PragerU PRESENTS

THE SIGNERS



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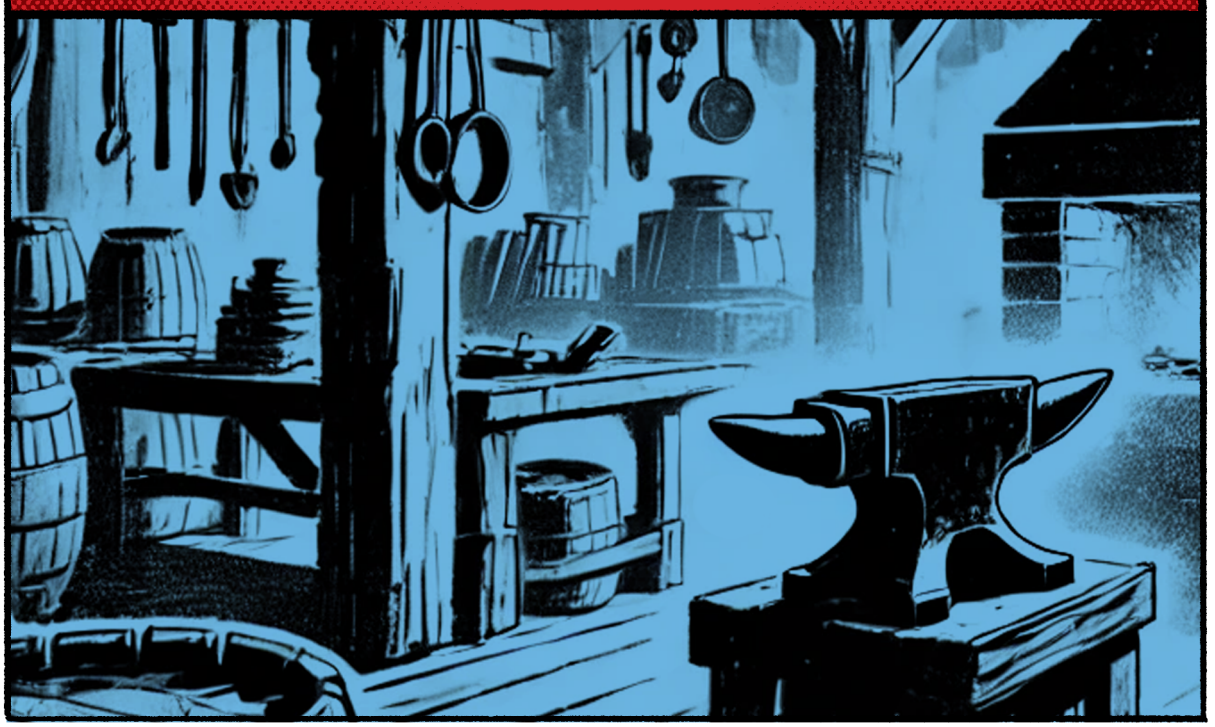
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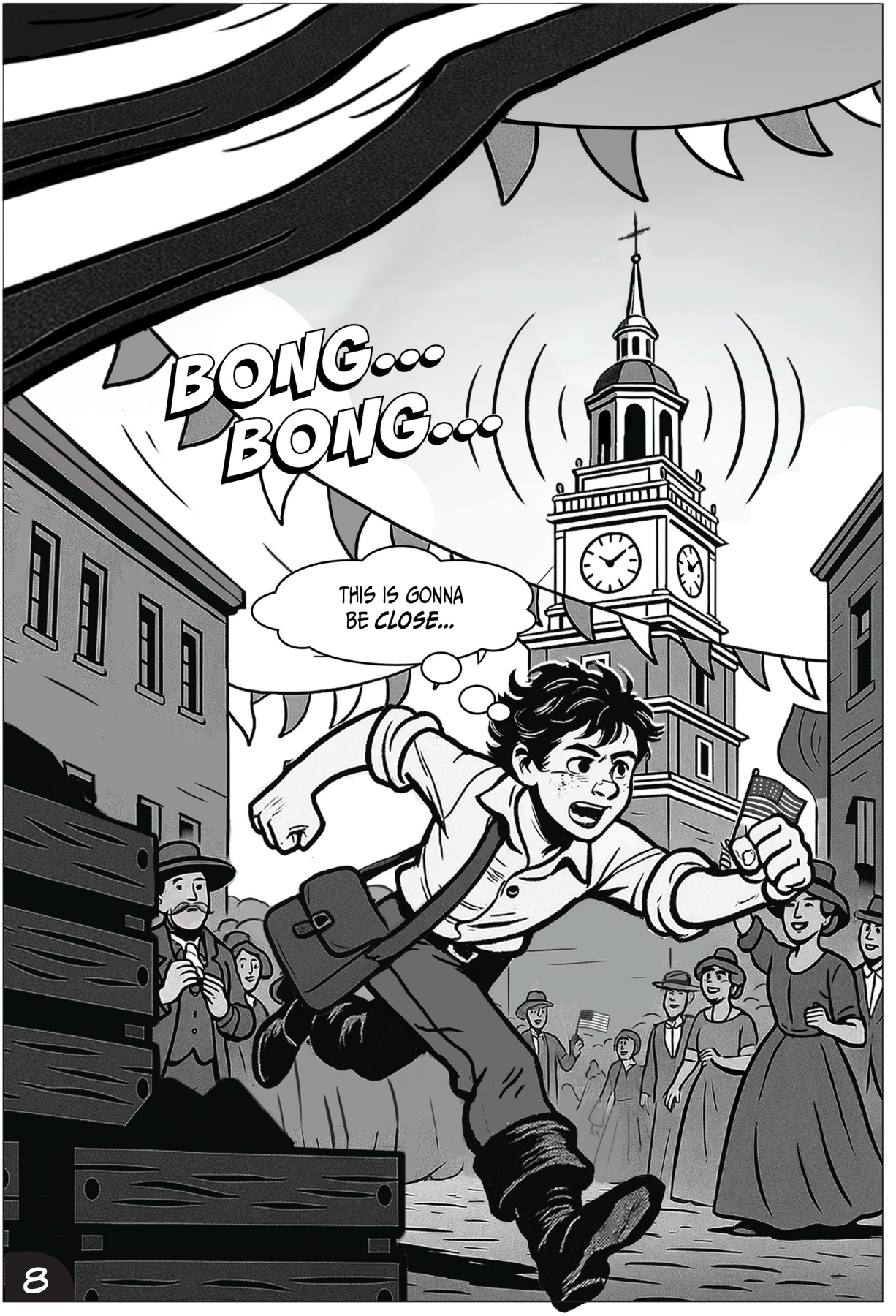
THE SIGNERS



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PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.
JULY 4TH, 1826.
JACK! JACK! YOU'D BETTER NOT BE LATE!
YOU'RE LUCKY MR. MITCHELL ISN'T MAD! IT'S SO NICE OF HIM TO LET YOU WORK OFF YOUR DEBT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO WORK ON A HOLIDAY...
JACK! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
CLIP-CLOP CLIP-CLOP
THERE'S MY RIDE... RIGHT ON TIME!


BYE, MA! LOVE YOU!
WHOOAAAA!
CRASH!
HOLIDAY TRAFFIC!
OH, NO!
SCREETCH!!
BONG... BONG...
I'M GONNA BE LATE!
BONG...


BONG...
BONG...
THIS IS GONNA BE CLOSE...


'SCUSE ME!
PARDON ME!
COMIN' THROUGH!
BONG...
SORRY! HEY...
WATCH OUT!
HOW YOU DOING...?
BONG...
DARN IT. I'M LATE. GOTTA GO!

COLONIAL CONTEXT

WELCOME TO PHILADELPHIA—THE HEARTBEAT OF A REVOLUTION

IN THE 1700S, PHILADELPHIA WAS THE BIGGEST, BUSIEST CITY IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES—AND THE PERFECT PLACE TO SPARK A REVOLUTION. STREETS WERE LOUD WITH CLANGING BLACKSMITHS, THE CLIP-CLOP OF HORSE HOOVES, MARKET SELLERS, AND THE SMELL OF BAKING BREAD. BUT BENEATH THE NOISE AND EVERYDAY BUSTLE, SOMETHING WORLD-CHANGING WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN—***HISTORY*** WAS QUIETLY BUILDING.

NEARBY, ***INDEPENDENCE HALL*** STOOD TALL, WHERE A GROUP OF DETERMINED MEN WOULD SOON GATHER TO DECLARE AMERICA'S FREEDOM. NOT FAR FROM IT WAS ***BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S*** PRINTING SHOP, WHERE NEWSPAPERS AND IDEAS SPREAD FASTER THAN FIRE. A BELL—***THAT*** EVENTUALLY CRACKED, AND WOULD COME TO BE KNOWN AS THE LIBERTY BELL—USED TO RING FROM ACROSS THE STREET, CALLING PEOPLE TO IMPORTANT MEETINGS.

PHILADELPHIA WAS ALSO HOME TO OLD ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, WHERE CATHOLICS REFUSED TO FOLLOW A BRITISH BAN ON PUBLIC WORSHIP. THAT'S RIGHT—FREEDOM WAS ALREADY BEING FOUGHT FOR EVEN BEFORE 1776.

