

JOHN ADAMS

He UNITED The states of America

John Adams, David McCullough's Pulitzer Prize-winning book and one of the best-selling American historical biographies of all time, comes to the screen as a seven-part HBO Films miniseries.

John Adams chronicles the life of this remarkable historical figure, a man whose fiercely independent spirit, reverence for the rule of law and commitment to personal liberty profoundly influenced the values on which our country was founded. The miniseries also explores the extraordinary relationship between Adams and Abigail, his wife of 54 years, a partnership regarded as one of the most moving love stories in American history.

David McCullough

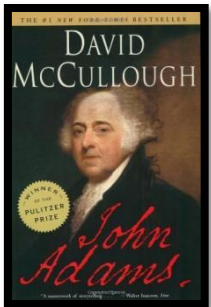


The Pulitzer Prize-winning, bestselling biography of America's founding father and second president that was the basis for the acclaimed HBO series, brilliantly told by master historian David McCullough.

In this powerful, epic biography, David McCullough unfolds the adventurous life journey of John Adams, the brilliant, fiercely independent, often irascible, always honest Yankee patriot who spared nothing in his zeal for the American Revolution; who rose to become the second president of the United States and saved the country from blundering into an unnecessary war; who was learned beyond all but a few and regarded by some as "out of his senses"; and whose marriage to the wise and valiant Abigail Adams is one of the moving love stories in American history.

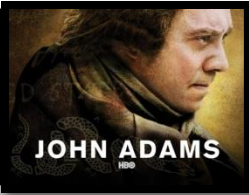
This is history on a grand scale—a book about politics and war and social issues, but also about human nature, love, religious faith, virtue, ambition, friendship, and betrayal, and the far-reaching consequences of noble ideas. Above all, *John Adams* is an enthralling, often surprising story of one of the most important and fascinating Americans who ever lived.

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Join, or Die

This famous political cartoon—the first in American history—was drawn by Benjamin Franklin and published in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* on May 9, 1754. This woodcut shows a snake cut into eight parts, each of which represents a British colony in America. In an editorial that accompanied the cartoon, Franklin urged colonists to band together against the French and Indians, who were clashing with colonists over land rights. Shortly after this cartoon was published, the French and Indian War began, and American and British troops joined forces to fight against Native American and French soldiers. The cartoon was later widely used during the American Revolution, when it took on a different meaning. Paul Revere created a version in which the snake is seen fighting a British dragon.



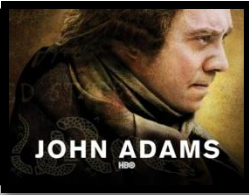
Timeline 1763-1769

1763	1764	1765	1766	1767	1768	1769
The Proclamation of 1763, signed by King George III of England, prohibits any English settlement west of the Appalachian mountains and requires those already settled in those regions to return east in an attempt to ease tensions with Native Americans.	The Sugar Act	The Stamp Act is passed by the English Parliament imposing the first direct tax on the American colonies, to offset the high costs of the British military organization in America.	In March, King George III signs a bill repealing the Stamp Act. On the same day it repealed the Stamp Act, the English Parliament passes the Declaratory Act stating that the British government has total power to legislate any laws governing the American colonies.	In June, The English Parliament passes the Townshend Revenue Acts		
		In March, the Quartering Act requires colonists to house British troops and supply them with food.				
		In July, the Sons of Liberty, an underground organization opposed to the Stamp Act, is formed in a number of colonial towns. Its members use violence and intimidation to eventually force all of the British stamp agents to resign and also stop many American merchants from ordering British trade goods.				



