 1826:



"Since your last meeting at this place, the **50th anniversary** of the **day** when **our independence was declared ...**

**two of the principal actors** in that solemn scene -- the **HAND** that **penned the ever-memorable Declaration** and the **VOICE** that **sustained it in debate --**

were by one summons, at the distance of 700 miles from each other, called before the **Judge of All** to account for their **deeds done upon earth."**

**John Quincy Adams** wrote in an Executive

Order, July 11,  
1826:

"A **coincidence** ...  
so wonderful gives  
confidence ... that  
**the patriotic  
efforts of these ...  
men were Heaven  
directed**, and  
furnishes a **new ...**

**hope** that the **prosperity of these States** is under the  
**special protection of a kind Providence.**"



Jefferson described  
**Adams** as:

"the **pillar of the  
Declaration's  
support** on the floor  
of Congress, its  
**ablest advocate and  
defender.**"



Defending the  
Declaration, **John  
Adams** told the  
Continental  
Congress, July 1,  
1776:

"Before **God**, I  
believe the hour has  
come ...

All that I have, and **all that I am, and all that I hope in this life**, I am now ready here to **stake upon it**

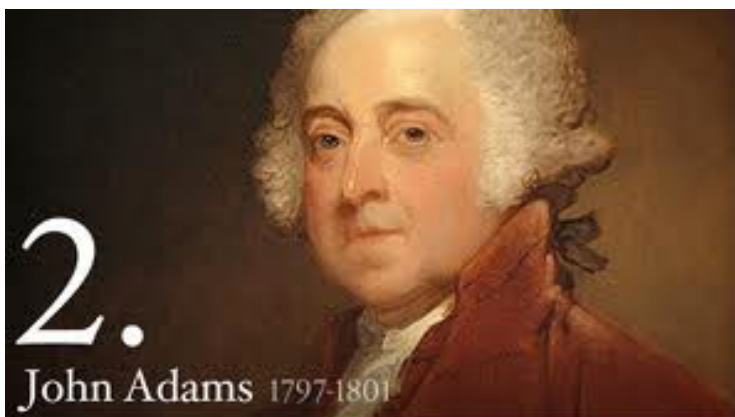
...



... **Live or die**, survive or perish, I am for the **Declaration**. It is my living sentiment, and by the blessing of **God** it shall be my dying sentiment.



Independence now, and **Independence for ever!**"



**John Adams** stated, June 21, 1776:

"Statesmen, my dear Sir, may plan and speculate for **liberty**, but it is

**Religion and Morality alone**, which can establish the Principles upon which **Freedom can securely stand**.

The **only foundation** of a free Constitution is **pure Virtue**,

and if this cannot be inspired into our People ... they may change their Rulers and the forms of Government, but they will not obtain a **lasting liberty.**"

In 1819, **John Adams** wrote to **Jefferson**:

"Have you ever found in history, one single example of a **nation thoroughly corrupted** that was afterwards restored to virtue?



... And **without virtue**, there can be **no political liberty**  
...

Will you tell me how to **prevent luxury** from **producing effeminacy, intoxication, extravagance, vice and folly**? ... No effort in favor of **virtue is lost.**"

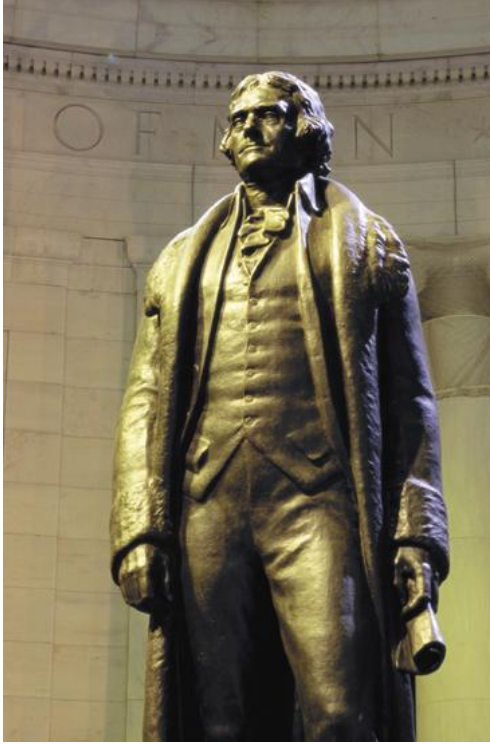
The **Jefferson Memorial** has a warning from **Jefferson**:

**"God** who gave us life gave us **liberty.**

Can the **liberties** of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these **liberties** are the **gift of God**?

Indeed **I tremble for my country** when I reflect that





**God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever."**

Inscribed on the **Jefferson Memorial** on the south banks of Washington D.C.'s Tidal Basin, are **Jefferson's** words:



**"Almighty God** hath created the mind free ...

All attempts to influence it by temporal punishments or burdens ... are a departure from the plan of the **Holy Author of our religion** ...

... No man ... shall otherwise **suffer** on account of his **religious opinions** or belief, but all men shall be **free to profess** and by argument to maintain, their **opinions** in



matters of religion."