IF YOU'D WALKED DOWN CHESTNUT STREET BACK THEN, YOU'D PASS BLACKSMITHS, CANDLE-MAKERS, BOOKSELLERS—EVEN ***SPIES!*** THIS WASN'T JUST A CITY. IT WAS A LIVING, BREATHING EXPERIMENT IN ***LIBERTY.***

THIS WAS A CITY OF WORKERS AND THINKERS, SOLDIERS AND SHOPKEEPERS, MOTHERS, MERCHANTS, AND MESSENGERS. PHILADELPHIA MAY HAVE LOOKED ORDINARY ON THE OUTSIDE—BUT IN THIS CITY OF COURAGE, COBBLED STREETS, AND CANDLELIT ROOMS, A BRAND-NEW NATION WAS ABOUT TO BE BORN.




THANKS AGAIN FOR NOT FIRING ME AND LETTING ME CLEAN UP MY MESS. AGAIN, I'M *REALLY SORRY.*
YOU'VE GOT LOTS OF WORK TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP ON YOU FOR A NIGHT OF *BAD JUDGEMENT.*
BUT JACK... WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU *THINKING?*
WELL, I HAD THESE FIREWORKS THAT I BOUGHT FOR *THE 4TH,* YOU SEE,
BUT I SAW THE BILLINGS BROTHERS HANGING OUTSIDE *INDEPENDENCE HALL* OVER THERE WITH THEIR *GIRLFRIENDS...*
HMM...
"MY PLAN WAS TO AIM THE FIREWORKS SO THEY'D *EXPLODE* RIGHT OVER THEIR HEADS, THEN THEY'D GET *SCARED* IN FRONT OF EVERYONE, AND LOOK *CHICKIN'*
"*ONE* FIRECRACKER DID EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO..."
"...AND BOY THOSE BILLINGS BOYS *PANICKED!*"
AND *THE OTHER?*
WELL, IT TOOK AN UNFORTUNATE *DETOUR* IN MIDAIR AND FLEW THROUGH THAT WINDOW AND INTO *YOUR SHOP,* MR. MITCHELL.
SMASH!


UNFORTUNATE *INDEED.* AND WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO DO THIS?
THOSE *BILLINGS BROTHERS* ARE ALWAYS TRYING TO GET AT ME. I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THEM FOR PUTTING A SNAKE IN MY BAG HERE...
SO IN THE SPIRIT OF THE 4TH OF JULY *HOLIDAY,* I GUESS I FIGURED IT WAS TIME TO *FIGHT BACK.*
SO, YOU THINK THE 4TH OF JULY IS ABOUT *FIGHTING?*
WELL, YEAH. BEN FRANKLIN AND THEM WERE MAD AT THE BRITISH, AND DIDN'T WANT TO PAY TAXES, SO WE FOUGHT 'EM, AND KICKED 'EM OUTTA HERE, *RIGHT?*
IS *THAT* ALL KIDS YOUR AGE KNOW ABOUT OUR *REVOLUTION?*
WELL, I KNOW YOUR *BLACKSMITH SHOP* IS THE NUMBER ONE IN TOWN...
UMM, WELL, IT'S A *HALL...*AND IT'S *INDEPENDENT?*
UMMM... I 'SPOSE.
JACK, DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND THE *IMPORTANCE* OF THE BUILDING YOU SHOT FIREWORKS AT LAST NIGHT?
NOT MY SHOP. I'M TALKING ABOUT *INDEPENDENCE HALL.*

COLONIAL CONTEXT

INSIDE INDEPENDENCE HALL

BEFORE IT EARNED THE NAME ***INDEPENDENCE HALL***, THIS RED-BRICK BUILDING IN PHILADELPHIA WAS KNOWN SIMPLY AS THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE HOUSE. IT WAS BUILT AS A MEETING PLACE FOR LOCAL LEADERS, WHERE LAWS WERE MADE AND JUSTICE WAS DEBATED. BUT THIS HUMBLE STRUCTURE WOULD GO ON TO BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT ROOM IN AMERICA'S STORY.

WITHIN ITS TALL WINDOWS AND CREAKY WOODEN FLOORS, ORDINARY MEN GATHERED TO DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY: ***RISK EVERYTHING*** TO FIGHT FOR ***LIBERTY.*** IT WAS HERE THAT THE ***DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE*** WAS DEBATED, ARGUED OVER, AND FINALLY SIGNED—SENDING A BOLD MESSAGE ACROSS THE WORLD THAT FREEDOM WAS WORTH THE COST.

YEARS LATER, THE SAME HALL WOULD HOST THE WRITING OF THE ***U.S. CONSTITUTION***, THE VERY BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW KIND OF GOVERNMENT—***BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE***—RULES THAT OUR COUNTRY STILL FOLLOWS TO THIS DAY.

THIS WASN'T JUST A BUILDING. IT WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF A NATION, WHERE ***COURAGE*** AND CONVICTION TURNED IDEAS INTO ACTION.

AND THAT'S WHY TODAY, WE CALL IT INDEPENDENCE HALL—BECAUSE WHAT HAPPENED INSIDE THOSE WALLS CHANGED THE WORLD ***FOREVER.***




GOODNESS! IT'S ONLY BEEN 50 YEARS, AND AMERICA'S CHILDREN DON'T EVEN REMEMBER OUR REMARKABLE HISTORY, AND THAT WHAT TOOK PLACE IN INDEPENDENCE HALL HAS CHANGED THE WORLD FOREVER...
OK, YOU'VE GOT SOME WORK AHEAD OF YOU, AND... TO PASS THE TIME, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU AN AMERICAN HISTORY LESSON.
AHH, MAN. I'M ALREADY WORKING. NOW A LESSON TOO?
CONSIDER IT A STORY, THEN. A TRUE STORY ABOUT AN INCREDIBLE FIGHT,
WITH HEROIC MEN WHO RISKED EVERYTHING THEY HAD FOR A CHANCE TO LIVE FREE.
OK, I LIKE FIGHTERS...
I'M LISTENING...


I WAS YOUR AGE WHEN I WITNESSED OUR VERY *FIRST INDEPENDENCE* DAY FROM THIS VERY SHOP.
YOU'VE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME.
INDEED, I STARTED AS AN APPRENTICE JUST LIKE YOU.
SWISH SWISH
OUR FOUNDING FATHERS DECLARED AMERICA *FREE* FROM GREAT BRITAIN ON *JULY 4TH, 1776.*
IS THAT WHEN THE *FIGHTIN'* STARTED?
NO, *VIOLENCE* HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR A FEW YEARS,
BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE HAD BEGUN A LONG TIME BEFORE THAT... AS EARLY AS THE PILGRIMS.
OH, *PILGRIMS,* I KNOW ABOUT *THEM.*


THEY THINK WE'RE *CRAZY* FOR LEAVING ENGLAND.
WE'D BE CRAZY *NOT TO.*
IN THE *NEW WORLD*, WE'LL BE ABLE TO WORSHIP GOD HOWEVER WE PLEASE.
PLUS WE'LL HAVE OPPORTUNITIES *REGARDLESS* OF CLASS OR FAMILY NAME.
YES! IN THE NEW WORLD WE'LL RISE AS HIGH AS OUR IDEAS AND WORK ETHIIC WILL TAKE US!
FOR THE GLORY OF *GOD*, AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE *CHRISTIAN FAITH.*

COLONIAL CONTEXT

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: *A NEW KIND OF DREAM*

ONE OF THE BIGGEST REASONS PEOPLE CROSSED THE OCEAN TO AMERICA WAS SIMPLE: THEY WANTED TO WORSHIP ***FREELY.***

IN MASSACHUSETTS, ***THE PURITANS*** BUILT A COLONY BASED ON THEIR STRICT CHRISTIAN BELIEFS. THEY CALLED IT A "CITY ON A HILL"—A SHINING EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS. BUT IF YOU DIDN'T AGREE WITH THEIR RULES, YOU COULD BE KICKED OUT.

- PURITANS WANTED TO PURIFY THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND FOLLOW THE BIBLE VERY CLOSELY IN THEIR DAILY LIVES.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ***ROGER WILLIAMS***, A PREACHER WHO BELIEVED NO ONE SHOULD BE FORCED TO PRAY A CERTAIN WAY. HE LEFT AND STARTED A NEW COLONY IN RHODE ISLAND, WHERE PEOPLE OF MANY FAITHS WERE WELCOME.

- HE BELIEVED THAT FAITH SHOULD BE A PERSONAL CHOICE, NOT A GOVERNMENT RULE.

IN MARYLAND, LED BY ***WILLIAM CARROL***, ***CATHOLICS*** FOUND SAFETY FROM PERSECUTION.

- CATHOLICS FOLLOW THE TRADITIONS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS ON CHURCH LEADERSHIP.

IN PENNSYLVANIA, ***WILLIAM PENN***—A ***QUAKER***—BUILT A COLONY WHERE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WAS THE LAW.

