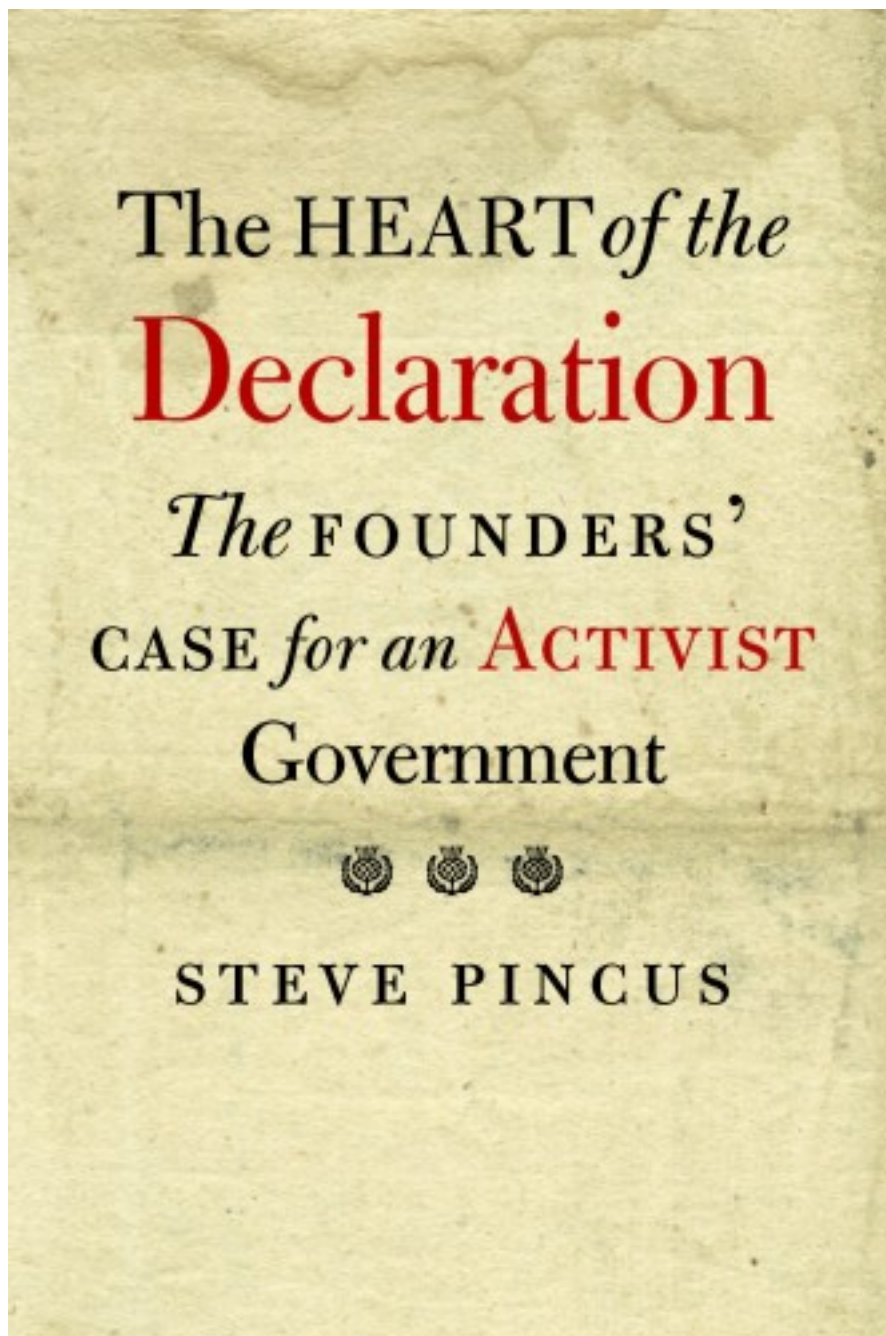


## The Heart of the Declaration: The Founders' Case for an Activist Government



September 16, 2016

Join us for this Arts and Humanities Book Talk on Tuesday, September 20, at 4:30pm in the Sterling Memorial Library Lecture Hall.

From one election cycle to the next, a defining question continues to divide the country's political parties: Should the government play a major or a minor role in the lives of American citizens? The Declaration of Independence has long been invoked as a philosophical treatise in favor of limited government. Yet the bulk of the document is a discussion of policy, in which the Founders outlined the failures of the British imperial government. Above all, they declared, the British state since 1760 had done too little to promote the prosperity of its American subjects. Looking beyond the Declaration's frequently cited opening paragraphs, Steve Pincus reveals how the document is actually a blueprint for a government with extensive powers to promote and protect the people's welfare. By examining the

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Declaration in the context of British imperial debates, Pincus offers a nuanced portrait of the Founders' intentions with profound political implications for today.

Light refreshments will be served before the talk. All are welcome!

**Source URL:** <https://web.library.yale.edu/news/2016/09/heart-declaration-founders-case-activist-government>