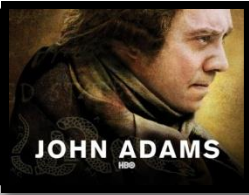
Timeline 1770-1774

1770	1771	1772	1773	1774
The “Boston Massacre” occurs as a mob harasses British soldiers who then fire their muskets pointblank into the crowd.			May 10, the Tea Act takes effect. It gives the near bankrupt British East India Company a virtual tea monopoly by allowing it to sell directly to colonial agents, bypassing any middlemen, thus underselling American merchants. The East India Company had successfully lobbied Parliament for such a measure. In September, Parliament authorizes the company to ship half a million pounds of tea to a group of chosen tea agents.	In March, an angry English Parliament passes the first of a series of what the colonists call “Intolerable Acts” in response to the rebellion in Massachusetts. The Boston Port Bill effectively shuts down all commercial shipping in Boston harbor until Massachusetts pays the taxes owed on the tea dumped in the harbor and also reimburses the East India Company for the loss of the tea.
In April, the Townshend Acts are repealed by the British. All duties on imports into the colonies are eliminated except for tea. Also, the Quartering Act is not renewed.			About 8000 Bostonians gather to hear Sam Adams tell them Royal Governor Hutchinson has repeated his command not to allow the ships out of the harbor until the tea taxes are paid. That night, the Boston Tea Party occurs as colonial activists disguise themselves as Mohawk Indians then board the ships and dump all 342 containers of tea into the harbor.	May 17-23, colonists in Providence, New York and Philadelphia begin calling for an intercolonial congress to overcome the “Intolerable Acts” and discuss a common course of action against the British.
In October, trial begins for the British soldiers arrested after the Boston Massacre. Colonial lawyer John Adams successfully defend Captain Preston and six of his men, who are acquitted. Two other soldiers are found guilty of manslaughter, branded, then released.				September 5 to October 26, the First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia with 56 delegates, representing every colony, except Georgia. Attendants include Patrick Henry, George Washington, Sam Adams and John Hancock.

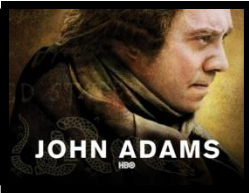






Timeline 1775-1776

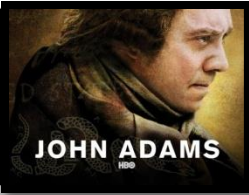
1775	1776
<p>April 14, 1775 - Massachusetts Governor Gage is secretly ordered by the British to suppress "open rebellion" among colonists by using all necessary force.</p>	<p>Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" published</p>
<p>April 18, 1775 - General Gage orders 700 British soldiers to Concord to destroy the colonists' weapons depot. That night, Paul Revere and William Dawes are sent from Boston to warn colonists. Revere reaches Lexington about midnight and warns Sam Adams and John Hancock who are hiding out there. At dawn on April 19 about 70 armed Massachusetts militiamen stand face to face on Lexington Green with the British advance guard. An unordered 'shot heard around the world' begins the American Revolution. The British regroup and head for the depot in Concord, destroying the colonists' weapons and supplies. British forces then begin a long retreat from Lexington back to Boston and are harassed and shot at all along the way by farmers and rebels and suffer over 250 casualties.</p>	<p>July 4: Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence</p>
<p>May 10, 1775 - The Second Continental Congress convenes in Philadelphia, with John Hancock elected as its president. On May 15, the Congress places the colonies in a state of defense. On June 15, the Congress unanimously votes to appoint George Washington general and commander-in-chief of the new Continental Army.</p>	<p>July 8: The Declaration of Independence is read publicly</p>
<p>June 17, 1775 - The first major fight between British and American troops occurs at Boston in the Battle of Bunker Hill.</p>	<p>Sept. 15: The British occupy New York City</p>
<p>July 3, 1775 - At Cambridge, Massachusetts, George Washington takes command of the Continental Army which now has about 17,000 men.</p>	<p>Oct. 28: The Americans retreat from White Plains, New York.</p>
<p>July 5, 1775 - The Continental Congress adopts the Olive Branch Petition which expresses hope for a reconciliation with Britain, appealing directly to the King for help in achieving this.</p>	<p>Dec. 26: Washington crosses the Delaware and captures Trenton from Hessians</p>