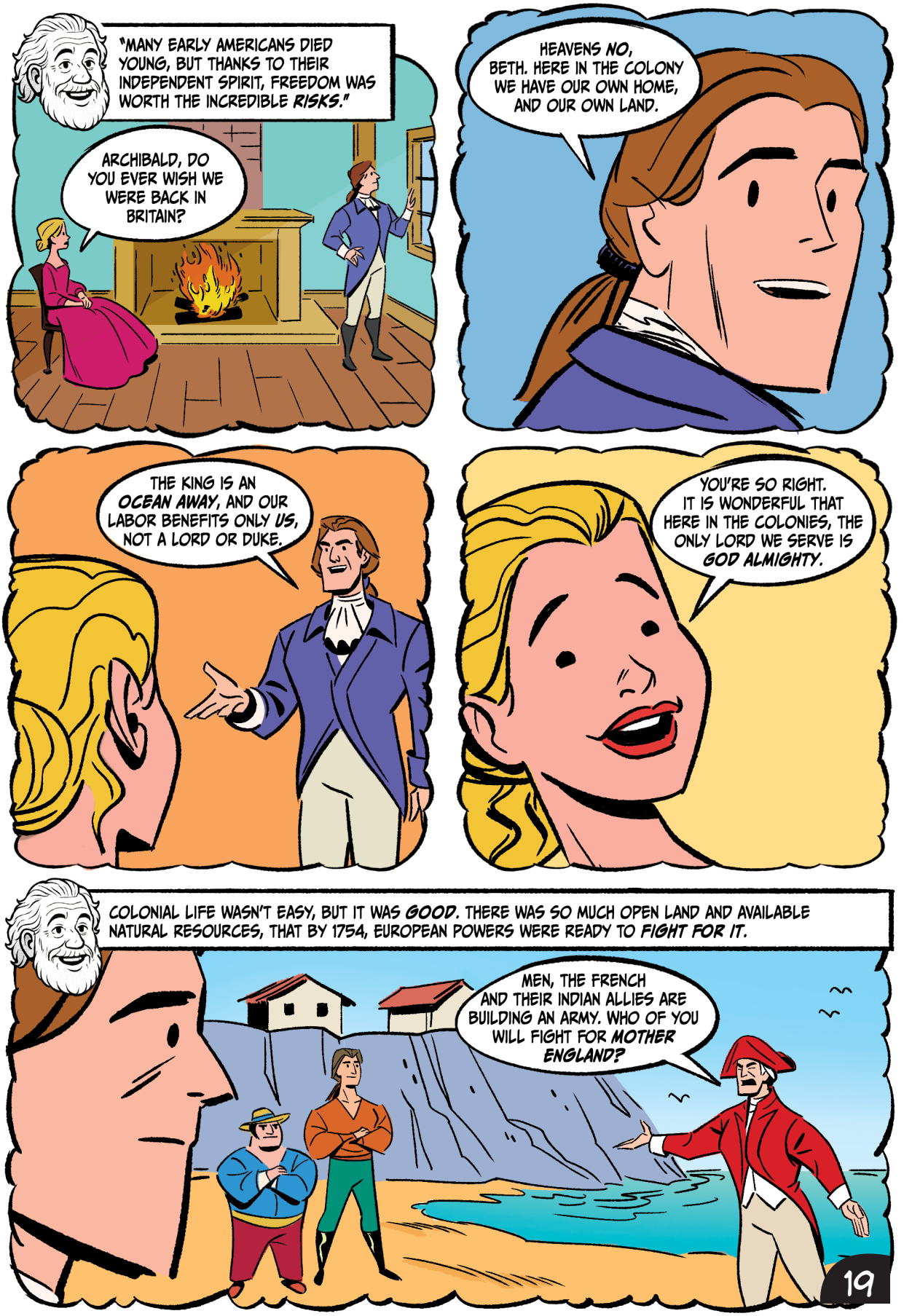
- QUAKERS BELIEVED IN PEACE, FAIRNESS, AND THAT EVERYONE HAD AN INNER LIGHT FROM GOD.

SO EVEN BEFORE THE UNITED STATES WAS A COUNTRY, THE IDEA OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION WAS ALREADY GROWING. PEOPLE CAME NOT JUST FOR LAND—BUT FOR THE RIGHT TO FOLLOW THEIR FAITH, THEIR WAY.

AND THAT DREAM HELPED SHAPE THE VERY MEANING OF ***AMERICA.***




"And the lands of the new world were wild and filled with *predatory beasts*."
ROAR!!
C'MON BOYS!! IF WE DON'T GET THAT PACK OF WOLVES, THEY'LL GET *MORE* OF US!


"MANY EARLY AMERICANS DIED YOUNG, BUT THANKS TO THEIR INDEPENDENT SPIRIT, FREEDOM WAS WORTH THE INCREDIBLE *RISKS*."
ARCHIBALD, DO YOU EVER WISH WE WERE BACK IN BRITAIN?
HEAVENS *NO*, BETH. HERE IN THE COLONY WE HAVE OUR OWN HOME, AND OUR OWN LAND.
THE KING IS AN *OCEAN AWAY*, AND OUR LABOR BENEFITS ONLY *US*, NOT A LORD OR DUKE.
YOU'RE SO RIGHT. IT IS WONDERFUL THAT HERE IN THE COLONIES, THE ONLY LORD WE SERVE IS *GOD ALMIGHTY*.
COLONIAL LIFE WASN'T EASY, BUT IT WAS *GOOD*. THERE WAS SO MUCH OPEN LAND AND AVAILABLE NATURAL RESOURCES, THAT BY 1754, EUROPEAN POWERS WERE READY TO *FIGHT FOR IT*.
MEN, THE FRENCH AND THEIR INDIAN ALLIES ARE BUILDING AN ARMY. WHO OF YOU WILL FIGHT FOR *MOTHER ENGLAND?*

COLONIAL CONTEXT

THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR: *THE WAR BEFORE THE REVOLUTION*

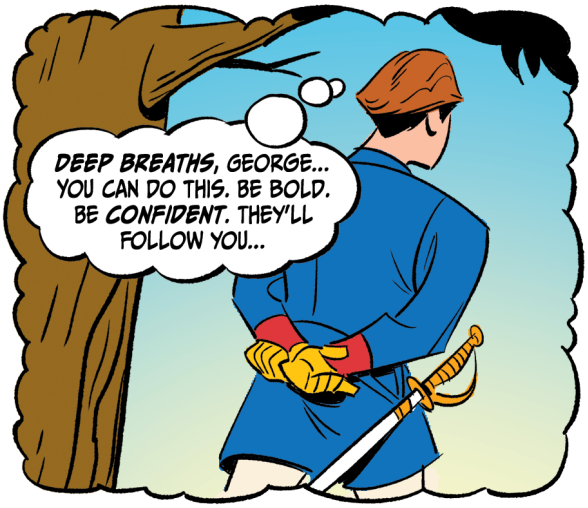


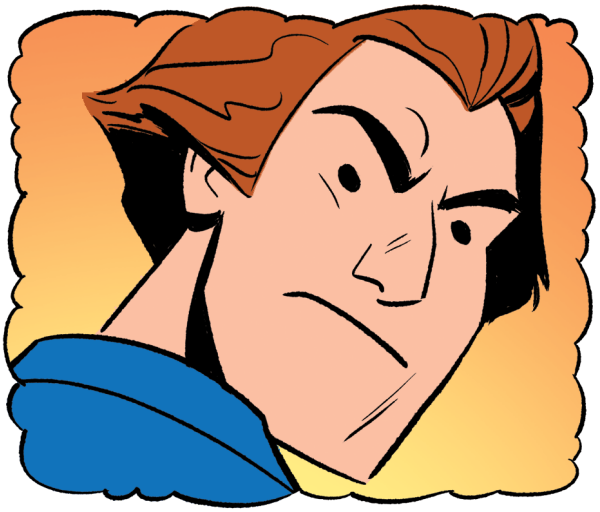
BEFORE AMERICA WAS EVEN THINKING ABOUT INDEPENDENCE, THE LAND WAS ***ALREADY*** A BATTLEFIELD.

IN 1754, A BIG WAR BROKE OUT BETWEEN TWO WORLD POWERS: ***FRANCE*** AND ***GREAT BRITAIN.*** BOTH WANTED CONTROL OF THE LAND IN NORTH AMERICA—ESPECIALLY THE RICH FORESTS, RIVERS, AND FUR TRADE IN THE OHIO RIVER VALLEY. BUT THEY DIDN'T FIGHT ALONE. EACH SIDE HAD NATIVE AMERICAN ALLIES.

