

Second Continental Congress

FOCUS: What three things were accomplished during the Second Continental Congress?

1. Sent the Olive Branch Petition to King George III
2. Adopted the Massachusetts militia as the continental army
3. Appointed George Washington as commander of the continental army

According to King George III's response to the Olive Branch Petition... the men involved would be charged with TREASON, and the punishment would be death by HANGING.

Common Sense

What effect did "Common Sense" have on the colonists?

- Author: THOMAS PAINE
- Encourages the move towards INDEPENDENCE
 - Argued:
CITIZENS SHOULD MAKE LAWS, NOT KINGS AND QUEENS
- Produced 500,000 copies in just 6 short months.
 - Used BIBLE verses instead of Greek and Latin literature.

John Adams Clips

Major colonies in FAVOR of independence

1. MASSACHUSETTS
2. VIRGINIA

Major colonies AGAINST independence

1. PENNSYLVANIA (except B. Franklin)
2. SOUTH CAROLINA
3. NEW YORK

Who does John Adams recruit to be the "writer" of the Declaration of Independence?
THOMAS JEFFERSON

Who else serves on the committee for independence?

JOHN ADAMS (MA), BEN FRANKLIN (PA), ROBERT LIVINGSON (NY), and ROGER SHERMAN (CT)

Declaration of Independence

Mr. Dickinson's Concerns

- INDIANS and SLAVES may rise up against us.
- NEW YORK will be destroyed.
- FOREIGN ALLIES will try to take us over.
- Colonies may SPLIT.

John Adams' Closing Argument

- Create a new nation
- Republic based on LAWS, not men
- Opportunity to choose a CHOOSE A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN

July 2, 1776

NH	RI	MA	NY	CT	NJ	PA	DE	VA	MD	NC	SC	GA
yes	yes	yes	abstain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Who is not present at the vote? MR. DICKINSON (PA)

APPROVED on JULY 4, 1776

JOHN HANCOCK signed his name differently from the other signers.

Why did he do so?

- PRESIDENT OF THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS
- WANTED TO MAKE SURE KING GEORGE III WAS ABLE TO READ HIS NAME WITHOUT HIS GLASSES ON

Declaration of Rights

We hold these truths to be SELF-EVIDENT,

that all MEN are created EQUAL;

that they are endowed by their CREATOR with certain UNALIENABLE rights;

that among these are LIFE, LIBERTY and the pursuit of HAPPINESS.