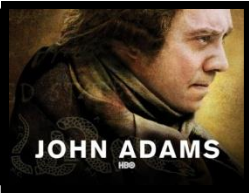
			
<p>John Adams played by Paul Giamatti</p> <p>A lawyer and fiercely independent man who had a reverence for the law and personal liberty. A delegate to the first and second Continental Congress and the leading advocate for independence, Adams was a man marked by contradictions. His Yankee humility and frugality were at odds with his ambition and desire for renown, and his commitment to intellectual rigor was sometimes at odds with his zest for life. His ally in all of his endeavors was his wife and closest confidante Abigail, who raised their four children. Adams was named Minister Plenipotentiary to France and America's first Minister to the Court of St. James's; elected the first Vice President and second President of the United States; and, incredibly, died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence - the same day as Thomas Jefferson.</p>	<p>Abigail Adams played by Laura Linney</p> <p>John Adams' beloved wife and indispensable advisor for 54 years. Educated entirely at home, she was intelligent, tender, sensible, and as avid about learning as her husband. During Adams' long absences, the devoted, courageous Abigail managed the family, farm and finances under the duress of wartime. She joined her husband for a time in Europe, where she delighted in the arts and culture and formed a close bond with Thomas Jefferson. Abigail abhorred slavery and the inequality of women and proved to be one of the most involved and effective first ladies ever.</p>	<p>Thomas Jefferson played by Stephen Dillane</p> <p>A delegate to the second Continental Congress and, at Adams' insistence, author of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson, too, was a man marked by contradictions. His attraction to the sophisticated offerings of European cities was at odds with his belief in the yeoman farmer as the wellspring of virtue; his instinctive support of rebellion was at odds with his tendency to avoid personal conflict; and his aristocratic upbringing and his position as a leading Virginia landowner and slaveholder were at odds with his belief in individual rights and equality. He grew apart from Adams as their beliefs on the direction of America's government diverged, and served as Adams' contentious Vice President and as the third President of the United States.</p>	<p>Sam Adams played by Danny Huston</p> <p>Adams's cousin and the leader of the rebellious pro-independence Sons of Liberty. Samuel Adams recruited John Adams to the "great and common cause" of American liberty. He joined his cousin as one of the delegates to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia and signed the Declaration of Independence.</p>



			
<p>George Washington played by David Morse</p>	<p>Abigail "Nabby" Adams Smith played by Sarah Polley</p>	<p>Benjamin Franklin played by Tom Wilkinson</p>	<p>Alexander Hamilton played by Rufus Sewell</p>
<p>A delegate to the first Continental Congress from Virginia. Washington was nominated to be Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army by Adams, and subsequently led the Americans to victory over the British after the long, costly struggle of the American Revolutionary War. Elected the first President of the United States, Washington set the standard for America's Chief Executive and provided an all-important symbol of unity in a time of growing political divisiveness. During his presidency, Washington often consulted Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson, but to his great frustration, usually ignored Adams. He left the Presidency after two terms to return to his home at Mount Vernon.</p>	<p>Daughter and eldest child of John and Abigail Adams. Wise and mature, Nabby provided comfort and support to Abigail during Adams' frequent long absences. Married Col. William Smith, a former officer in the Continental Army and private secretary to John Adams during his service as first ambassador to the Court of St. James's.</p>	<p>A Pennsylvania delegate to the second Continental Congress, the witty and politically shrewd Franklin helped Adams steer the colonies toward a unanimous declaration of independence from Great Britain. As ministers to France however, Franklin and Adams often clashed over their negotiating strategy and style, leading to Adams' departure from the French Court. Franklin's enormous popularity continually aroused Adams's jealousy.</p>	<p>Served as George Washington's aide de camp during the Revolutionary War. As Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton was President Washington's closest political and military advisor. Hamilton advocated the establishment of a strong central government, a national bank and the formation of an American army. His frequent clashes with Thomas Jefferson over the most fundamental political questions led to the establishment of the two-party system in American politics. His vitriolic attack on Adams during the 1800 election may have cost Adams the presidency.</p>



					
<p>John Dickinson played by Zeljko Ivanek</p>	<p>John Quincy Adams played by Ebon Moss-Bachrach</p>	<p>Jonathan Sewall played by Guy Henry</p>	<p>Madame Helvétius played by Judith Magre</p>	<p>Timothy Pickering played by John Keating</p>	<p>Dr. Benjamin Rush played by John Dossett</p>
<p>Represented Pennsylvania in the first Continental Congress. A learned and respected Philadelphia attorney, Dickinson strongly supported colonial rights, but was also the leading advocate of reconciliation with Great Britain. He was Adams's chief opponent in the debate over independence. After independence was declared, Dickinson served as an officer in the Continental Army.</p>	<p>Eldest son of John and Abigail Adams. A very intelligent boy, he traveled with his father to France and the Netherlands during the Revolution. At age 14, John Quincy was selected to serve as an interpreter for the American emissary to the court of Catherine the Great at St. Petersburg. Trained in the law, he served as: ambassador to the Netherlands under George Washington; United States Senator; Secretary of State; and sixth President of the United States.</p>	<p>Tory Attorney General for Massachusetts colony and a long-time friend of Adams. Impressed with Adams' defense of the British soldiers accused of murder in the Boston Massacre trial, Sewall offered him a position with the crown, which Adams refused. Sewall left for London at the start of the Revolution. He never returned to America.</p>	<p>Anne-Catherine de Ligniville d'Autricourt married the philosopher Helvétius in 1751. She was a descendant of Austrian nobility known by her married name, Madame Helvétius. Outgoing, exuberant and earthy, she maintained a salon which featured many of the great figures of the Enlightenment for over five decades.</p>	<p>Timothy Pickering was a politician from Massachusetts who served in a variety of roles, most notably as the third United States Secretary of State, serving in that office from 1795 to 1800 under Presidents George Washington and John Adams. After disputes with President John Adams over Adams's plan to make peace with France, Pickering was dismissed from office in May 1800.</p>	<p>Physician, writer, educator, and Humanitarian, Rush was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a strong proponent of Pennsylvania's adoption of a new federal Constitution in 1787. Today, Rush is best known as the man who helped reconcile Thomas Jefferson and John Adams in 1812</p>