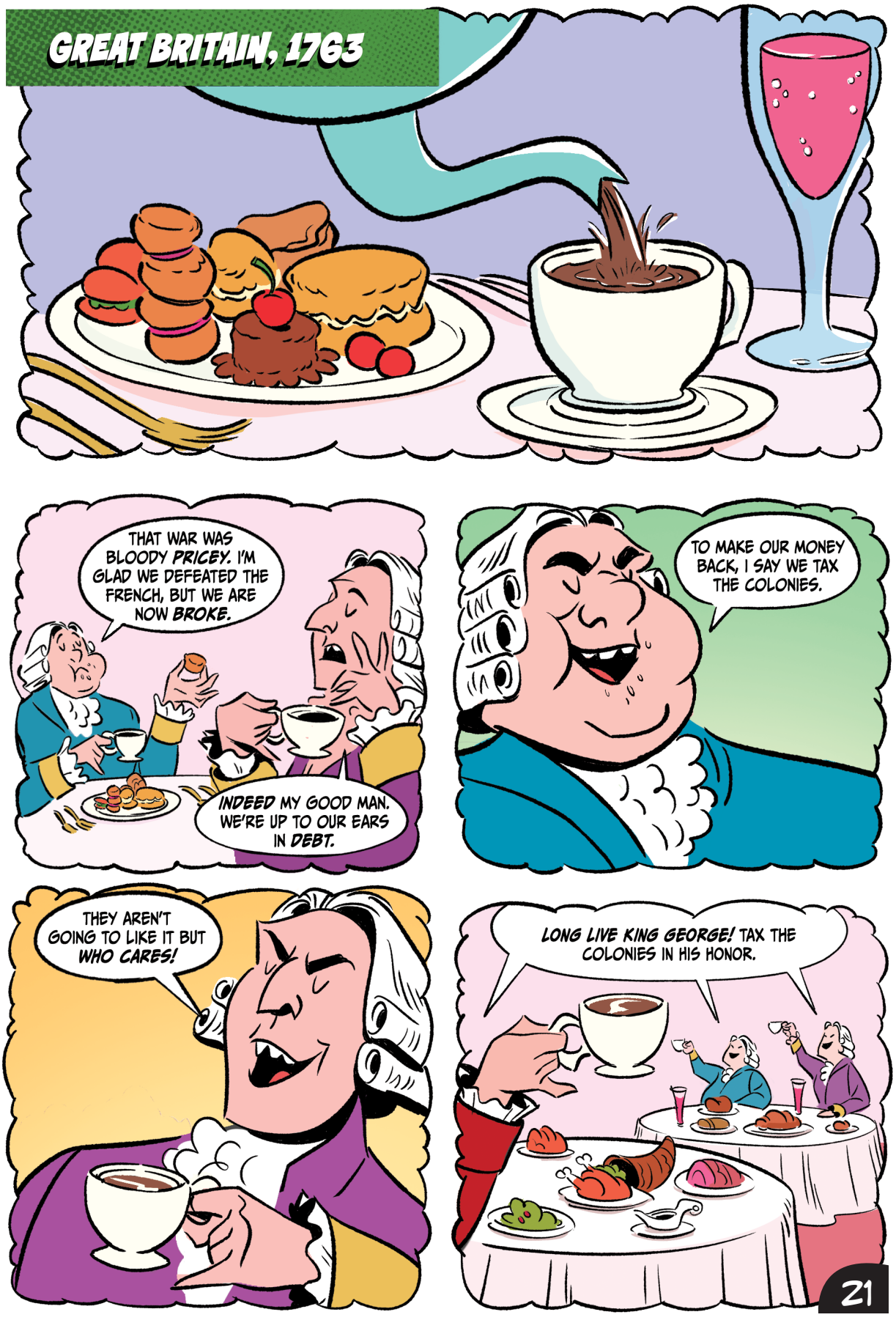


FRANCE TEAMED UP WITH POWERFUL TRIBES LIKE THE ***HURON*** AND ***ALGONQUIN.*** BRITAIN, WHICH CONTROLLED THE 13 COLONIES, GOT HELP FROM TRIBES LIKE THE ***IROQUOIS***—AND FROM A YOUNG COLONIAL SOLDIER NAMED ***GEORGE WASHINGTON.*** (YES, ***THAT*** GEORGE WASHINGTON!) OUR FUTURE FIRST PRESIDENT WAS JUST 21 YEARS OLD WHEN HE LED A DANGEROUS MISSION INTO THE WILDERNESS TO WARN THE FRENCH TO BACK OFF.







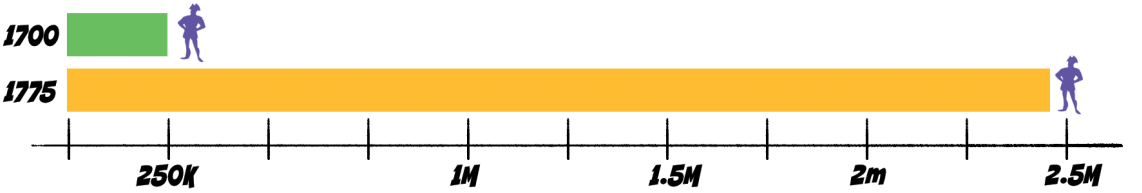

GREAT BRITAIN, 1763
THAT WAR WAS BLOODY *PRICEY*. I'M GLAD WE DEFEATED THE FRENCH, BUT WE ARE NOW *BROKE*.
INDEED MY GOOD MAN. WE'RE UP TO OUR EARS IN *DEBT*.
TO MAKE OUR MONEY BACK, I SAY WE TAX THE COLONIES.
THEY AREN'T GOING TO LIKE IT BUT *WHO CARES!*
LONG LIVE KING GEORGE! TAX THE COLONIES IN HIS HONOR.


MEANWHILE IN THE COLONIES...
WE DEFEATED THE FRENCH!
HURRAY!!! HURRAY!!!
NOW WE CONTROL LANDS STRETCHING ALL THE WAY TO THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI RIVER!
THANK GOD. WITH ALL THESE NEWCOMERS, WE CAN EXPAND.

COLONIAL CONTEXT

GROWING FAST: *THE POPULATION OF PRE-REVOLUTIONARY AMERICAN COLONIES*

BETWEEN 1620 AND THE END OF THE 17TH CENTURY, THE ***AMERICAN COLONIST POPULATION*** ROSE FROM ROUGHLY 2,000 TO ***250,000***. BY 1775, THE COLONIAL POPULATION HAD RISEN TO NEARLY ***2.4 MILLION.***



NOTE: ESTIMATES FOR THE 1775 INDIAN POPULATION EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER ARE AS LOW AS 250,000.*

*SOURCE: MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION




NEW TAXES AND LAWS ARE COMING FROM THE KING OF ENGLAND.
I CAN'T FEED MY FAMILY WITH ALL THESE TAXES. MY KIDS HAVE NO SHOES.
THE RULES ARE THE RULES...
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! I RISKED MY LIFE FIGHTING FOR THE KING!
WELL, TECHNICALLY YOU FOUGHT FOR THE BRITISH CROWN, AND YOU ARE A SUBJECT OF THE KING AND HIS WISHES. BE LOYAL!
IS THAT SO? WELL, I'D LIKE TO TELL KING GEORGE WHAT I THINK OF HIS TAXES AND RULES...
THE KING DOESN'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK...SILLY MAN.
WE'LL SEE WHO'S SILLY...SOON.


MEANWHILE AT THE ROYAL PALACE...
I HEAR THE AMERICAN COLONIES ARE GRUMBLING ABOUT THE NEW TAX ON THEIR SUGAR AND MOLASSES!
GRUMBLINGS INDEED YOUR MAJESTY. THE UNGRATEFUL SAVAGES.
IT'S AS IF THEY THINK DEFENDING THEM FROM INDIAN ATTACKS AND FOREIGN INVASIONS COMES CHEAP.
IT'S AS IF THEY'VE FORGOTTEN WHO THEY SERVE. THEY'RE LUCKY YOU DON'T TAX THEM MORE.
MORE TAXES IN THE COLONIES YOU SAY...THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA.
TAX, TAX, TAX!


"So, in *1765* the British Parliament passed the ***Stamp Act***, and outrage filled the colonies."
THIS NEW TAX IS *OUTRAGEOUS!*
WE CAME TO THE NEW WORLD TO BE *FREE*, NOT CONTROLLED BY RULERS *AN OCEAN AWAY!*
DID *YOU* AGREE TO THIS TAX?! *I DIDN'T!*
"Did people really write a lot of letters back then and use lots'a ***stamps?***"
MORTGAGE
"The new tax wasn't simply about ***postage stamps***. It was about printed paper that required a stamp of authority..."
WE AREN'T FREE MEN WITHOUT *A SAY IN THE RULES* WE HAVE TO LIVE BY.
YEAH!!! WE SHOULD HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE.
NO MORE ACTS! NO MORE TAX!
WE DESERVE TO HAVE *REPRESENTATION!*


NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION! NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION!


"Anger spread and the colonists began to organize. In October of 1765, leaders from nine colonies met in New York to discuss their *outrage*."
ORDER! ORDER! GENTLEMEN, THE TIME HAS COME TO BAND TOGETHER.


HERE, HERE! WE NEED ORGANIZED PROTESTS.


"The colonies stood together against the Stamp Act, and after a year of protesting, their efforts were successful."
ATTENTION! PARLIAMENT HAS REPEALED THE STAMP ACT! SEE WHAT WE'RE CAPABLE OF WHEN UNITED!
HURRAY!!!


BUT A YEAR LATER...
THEY'RE TAXING OUR GLASS, PAPER, AND PAINT!
THESE TOWNSHEND ACTS MAKE ME MISS THE STAMP ACT.
THEY'RE EVEN TAXING OUR TEA!