After **Abigail Adams** died in 1818, **John** wrote to **Jefferson**:

"I do not know how to prove physically, that we shall **meet and know each other in a future state**; nor does Revelation, as I can find, give us any **positive assurance of such a felicity**.

**My reasons for believing it, as I do most undoubtedly**, are that **I cannot conceive** such a **Being** could make such a species as the **human, merely to live and die on this earth**.

**If I did not believe in a future state**, I should believe in no God. This Universe, this all would appear, with all of its swelling pomp, a boyish firework.

And if there be a **future state**, why should the **Almighty** dissolve forever **all the tender ties which unite us so delightfully in this world**, and forbid us to see each other in the next?"

**Jefferson** replied, assuring **Adams**:

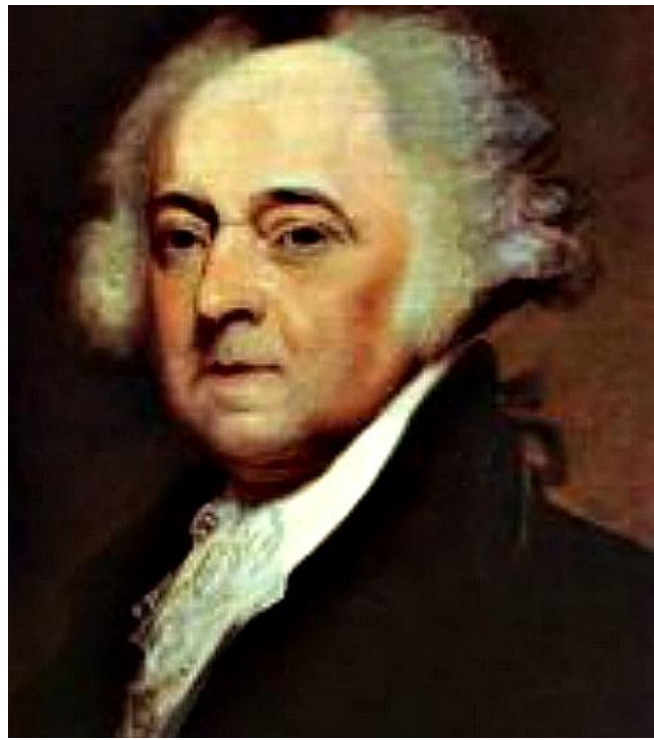
"It is of some **comfort** to us both that the term is not very distant at which **we are to deposit**, in the same cerement, our sorrows and **suffering bodies**,

and to **ascend in essence to an ecstatic meeting with the friends we have loved & lost** and whom **we shall still love and never lose again.**"



**John Adams'** last words were:

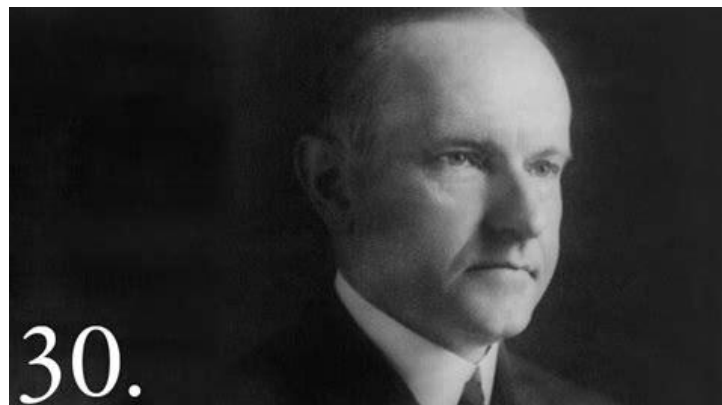
"Thank **God**, Jefferson lives!"



In his last letter, **Jefferson** reiterated his rejection of overpowering government, as he told Roger C. Weightman, June 24, 1826:

"The mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few booted and spurred, ready to ride them."

**Calvin Coolidge**, the only President born on July 4th, stated at the 150th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, 1926:



"The principles ... which went into the **Declaration of Independence** ... are found in ... the **sermons** ... of the **early colonial clergy** who were earnestly undertaking to instruct their **congregations** in the great mystery of how to live.

**They preached equality** because they believed in the **fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man** ...

They justified freedom by the text that **we are all created in the divine image** ...

This preaching reached the neighborhood of **Thomas Jefferson**, who acknowledged that **his 'best ideas of democracy'** had been secured at **church meetings.**"



An item of interest is that five years after **Adams** and **Jefferson** died, the fifth **President James Monroe**, died on JULY 4, 1831.

**James Monroe** stated in his Eighth Annual Message to Congress, December 7, 1824

"For these blessings we owe to **Almighty God**, from whom we derive

them, and with **profound reverence**, our most **grateful** and **unceasing acknowledgments** ...

Having commenced my service in early youth, and continued it since with few and short intervals, **I have witnessed the great difficulties to which our Union has been exposed**, and admired the virtue and intelligence with which they have been surmounted ...

That these blessings may be preserved and perpetuated will be the object of my fervent and unceasing prayers to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe."

--

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