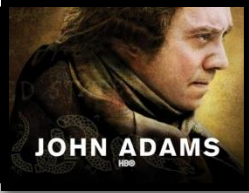


“People and nations are forged in the fires of adversity.”
– John Adams

Part 1 “Join or Die”

Boston: In the aftermath of the Boston Massacre - a deadly street confrontation between American colonists and an occupying British brigade - John Adams, a farmer/lawyer who has moved his family into Boston to establish his legal career, takes an unpopular stand by agreeing to serve as defense attorney for the accused British soldiers. Counseled in his advocacy by his beloved wife Abigail, Adams wins the case but surprises his friend, the Attorney General, by turning down a lucrative position with the Crown. As pro-independent sentiment boils over in Massachusetts following the Coercive/Intolerable Acts, Adams is invited to join the newly created Continental Congress. After a rousing speech to his constituents, he says an emotional goodbye to his family before heading to Philadelphia - and an uncertain future.

1. During the “fire call,” what historical event does John Adams observe?
2. What is John Adams asked to do after this event?
3. “_____ is the last thing an accused person should lack in the free country”
4. What was happening to the sentry (guard) immediately before the Boston Massacre?
5. When asked by Samuel Adams, which “side” is John Adams on?
6. Who gives John Adams advice before the trial?
7. What was the crowd yelling at the soldiers according to the witness?
8. Who proofreads John Adam’s final speech?
9. How did the jury find the accused?
10. What new tax were Bostonians required to pay that had them greatly upset?



“A government of laws, and not of men” – John Adams

Part 2 “Independence”

After the 1775 Battle of Lexington and Concord, Adams argues for independence, persuading Thomas Jefferson to draft a declaration. Benjamin Franklin and Adams convince delegates, and the Continental Congress votes to declare independence on July 2, 1776.

Philadelphia July 3rd, 1776

... The hopes of reconciliation, which were fondly entertained by multitudes of honest and well-meaning though weak and mistaken people, have been gradually and at last totally extinguished. Time has been given for the whole people, maturely to consider the great question of independence and to ripen their judgments, dissipate their fears, and allure their hopes, by discussing it in news papers and pamphlets, by debating it in assemblies, conventions, committees of safety and inspection, in town and county meetings, as well as in private conversations, so that the whole people in every colony of the 13, have now adopted it, as their own Act. This will cement the Union, and avoid those heats and perhaps convulsions which might have been occasioned by such a Declaration six months ago. But the day is past. The second day of July 1776 will be the most memorable epocha in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations, as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the Day of Deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more. You will think me transported with enthusiasm but I am not. I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure, that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet through all the gloom I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is more than worth all the means. And that posterity will triumph in that day's transaction, even although we should rue it, which I trust in God we shall not

For Discussion or Writing

1. At the beginning of this passage, Adams refers to “hopes of reconciliation.” What is reconciliation? With whom did “multitudes of ... people” hope to achieve reconciliation? What is Adams’s view of these people?
2. According to Adams, what change took place during the first six months of 1776 regarding British colonists’ view of independence?
3. What prediction does Adams make about July 2, 1776? What forms of celebration does Adams say ought to be used to remember the vote to declare independence? Of these, which are still used in your community?
4. Reread the final paragraph of this letter. Why is Adams not “transported with enthusiasm”? What does he mean when he tells Abigail, “Yet through all the gloom I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory”?
5. In your opinion, is Adams optimistic or pessimistic about America’s future in this letter? Point to specific lines in the text to support your answer.