I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH KING GEORGE! I WANT FREEDOM!
PSSST... HEY... OVER HERE...
I SAY. ARE YOU A PATRIOT?
WELL, I'M CERTAINLY NO LOYALIST. THOSE NO GOOD ROTTEN – HEY! AREN'T YOU...


"...SAMUEL ADAMS!"
ONE OF ENGLAND'S MOST WANTED!
SAMUEL ADAMS: THE FIREBRAND OF FREEDOM
• BORN IN BOSTON IN 1722
• ATTENDED HARVARD COLLEGE
• LEADER AND ORGANIZER OF A PROTEST GROUP CALLED THE SONS OF LIBERTY
• KNOWN FOR GIVING FIERY SPEECHES AND WRITING PERSUASIVE ESSAYS


WOW! EVER SINCE THE BOSTON MASSACRE, I'VE WANTED TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND JOIN YOU AND THE SONS OF LIBERTY.
WE'RE HAVING A PARTY TOMORROW NIGHT DOWN AT THE HARBOR. INTERESTED?
YEAH! I'LL BE THERE... BUT, WHAT KIND OF PARTY?
A TEA PARTY.

COLONIAL CONTEXT

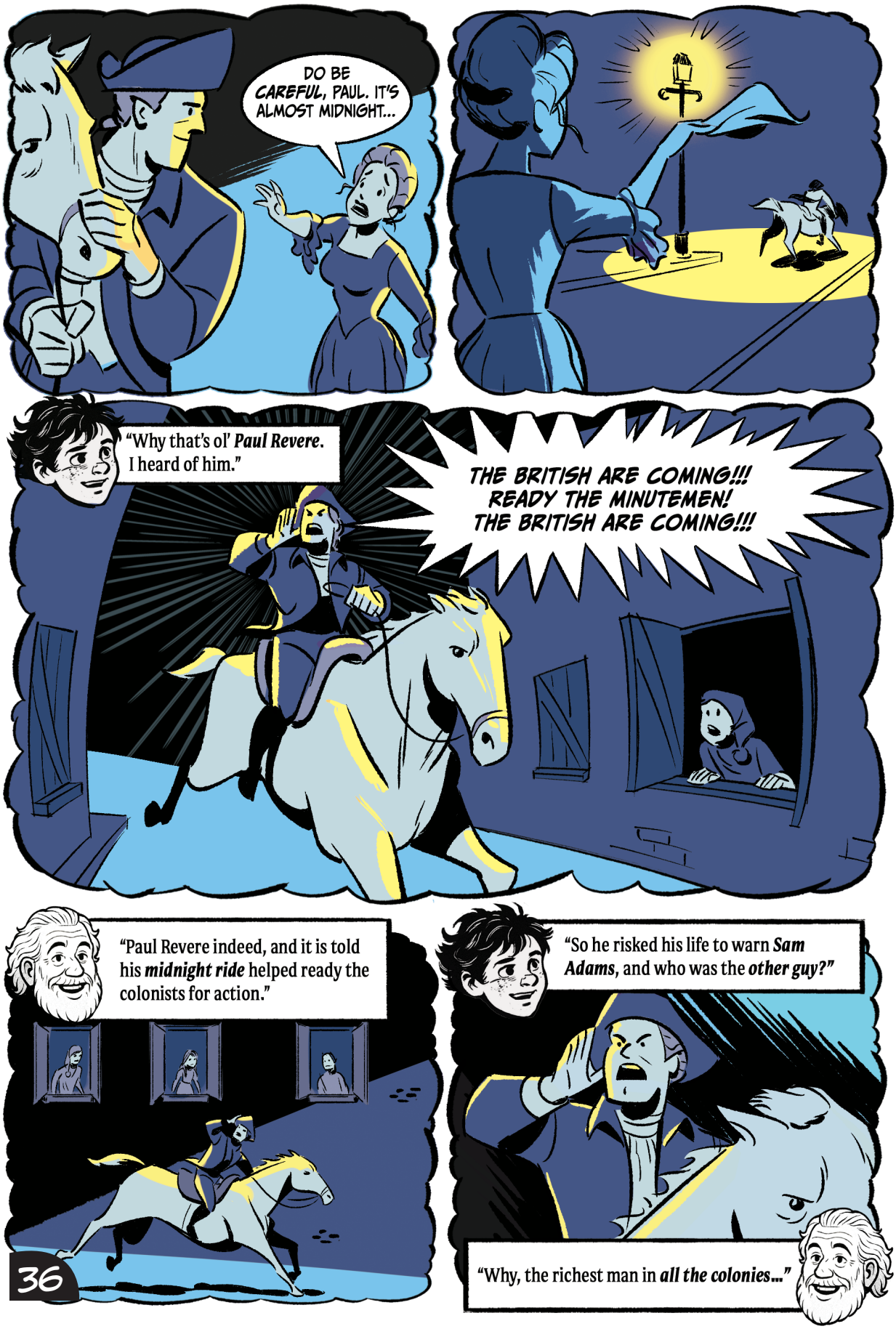



THE BOSTON TEA PARTY!!!
YOU GOT IT!
THAT'S WHEN THE AMERICANS DRESSED UP LIKE MOHAWK INDIANS,
AND DUMPED ALL THE BRIT'S TEA INTO BOSTON HARBOR.
SO YOU DO KNOW SOME OF AMERICA'S HISTORY.
WHAT MASSACRE WAS OL' SAM ADAMS TALKING ABOUT?
THE BOSTON MASSACRE.
BACK IN 1770 TENSIONS IN BOSTON WERE HIGHER THAN EVER.
BRITISH TROOPS GUARDED GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND PATROLLED THE STREETS WITH LOADED WEAPONS...


ONE COLD WINTERY NIGHT A CROWD OF PATRIOTS CONFRONTED A GROUP OF OFFICERS...
EACH SIDE INSULTED THE OTHER, AND THE PATRIOTS BEGAN THROWING SNOWBALLS AND ICICLES.
TELL ME MORE!
IT WAS DEATHLY VIOLENT...
SUDDENLY, A SHOT FIRED. THEN MORE FOLLOWED AND WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARED, FIVE PATRIOTS LAY DEAD.
WOAH!
I GET WHY THAT GUY WITH SAM ADAMS WAS READY TO JOIN THE SONS OF LIBERTY.
SO THAT LED TO THE TEA PARTY?
YES. THE PATRIOTS DUMPED BRITISH TEA INTO THE HARBOR AS A PROTEST AGAINST THE ACTS AND TAX.
THE KING REACTED BY SLAPPING WHAT WAS KNOWN AS THE INTOLERABLE ACTS...
AND THAT WAS WHEN THE REAL FIGHTING STARTED.


VIRGINIA, 1775
I KNOW NOT WHAT COURSE OTHERS MAY TAKE...
BUT AS FOR ME...
GIVE ME LIBERTY, OR GIVE ME DEATH!!
CHEERS TO PATRICK HENRY!
FREEDOM FOR ALL!
LIBERTY FOR VIRGINIA!!!


"Talk of independence and rebellion spread across the colonies like wildfire, but it was back in *Massachusetts* where the *literal* fight for freedom began."
I'M OFF TO WARN THE *MINUTEMEN.*
BUT *PAUL*, IT'S FAR TOO *DANGEROUS!*
LISTEN, IF THE BRITISH CAPTURE *ADAMS* AND *HANCOCK*, OUR LIBERTY MOVEMENT *WILL DIE.*
BUT WHAT IF *YOU'RE CAPTURED?*
THEN THIS IS THE *LAST TIME* YOU'LL SEE ME *ALIVE...*
OH, *PAUL!*


DO BE CAREFUL, PAUL. IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT...
"Why that's ol' Paul Revere. I heard of him."
THE BRITISH ARE COMING!!! READY THE MINUTEMEN! THE BRITISH ARE COMING!!!
"Paul Revere indeed, and it is told his midnight ride helped ready the colonists for action."
"So he risked his life to warn Sam Adams, and who was the other guy?"
"Why, the richest man in all the colonies..."



