

Thought Experiment Analyses of MLK 'I Have a Dream'

ABSTRACT (148 words)

In this paper—which is derived from lectures and seminars for ... in 2013--we identify, analyze and interpret Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 speech *I Have a Dream* as a thought experiment. Though there have been many religious and theological interpretations of the famous speech, we don't find any indications in this direction (apart from a couple of references to the Bible since Rev. King was a Baptist minister).

Instead we analyze it as a double modus ponens--or traditional syllogism Barbara--with as majors two phrases from article 1 of the USA 1776 *Declaration of Independence* and United Nations 1948 *Declaration of Human Rights*, featuring on equality and liberty.

In the interpretations we discuss some historical faults of logic and science, and try and answer the crucial question at the 50th anniversary of the speech in 2013 whether MLK's dream has become true 50 years later.