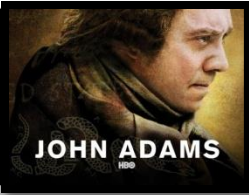
**“The Declaration of Independence I always considered as a theatrical show. Jefferson ran away with all the stage effect of that... and all the glory of it.”
– John Adams**

Part 2 “Independence”

Following a fruitless session of the Continental Congress, a sabbatical at Adams' Braintree farm is disrupted by news of the attack on Lexington and Concord. Adams witnesses the aftermath of the bloody battle, and later reports back to Philadelphia. There, he joins with delegates debating the pros and cons of independence, eschewing an olive-branch proposal from Pennsylvania's John Dickinson and throwing down the gauntlet for independence. As more violence rages in and around Boston, Adams nominates George Washington to lead the newly created Continental Army. After another brief return home, Adams returns to Philadelphia - and a proclamation from King George III that treason will be met with death. After several debates and postponements, Adams seconds a resolution for independence proposed by Virginia's Richard Henry Lee, and persuades Thomas Jefferson to draft a declaration. With the support of Benjamin Franklin, Adams wins over skeptical delegates, in particular, South Carolina's Edward Rutledge and convinces opponents like Dickinson to step out of the path to independence. On July 2, 1776, a final vote confirms the Congress' near-unanimous decision - New York abstained - to declare independence from England. On July 4, 1776, a document drafted by Thomas Jefferson and affirming that declaration is adopted by the Congress. While Abigail tends to an outbreak of smallpox in Massachusetts, the Declaration of Independence is read to a raucous crowd in Philadelphia. Adams writes to his wife, "The break is made, and now our work begins."

Questions for John Adams Part 2

1. What does the King say will happen to those in rebellion that do not change their minds?
2. What does Benjamin Franklin mean when he says that the Colonies “should all hang together or we will most assuredly hang separately”?
3. What kind of responsibilities does it look like Abigail Adams (John Adams' Wife) has while her husband is away in Philadelphia at the 2nd Continental Congress?
4. John Adams notices Thomas Jefferson up to this point had been silent at the Second Continental Congress, why does TJ say he doesn't speak up during the intense debates?
5. Richard Henry Lee of Virginia proposes what?
6. What are the arguments against declaring independence that are brought up during debate at the Second Continental Congress?
7. John Adams believes who would be willing to help the Colonies in their fight against the King of England?
8. Who does John Adams recruit to write the Declaration?
9. What are his 3 reasons he believes Thomas Jefferson should write it?
10. When Ben Franklin and John Adams proofread Thomas Jefferson's first draft of the Declaration of Independence, what issue that Thomas Jefferson originally brings up doesn't make it into the final draft?



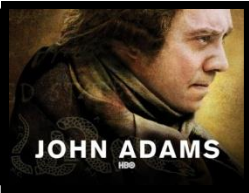
“Liberty, once lost, is lost forever.” – John Adams

Part 3 “Don’t Tread on Me”

A new period of separation from Abigail looms when Adams is appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to France along with Benjamin Franklin. Their mission is to secure French financial and military support for America's Revolutionary War effort. Abigail insists that Adams take along their son, John Quincy. The two endure a rough ocean voyage- and a skirmish with a British warship - in making their way to France. Their arduous journey includes the deaths of several seamen and impresses upon Adams the human costs of war. Once John and John Quincy arrive in France, the difference in styles between Adams and Franklin, the relaxed libertine, become apparent. As Abigail dines with a French Admiral in her husband's stead back home, Adams endures a series of uncomfortable encounters in Paris. His strident demands that France increase their naval commitment to America's war effort upsets the French diplomats and draws the wrath of Franklin, whose credo is that a good diplomat "can accomplish much by appearing to accomplish little." Vexed after learning Franklin has been appointed sole minister to France, Adams heads to Holland to solicit funds, with little initial success. After sending John Quincy to Russia to serve as secretary to the American envoy there, Adams falls victim to a long illness and fever, helpless to further advance the revolution he helped spawn.

Questions for John Adams Part 3

1. When episode #3 begins what city “has been taken by the British?”
2. Why is Abigail upset?
3. Who runs the Adams farm and family while John is constantly gone?
4. What does Abigail insist upon?
5. What happens when Adams is en route (on the way) to France?
6. What does Adams find out when he arrives in France?
7. What does Benjamin Franklin say to Adams as they descend the stairs at Adams’ first encounter with French society?
8. At Madame La Comtesse de Ligneville’s dinner party Adams is ill at ease (uncomfortable) and not particularly impressive socially. Then he makes a statement about studying politics and war so that (finish what he says).
9. How does Adams’ conversation with the Comte de Vergennes go?
10. What does Adams ask his son to do?