JOHN HANCOCK: *THE SIGNATURE THAT SHOUTTED FREEDOM*

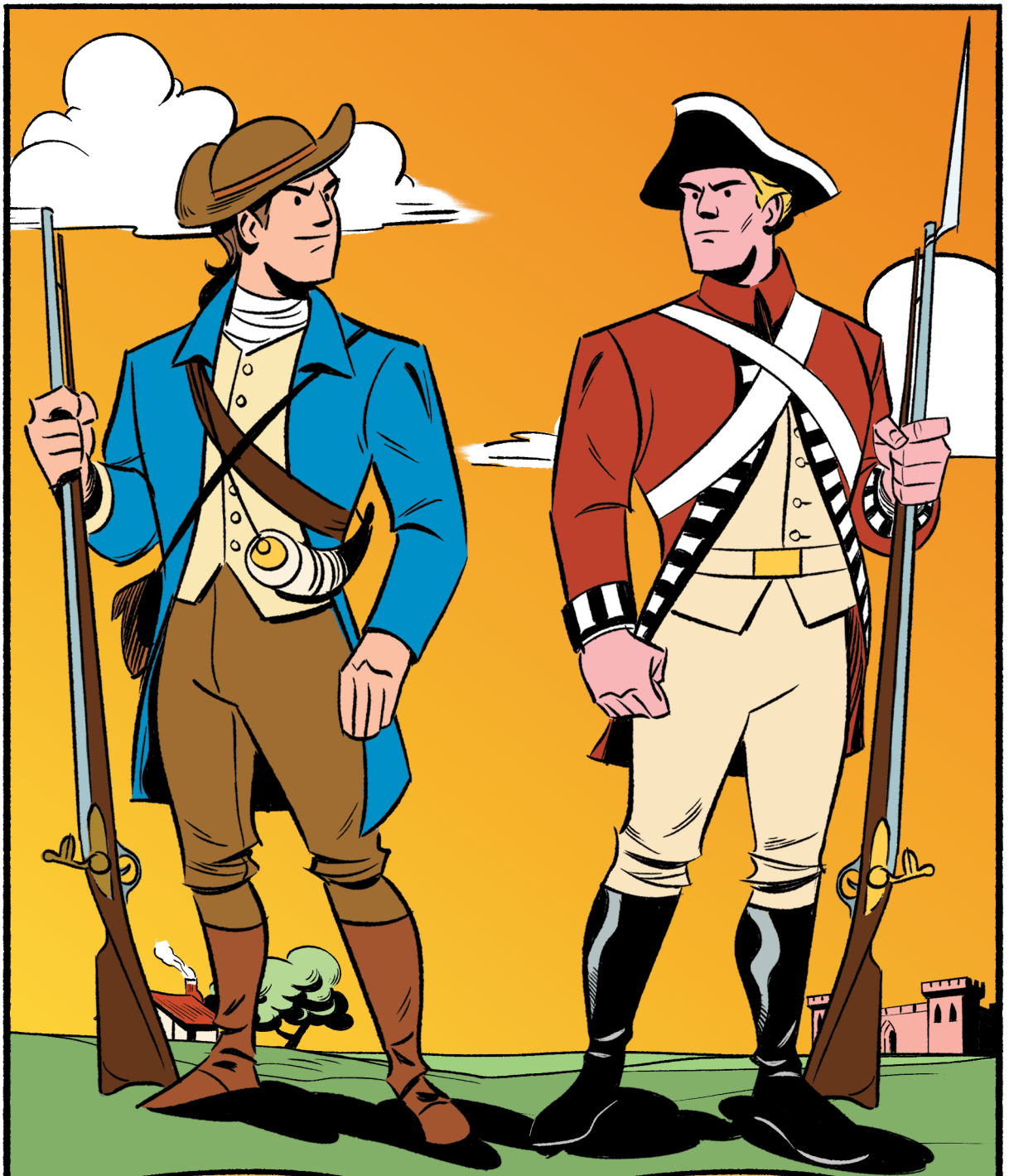
- BORN IN BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS IN 1737
- ATTENDED HARVARD COLLEGE
- BEFORE THE REVOLUTION WAS ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST BUSINESSMEN IN BRITAIN'S AMERICAN COLONIES
- AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE ***SONS OF LIBERTY***
- ACCUSED OF SMUGGLING IN 1768, BUT CHARGES WERE DROPPED


YOU KNOW SAM, WE DO MAKE A MOST PECULIAR DUO.
REALLY, WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
WELL, BY DEFYING THE BRITISH I'M RISKING NOT ONLY AMERICA'S LARGEST FORTUNE, BUT ALSO THE HANDSOMEST WARDROBE IN THE COLONIES.
REMIND ME AGAIN, SAM, WHAT IT IS YOU RISK LOSING BECAUSE OF THE REBELLION.
MY LIFE! JUST AS YOU, YOU POMPOUS JERK.
ONCE WE GAIN INDEPENDENCE, WE WILL ALL HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN WEALTH.
WELL, WE CAN AGREE ON THIS. WE SHOULD ALL HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.
THE BRITISH ARE COMING!! THE BRITISH ARE COMING!!!


THAT'S PAUL REVERE'S WARNING! WE MUST BE OFF.
HEAVENS NO, ADAMS! I AM A MILITIA OFFICER. IT'S TIME FOR ME TO LEAD THE RESISTANCE.
WHILE I HATE TO ADMIT IT, YOUR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP...
AND FORTUNE...
ARE FAR TOO VALUABLE TO THE CAUSE TO RISK LOSING YOU ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
OH, ADAMS, FLATTERY WILL GET YOU EVERYWHERE. LET'S BE OFF THEN. GOD IS WITH US!!


STEADY MEN...
Lexington
HOLD...
HOLD...
BANG!
The Shot Heard Round the World
BANG!
BANG!
THE REVOLUTION HAS BEGUN.
NO GOING BACK NOW. WE'LL BE CELEBRATED AS HEROES, OR KILLED AS TRAITORS TO THE CROWN.
I PRAY FOR THE MINUTEMEN AT THE BATTLE OF CONCORD...


WE GOT 'EM ON THE RUN BOYS! THE BRITISH ARE RETREATING!
Concord
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE FOUGHT OFF THE BRITISH ARMY!
WE TRICKED THEM BY MOVING OUR SUPPLIES BEFORE THEY CAME.
LET'S GET AFTER THEM NO GOOD REDCOATS!
SOON WE WILL BE FREE! SONGS WILL BE WRITTEN ABOUT US.
YOU CAN CALL ME YANKEE DOODLE ALL DAY...HERE I COME FOR YOU!

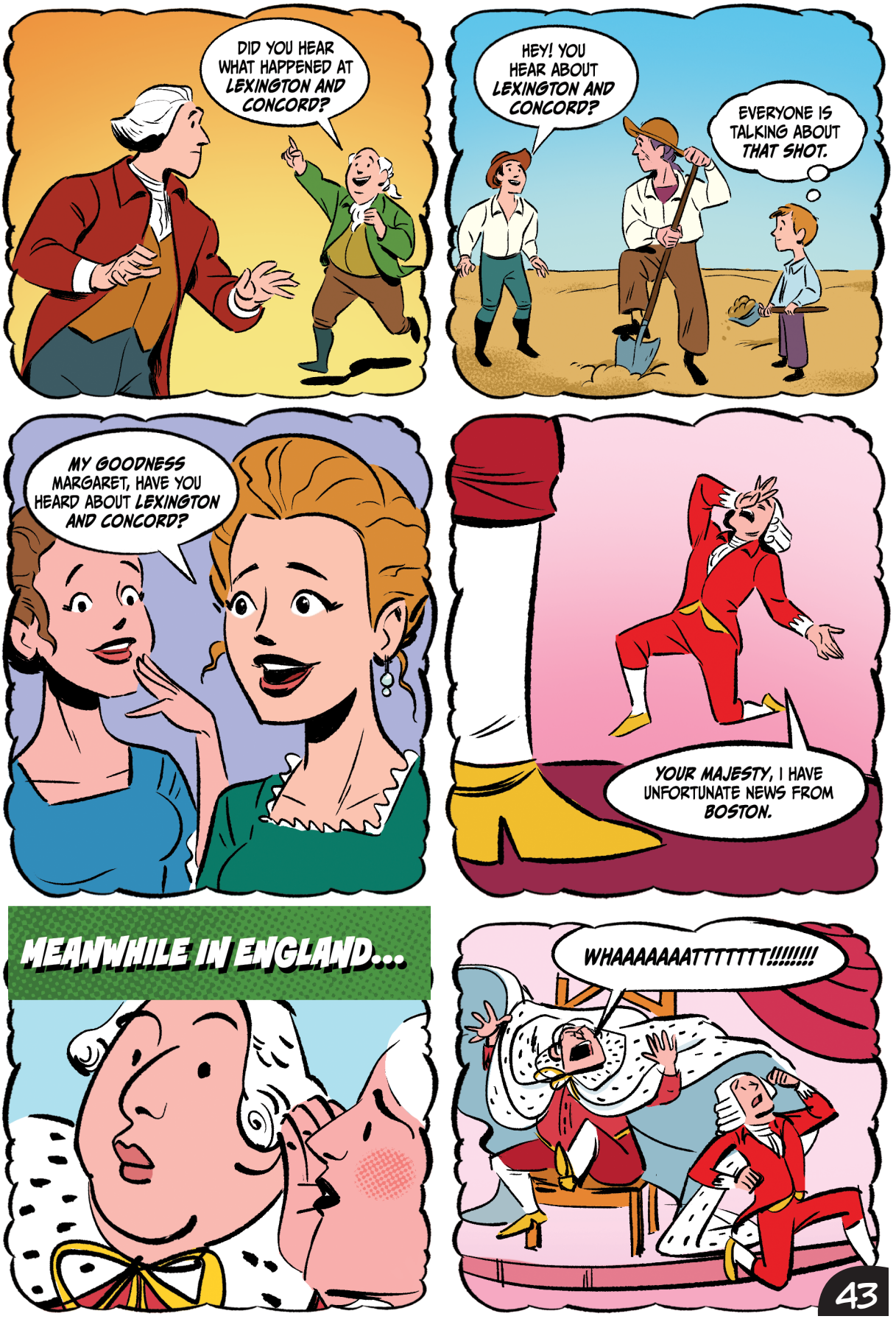


Minutemen

- VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS
- TRAINED TO PROTECT THEIR COMMUNITY
- WORK PLAIN CLOTHES AND USED OWN WEAPONS
- READY TO FIGHT AT A MINUTE'S NOTICE

