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How the Declaration of Independence Was Born

Declaration of independence was a draft written by Thomas Jefferson and has significant importance in the history of the United States as far as the advent of democracy is concerned. America was a British colony like many other colonies and was ruled by the British Empire. There was a constant conflict in the form of clashes between American colonial fighters, who were labeled as rebels and the British army. It was April 1775, when armed conflicts started to erupt in the country between American colonists and the British Royal Army. The British decided to escalate and crush the rebels with the power of the great royal army. This was an alarming situation and caused different colonists to rally around for fighting against the British. In late 1775, King George decided to deal with rebels with an iron fist and ordered for preparation of fight by enlarging the navy and army. The news reached America in January 1776 which strengthened the cause of the colonists to fight against the royal army for freedom. American nationalism activated and they started a movement against British rule by spreading awareness among the masses to stand up and fight against this tyranny. The belief that they should abandon the Brish rule in America started gaining ground due to the possible risk of a big war. One British immigrant, Thomas Paine published an influential book “Common Sense” intended to give a wakeup call to the Americans against British rule. In this book, “he argued that independence was a “natural right” and the only possible course for the colonies; the pamphlet sold more than 150,000 copies in its first few weeks in the publication (Editors)”.

By the mid of the following year, seven different colonies from America joined the union in favor of independence. The delegates from different states pointed out the names of 5 people and made a committee by assigning them the task of drafting a formal statement. This statement was going to be the stance of American people about the decision of self-determination while selecting the government. The committee comprised of 5 persons but Thomas Jefferson from Virginia is the most important to mention. The other members of the committee forced Mr. Thomas that he should take this responsibility to come up with a piece of paper that should not only provide a legal and authoritative basis but also unite the masses for independence. However, the other members of the committee did an overview of the document and added extensions to some of the clauses but the major portion of the declaration was written by Mr. Thomas Jefferson. After completing the declaration of independence, he forwarded it to Mr. Adam and Dr. Franklin and requested revisions and corrections.

Thomas Jefferson presented the declaration of independence before the congress for debate on June 28. The declaration contained the moral and legal supportive arguments for the right of freedom. For example, it says in one of the clauses, “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 (“Declaration of Independence | History, Significance, & Text”)”. As a matter of fact, a big British fleet with more than 30,000 troops was about to hit New York City to crush the rebellious union, however, after two days of debating and further minor editing, Congress decided to implement the declaration of independence. According to political studies experts, the declaration was not entirely flawless but still gave a solid foundation to the people of America on which the road to independence was going to be paved. As said by Mr. Maier ,“It changed the whole character of the war (*The Declaration of Independence: Full Text*)”.

Cited by:

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