

2HSEO07

MODERN INDIAN HISTORY

OPEN ELECTIVE (SEM V-2022)

TERM ASSIGNMENT:

1776 (Movie based on American revolution)

PREPARED BY:

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1776



This is a musical / drama genre film based on some true events of **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION** OR **American War of Independence** .

Events presented in this movie:

- Battle of lexington and concord (1774)
- Meeting of second continental congress (May 1776 - July 1776)
- Drafting the written declaration of independence (June 1776 - July 1776)
- Adoption of declaration of independence (4th July 1776)



[Events timeline diagram of 1776-movie]

Major characters:

- John Adams:

He is one of the great initiators of the spark of independence, equality and freedom among the people. He is a remarkable philosopher and one who suggested the declaration of independence in continental congress for the first time. Other hand he was disliked and had controversy with other congress members.

- Benjamin Franklin

He is also one of the great philosophers. He helped John Adams to propose the idea of independence in the second continental congress and Thomas Jefferson to write the declaration of independence.

- Thomas Jefferson

The big brain behind the written declaration of independence was Thomas Jefferson. He represented Virginia in the second continental congress.

- John Hancock

He is the president of the second continental congress. While voting for the proposal he tried to retain the unity and harmony among the colonies. He believed that all colonies should have equal opinion regarding the idea of independence.

- Richard Henry Lee

Richard is truly responsible for presenting the idea of independence to the second continental congress because other members had conflict with John Adams. He was convinced by Benjamin Franklin for that proposal.

Summary:

John Adams hanging out at the tall bell tower in Philadelphia on 8th May, 1776. At the time the building was not called Independence Hall, it was called Pennsylvania State Hall. Adams went down stairs and there was a meeting in the hall. John was passionate and energetic about independence, in spite of the fact that other members disliked and disagreed with him. John was a lawyer and like any good lawyer he decided to stand for truth. He decided to represent the British soldiers in the trial against the British officers firing on the Americans during the Boston Massacre. Adams begins as one of the biggest proponents of independence. There were over 50 members in the second continental congress including Sam Adams, Robert Paine and Elbridge Gerry. In the movie Adams' character is more composite. Adams left the hall. In the next scene Adams went to meet Benjamin Franklin. Benjamin Franklin was a proponent of the independence but they were not on the same side. Benjamin Franklin believed John was outspoken and passionate. John believed that Ben was too easy-going and aloof. Franklin suggests that a resolution for independence would have more success if proposed by someone else because nobody agreed with John Adams for independence. Adams suggested the declaration of independence by Jefferson.

On 7th June, 1776, Benjamin Franklin and Adams took part in a meeting of congress. The New Jersey and Virginia delegates were absent so 11 colonies were present at that time. The remaining delegates were debating regarding the proposal of independence. Voting was conducted for the declaration of independence suggested by Richard Henry Lee. 6 colonies voted in favor of independence and 5 colonies voted to postpone the proposal. Without proper approval, Dickinson says, any colony voting in favor of remaining part of England would be forced to fight alongside her, putting brothers against one another. Adams got furious and explained the importance of independence. Hancock (president of the congress) declared the postponement of the proposal of independence because they believed that all colonies should have only the same opinion.

Now, the biggest uncertainty was who would write the declaration? as Adam and John Hancock advised that declaration should be written to clearly explain the goals. John Hancock appoints a committee of Adams, Franklin, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Robert Livingston of New York, and Jefferson to draft the declaration. Committee members refused and pointed out to each other for writing the declaration of independence. Jefferson was appointed to write the declaration of independence although tried to wriggle out of the responsibility, pleading that he had not seen his wife in six months. So Martha, who was the wife of Jefferson, was brought with Jefferson.

On 22nd June, 1776 congress met again, Worried Adams sent Thomas McKean to convince George Read and Franklin to convince James Wilson of Pennsylvania and himself to convince Samuel Chase. The remaining delegates in favor of independence also left the chamber. There were courier and workman talking about Lexington and Concord war, their closest friends were killed at Lexington at same day, they were anxious about war and wanted peaceful and harmony. Jefferson was outside the chamber where Mr. Thomson, the secretary, reads the declaration to congress. Samuel Chase and Maryland would

vote in favor of independence. Everyone congratulated Jefferson for his excellent work.

On 28th June, 1776, John Hancock asked if there were any alterations to the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson accepted each delegates' suggestions. Edward Rutledge of South Carolina suggested to remove the clause that blaming the slave trade. When this clause was not removed, the delegates of the Carolinas and Georgia walked out of Congress. Franklin told Adams that the slavery clause must be removed and clarified to him that the major issue is independence. Adams sat alone in the chamber and sang a song which declared the vision of his new country. Dr. Lyman Hall of Georgia walked over to the tally board and changed Georgia's vote to "yes".

On 2nd July, 1776, Hancock called for the vote on the Lee Resolution. All northern and middle colonies voted "yes". When the vote reached to South Carolina, Rutledge again demanded for removal of the slavery clause. Adams told Jefferson for changes, then Rutledge and the Carolinas voted "yes". The last Pennsylvania left for voting. Adams angrily told Wilson that it would be a pity for you who had handed down hundreds of wise decisions. Wilson didn't want to be remembered as "The man who prevented American Independence" and voted "yes". Motion was passed.

On the next day, 3rd July, 1776, Hancock led the delegates in signing the Declaration, but he was interrupted by the courier. On the evening of July 4, 1776 The Liberty Bell was rung as each of the delegates signed their names on the Declaration of Independence.

Difference b/w some events of real History & scenes of The 1776 (Movie) :

- The second continental congress that is described in the movie has John Adams who is the only one who represents the Massachusetts delegation but in reality Sam Adams , Robert Paine and Elbridge Gerry are also representatives of the Massachusetts delegation.
- John Adams and his wife Abigail Adams communicate with each other through letters and used to discuss family , society , Salt-pitter and independence but in the movie they duet and meet face-to-face .
- Stephen Hopkins who is from Rhode islands is characterized as a happy and funny drunk man who creates some comedy between boring scenes of movies but he was a knowledgeable and talented person in real life.
- The character of Dickinson played as “ Villain ” in the story. He strongly opposed independence . He wished for reconciliation with England, not revolution . He is described as a more dark hero and rival to John Adams , in the movie they both argue a lot and fight like childrens .
- The character of Thomas Jefferson played as a very silent , soft and introverted gentleman . He is described as uxorious but his wife was ill at that time so he just worried about her and wanted to meet her.