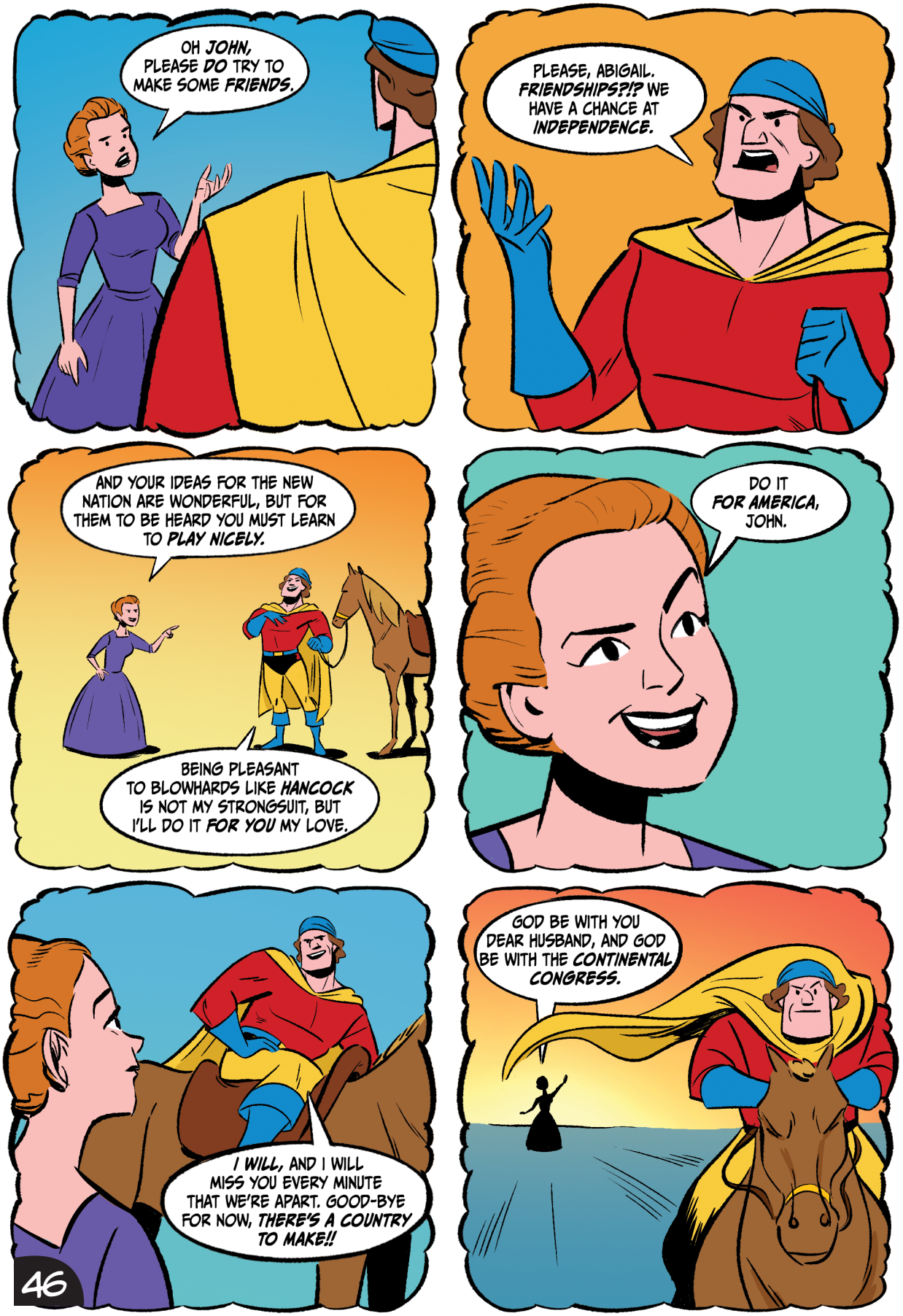
Redcoats

- PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS
- TRAINED TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF BRITISH AUTHORITIES
- WORE OFFICIAL UNIFORMS AND USED WEAPONS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT
- GOT THEIR NICKNAME FROM THEIR BRIGHT RED UNIFORMS


DID YOU HEAR WHAT HAPPENED AT LEXINGTON AND CONCORD?
HEY! YOU HEAR ABOUT LEXINGTON AND CONCORD?
EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT THAT SHOT.
MY GOODNESS MARGARET, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT LEXINGTON AND CONCORD?
YOUR MAJESTY, I HAVE UNFORTUNATE NEWS FROM BOSTON.
MEANWHILE IN ENGLAND...
WHAAAAAAATTTTTTT!!!!!!!!


After their narrow escape, Sam Adams and John Hancock travelled to the 2nd Continental Congress. They had been selected to lead the independence movement.
WILL THERE BE OTHER DELEGATES FROM MASSACHUSETTS?
YES, WE'RE TWO OF THE FIVE.
SAM, DON'T TELL ME THAT KNOW-IT-ALL NERDY COUSIN OF YOURS WILL BE JOINING US...
HEY, I'LL ADMIT HE'S A TOUGH HANG, BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM SUCH A GOOD ATTORNEY.
THE MAN CAN GET INTO AN ARGUMENT IN A ROOM BY HIMSELF.
AND THOSE SKILLS OF ARGUMENTATION ARE PRECISELY WHY WE NEED...


"...JOHN ADAMS!"
POSTERITY! FOR THE FUTURE!
JOHN ADAMS: VOICE OF PRINCIPLE, ARCHITECT OF INDEPENDENCE
• BORN IN BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS IN 1735
• ATTENDED HARVARD COLLEGE
• WORKED AS A SCHOOLTEACHER AND THEN A LAWYER
• DEFENDED BRITISH SOLDIERS AFTER THE BOSTON MASSACRE
• KNOWN FOR INTELLECT AND INTEGRITY


OH JOHN, PLEASE DO TRY TO MAKE SOME FRIENDS.
PLEASE, ABIGAIL. FRIENDSHIPS?!? WE HAVE A CHANCE AT INDEPENDENCE.
AND YOUR IDEAS FOR THE NEW NATION ARE WONDERFUL, BUT FOR THEM TO BE HEARD YOU MUST LEARN TO PLAY NICELY.
BEING PLEASANT TO BLOWHARDS LIKE HANCOCK IS NOT MY STRONGSUIT, BUT I'LL DO IT FOR YOU MY LOVE.
DO IT FOR AMERICA, JOHN.
I WILL, AND I WILL MISS YOU EVERY MINUTE THAT WE'RE APART. GOOD-BYE FOR NOW, THERE'S A COUNTRY TO MAKE!!
GOD BE WITH YOU DEAR HUSBAND, AND GOD BE WITH THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.


SO, REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH COLONY—INCLUDING *SAM ADAMS*, *JOHN ADAMS*, AND *JOHN HANCOCK*—WERE IN THIS EXACT TOWN.
WAIT A SEC, THE *CONTINENTAL CONGRESS* WAS HERE IN *PHILLY?!?!*
YES, *JACK*, AND MET AT THE BUILDING THAT YOU *SHOT FIRECRACKERS* AT LAST NIGHT.
OHHHHHH...
"INDEPENDENCE HALL" NOW I GET IT.
DO YOU?
WELL...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DONE CLEANING UP YOUR MESS. YOU'RE FREE TO GO AND *ENJOY THE HOLIDAY.*
REMEMBER, THE 4TH OF JULY IS NOT JUST ABOUT *FIREWORKS.*


ACTUALLY MR. MITCHELL, IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE I CAN HELP YOU WITH....I'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE HISTORY.


SOUNDS GOOD. GRAB ME THAT SMALL ANVIL.
TAP TAP
BACK BEFORE LEXINGTON AND CONCORD, THERE HAD BEEN A CONTINENTAL CONGRESS. IT TOO WAS HELD HERE IN PHILADELPHIA.
NOW THAT FIGHTING HAD BROKEN OUT, IT WAS TIME TO GATHER AGAIN,
DELEGATES DECIDED TO BOYCOTT BRITISH GOODS, AND AGREED THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS MINUTEMEN SHOULD BEGIN TRAINING.
AND DELEGATES FROM EACH COLONY MET FOR THE 2ND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO DETERMINE THE DIRECTION OF THE REBELLION.


PHILADELPHIA, MAY 1775
ATTENTION! ATTENTION!
REGRETFULLY, AFTER ONLY TWO WEEKS AS CONGRESSIONAL PRESIDENT, I, PEYTON RANDOLPH MUST STEP DOWN. I MUST RETURN TO VIRGINIA.
WHO WILL BE PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS NOW?!
WE'RE DOOMED. WE'VE LOST OUR LEADER!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GOING TO DO THIS.
HE'S VERY POPULAR.