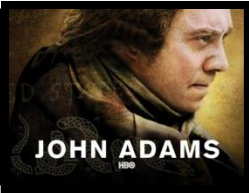
“I am determined to control events, not be controlled by them.”
– John Adams

Part 4 “Reunion”

Convalescing in Holland, Adams learns of the British surrender to Washington at Yorktown. The Dutch, unwilling to part with their money during the war, now generously open their pockets to Adams and America. Returning to France to secure commerce with other nations, Adams sends for Abigail, and the two reunite in his opulent mansion in Paris. Also arriving is Jefferson, who suffered a catastrophic loss with the death of his wife. Both Jefferson and Abigail fall under Paris' heady spell, attending opera and luxuriating in the city's intoxicating lifestyle. But a missive from America sends Adams to London as the nation's first minister to Britain, while Jefferson replaces Franklin in Paris. In London, Adams has a dramatic and memorable meeting with King George III, in which the King recognizes the friendship of the United States as an independent nation. With a new federal government about to be elected in America, Adams and Abigail finally return to Boston, where Adams is given a hero's welcome while reconnecting with his children. In the Adams' new home, Peacefield, John deals with family concerns - including son Charles' debauched behavior at Harvard, John Quincy's courtship of a young woman, and the overtures being made by his aide, Col. William Smith, towards Adams' daughter, Nabby. Though he vows to remain "unemployed," Adams soon realizes that he and Abigail weren't meant "to sit in the shade of life." The election of the first U.S. President and Vice-President is at hand - and Adams will again be putting his private life on hold.

Questions for John Adams Part 4

1. What do the Dutch do when they find out the British have surrendered at Yorktown?
2. What is the first thing the John and Abigail do when they are reunited in Paris?
3. What does Adams say happens to him when Abigail is not with him?
4. In the scene where Adams and Jefferson are discussing political affairs, do they conclude that European nations are highly interested in America or hardly interested at all?
5. To what position is Adams appointed by the Congress?
6. When Benjamin Franklin announces that there will be a convention in Philadelphia to create a constitution, how does Jefferson respond?
7. On what does Franklin say our country was founded upon?



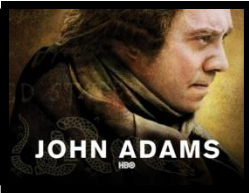
**“The essence of a free government consists in an effectual control of rivalries “
– John Adams**

Part 5 “Unite or Die”

Elected America's first Vice President, Adams is scolded by Abigail for his vanity, and is frustrated by his exclusion from President Washington's inner circle. He also sees his friendship with Jefferson, the new Secretary of State, strained by the ongoing British-French conflict. Though he's vilified for casting an unpopular swing vote in the Senate that ratifies a U.S./British treaty, Adams ends up being elected President in 1796 - by a mere three votes over Jefferson. As Adams tours his presidential residence with Abigail, they find it stripped bare by his predecessor's staff. Undaunted, Abigail tries to rally her husband out of a melancholy brought on by the burdens of the presidency - and the nation's uncertain future.

Questions for John Adams Part 5

1. Part 5 opens with an argument between Adams as vice president and the senate over what subject?
2. What does Jefferson say to Hamilton when he returns from revolutionary France?
3. What does Hamilton see as the foundation of future prosperity for the United States?
4. What does Jefferson fear?
5. How does Adams characterize the office of vice president?
6. What does Adams “dread”? He states this during his conversation with Dr. Rush.
7. After explaining that he had advised the Marquis de La Fayette on government, what does Jefferson say to the John and Abigail?
8. What does Adams fear in terms of the French Revolution?
9. What do Jefferson and Hamilton disagree about, and what does Adams advise?
10. What does Jefferson decide to do? What does Jefferson mean by “To the Revolution?”



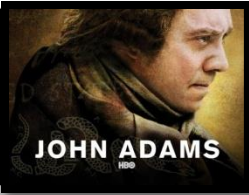
**"Trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty."
– John Adams, 1772**

Part 6 “Unnecessary War”

Abandoned by Jefferson for retaining Washington's cabinet, President Adams holds firm on keeping the nation out of war, despite French aggression and pro-war sentiment among his advisors. Abigail urges him to sign the controversial Alien and Sedition Acts, seeing them as a way to preserve domestic security. Meanwhile, Adams faces a crisis at home when he disowns his alcoholic son Charles; when Charles later dies, Abigail pleads to Adams to make peace with their son's memory, but Adams refuses, and a disappointed Abigail returns to Braintree. The president is vindicated in the French crisis after the new Secretary of State, John Marshall, brokers a peace with Napoleon I, but Adams fails to win a second term as Jefferson claims the presidency in a run-off with Aaron Burr. Drained by politics and family tragedy, Adams exits the new capital, Washington City, having only recently moved in to the still-unfinished White House.

Questions for John Adams Part 6

1. During the opening scene where Adams and Jefferson are discussing the issue of the French Revolution, Jefferson says that the “threat to our revolution is not from Paris, but ...”
2. Which side does Adams favor?
3. What problem does Adams have with his cabinet?
4. Why does William (Adams son-in-law) have to leave?
5. What does Monsieur Talleyrand ask for that turns Americans against France?
6. What does the Adams administration’s new bills ask for in terms of “freedom of speech and press?”
7. How does Jefferson respond?
8. What does Hamilton want?
9. What defuses the situation?
10. What does Adams do to Hamilton’s men in the cabinet when it comes to a showdown?



“In politics the middle way is none at all” - John Adams

Part 7 “Peacefield”

In retirement, Adams starts writing his memoirs, then endures a series of tragedies when his daughter Nabby dies of cancer and, a few years later, Abigail succumbs to typhoid fever. At the urging of Dr. Rush, Adams reports the sad news to Jefferson, with the two old friends and adversaries taking solace in a correspondence that mends old wounds and lasts the rest of their lives. On July 4, 1826, having lived to see his son John Quincy become President, 90-year-old John Adams dies on the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the Declaration of Independence - and on the very same day as Jefferson. On his deathbed, Adams utters, "Thomas Jefferson survives."

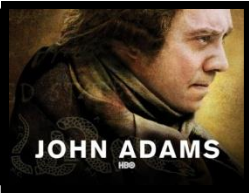
Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.
-John Adams

Fear is the foundation of most governments.
-John Adams

Democracy... while it lasts is more bloody than either aristocracy or monarchy. Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There is never a democracy that did not commit suicide.
-John Adams

The White House Years

What were some of the key challenges that Adams faced as President? What did Adams see as his greatest legacy? Do you agree? In your estimation, how should Adams be remembered?



**"Trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty."
- John Adams, 1772**

Verbatim

"People and nations are forged in the fires of adversity." —JOHN ADAMS

**"I look back to the early days of our acquaintance and friendship as to the days of love and innocence, and, with an indescribable pleasure, I have seen near a score of years roll over our heads with an affection heightened and improved by time, nor have the dreary years of absence in the smallest degree effaced from my mind the image of the dear untitled man to whom I gave my heart."
—ABIGAIL ADAMS, WRITING TO JOHN ADAMS IN 1782**

Numbers

- 2** Number of fathers and sons who have served as U.S. President: John and John Quincy Adams, and George H.W. and George W. Bush
- 61** Age at which John Adams was inaugurated President, in 1797
- 16** Number of states in the Union when Adams left the presidency, in 1801
- 5,308,483** U.S. population in 1797
- 5** Number of members in Adams's Cabinet— one-third of what it is today
- 73** Electoral votes for Thomas Jefferson in the election of 1800. Adams received 65

Key Dates



October 30, 1735
Born in Braintree, Massachusetts

Fall 1751 Begins studies at Harvard College

October 25, 1764 Marries Abigail Smith

October 1765
Drafts a protest against the Stamp Act, declaring that taxation without representation is unconstitutional

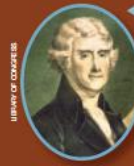
June 1770 Elected to Massachusetts legislature



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

September 5–October 26, 1774 Attends the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia

May 10, 1775 Returns to Philadelphia as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress; nominates George Washington as commander of the newly formed Continental Army



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

June 7, 1776
Encourages Thomas Jefferson to write the Declaration of Independence, which Congress approves on July 4

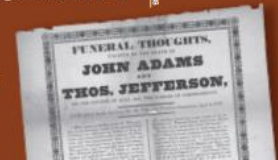
September 3, 1783 Signs Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War

April 21, 1789 Sworn in as first U.S. Vice President

March 4, 1797 Inaugurated second U.S. President

July 14, 1798
Signs into law the Alien and Sedition Acts, which limit civil liberties

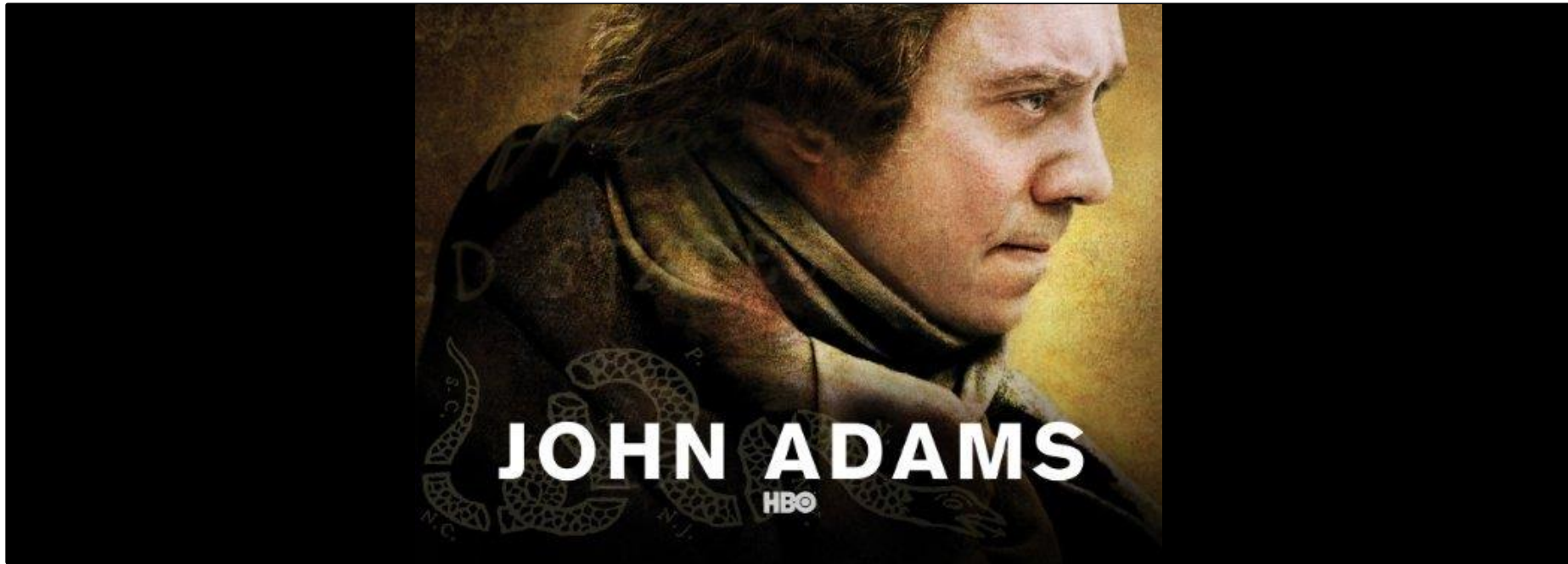
March 4, 1801 Jefferson becomes third U.S. President after defeating Adams in the election of 1800



October 28, 1818
Abigail Adams dies

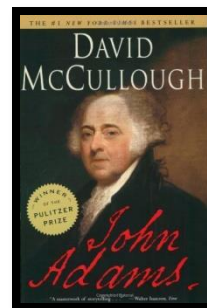
July 4, 1826 Adams dies in Massachusetts, just hours after Jefferson dies

"Trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty."
- John Adams, 1772



John Adams, David McCullough's Pulitzer Prize-winning book and one of the best-selling American historical biographies of all time, comes to the screen as a seven-part HBO Films miniseries.

John Adams chronicles the life of this remarkable historical figure, a man whose fiercely independent spirit, reverence for the rule of law and commitment to personal liberty profoundly influenced the values on which our country was founded. The miniseries also explores the extraordinary relationship between Adams and Abigail, his wife of 54 years, a partnership regarded as one of the most moving love stories in American history.



The Pulitzer Prize-winning, bestselling biography of America's founding father and second president that was the basis for the acclaimed HBO series, brilliantly told by master historian David McCullough.

In this powerful, epic biography, David McCullough unfolds the adventurous life journey of John Adams, the brilliant, fiercely independent, often irascible, always honest Yankee patriot who spared nothing in his zeal for the American Revolution; who rose to become the second president of the United States and saved the country from blundering into an unnecessary war; who was learned beyond all but a few and regarded by some as "out of his senses"; and whose marriage to the wise and valiant Abigail Adams is one of the moving love stories in American history.

This is history on a grand scale—a book about politics and war and social issues, but also about human nature, love, religious faith, virtue, ambition, friendship, and betrayal, and the far-reaching consequences of noble ideas. Above all, *John Adams* is an enthralling, often surprising story of one of the most important and fascinating Americans who ever lived.

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