I NOMINATE THE DELEGATE FROM MASSACHUSETTS, JOHN HANCOCK!
I SECOND!
HOORAY FOR HANCOCK! OUR NEW LEADER.
MR. HANCOCK, DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD BEGIN DEALING WITH OUR HOMETOWN?
I SECOND THAT.


ATTENTION! ATTENTION! I SAY GENTS, NOW THAT NEW LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN DECIDED, I BELIEVE IT'S TIME WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO WAR.
PEACE MUST STILL BE OUR AIM!
MR. DICKINSON, TELL THAT TO THE MEN WHO FOUGHT IN LEXINGTON AND CONCORD, AND TELL THAT TO THE PEOPLE OF BOSTON!
NOT ONE SINGLE VOTE FOR PEACE!
GENTLEMEN, THE NEW ENGLAND MILITIAMEN ARE READY TO FIGHT, AND WIN, BUT THEY NEED DIRECTION AND RESOURCES.


"THEY HAVE THE BRITISH REGULARS SURROUNDED AND TRAPPED IN BOSTON."
"IT'S TIME FOR OTHER COLONIAL MILITIAS TO BE READIED."
OF COURSE THE ADAMS BOYS WANT US ALL TO GET INVOLVED IN THEIR WAR.
DOES SOUTH CAROLINA NEED TO GET INVOLVED?
MR. RUTLEDGE, WHY SHOULD SOUTHERN STATES LIKE SOUTH CAROLINA ENTANGLE OURSELVES IN CHAOS CREATED BY NORTHERNERS?
FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!
"The delegates united, and agreed that change was needed, but they were divided regarding how drastic the changes should be."
THIS TALK OF INDEPENDENCE IS LUNACY!


THE MINUTEMEN HAVE THE COURAGE BUT LACK *PROPER WEAPONRY*. WE *MUST* MANUFACTURE MORE GUNS AND GUN POWDER!
NAY! A COLONIAL MILITARY STANDS NO CHANCE AGAINST *MIGHTY BRITISH FORCES!*
MR. ADAMS, *PEACE* MUST REMAIN THE GOAL. AN *OLIVE BRANCH* IS WHAT WE NEED!
AYE! AN OLIVE BRANCH PETITION WILL BE DRAFTED AND SENT.
HOORAY!!!!
THIS *DICKINSON* FROM PENNSYLVANIA IS A *FOOL*...


BOSTON, JUNE 1775
GENERAL GAGE, SIR! I HAVE NEWS. OUR LOYAL SPIES SAY THERE ARE ROUGHLY 15,000 MILITIAMEN SURROUNDING US.
YES, BUT THEY'RE ALL PEASANTS AND FARMERS. THIS SIEGE IS SO ANNOYING. AT THE SNAP OF MY FINGERS, OUR 6,000 DISCIPLINED BRITISH SOLDIERS WILL MAKE MINCED MEAT OF THEM.
THE COLONISTS WERE RATHER IMPRESSIVE WHILE DEFENDING CONCORD.
RUBBISH, LIEUTENANT. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS. WE'LL ATTACK SUNDAY MORNING AND END THIS CHARADE.
"But the colonists had spies too, and quickly learned of Britain's plans."


"So the patriots had time to *escape*?"
"Heavens no, Jack! The Americans readied for war, and rushed to the high ground of Breed and Bunker hills."


GOOD MORNING, SIR. THE AMERICANS MUST'VE LEARNED OF YOUR *PLOT*. THEY'VE PERCHED THEMSELVES ATOP *BUNKER HILL* AND LOOK READY TO FIGHT.



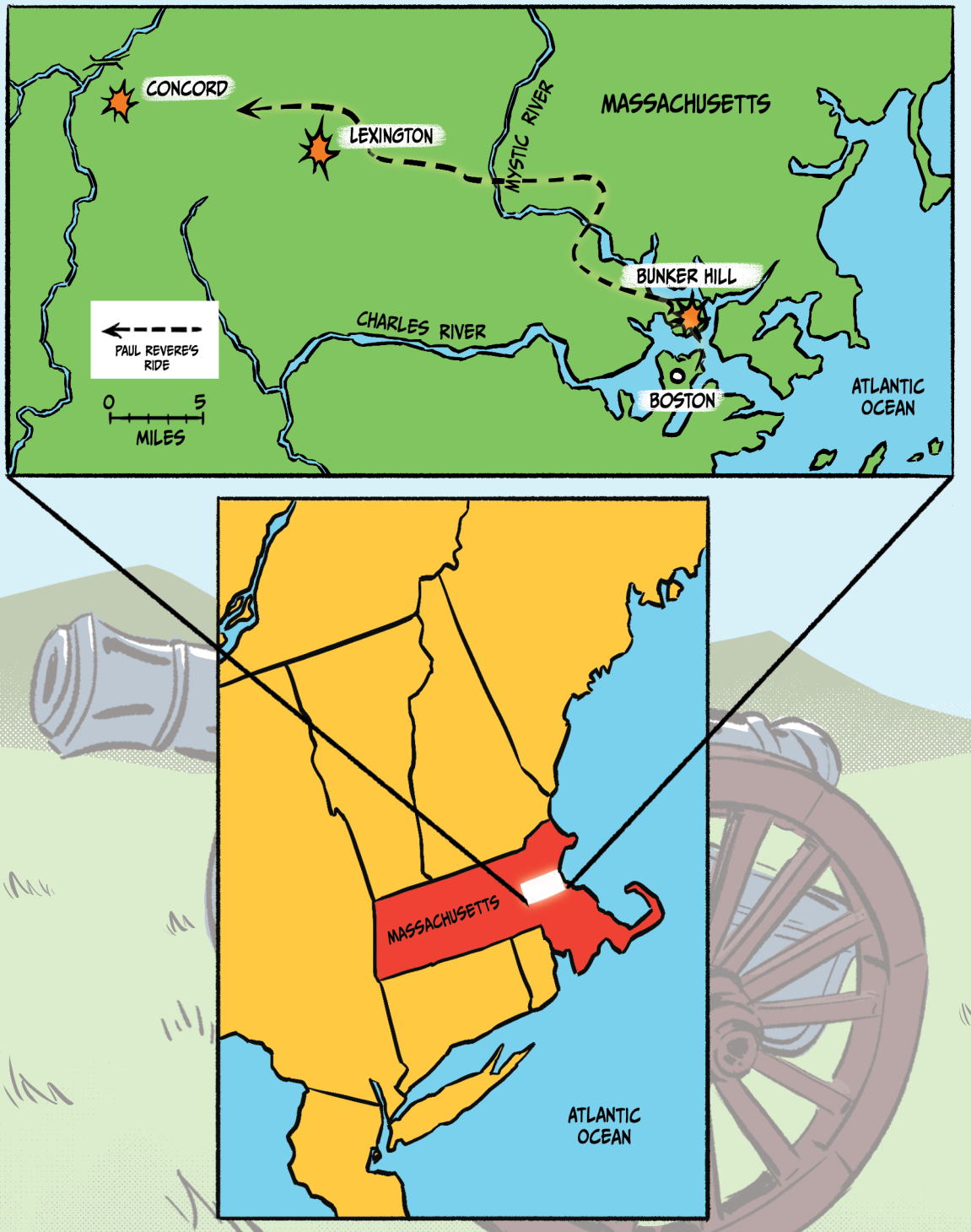



ORDER THE CANNONS TO BEGIN *FIRING* FROM THE WAR SHIPS AND READY THE *INFANTRY!*


BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
FOR
MOTHER ENGLAND!!

COLONIAL CONTEXT

LEXINGTON, CONCORD, AND BUNKER HILL—*THE CRADLE OF THE REVOLUTION*



COLONIAL CONTEXT

THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL: *COURAGE ON THE CLIFFS*

IN JUNE 1775, JUST TWO MONTHS AFTER THE BATTLES AT LEXINGTON AND CONCORD, TENSIONS BOILED OVER AGAIN—THIS TIME JUST OUTSIDE OF BOSTON. BRITISH TROOPS PLANNED TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE HIGH GROUND AROUND THE CITY. BUT THE PATRIOTS GOT THERE FIRST.

A MASSACHUSETTS FARMER-TURNED-SOLDIER NAMED COLONEL WILLIAM PRESCOTT LED A GROUP OF COLONIAL MILITIA TO BREED'S HILL (NEXT TO BUNKER HILL), WHERE THEY BEGAN BUILDING STRONG DEFENSES TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM ATTACK. THOUGH OUTNUMBERED AND LOW ON AMMUNITION, PRESCOTT AND HIS MEN STOOD FIRM. AS HUNDREDS OF BRITISH SOLDIERS MARCHED UP THE SLOPE, HE GAVE THE FAMOUS ORDER: "DON'T FIRE UNTIL YOU SEE THE WHITES OF THEIR EYES!"—SAVING EVERY SHOT FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT.

THE BRITISH EVENTUALLY TOOK THE HILL—BUT AT A HUGE COST, LOSING OVER 1,000 MEN, MORE THAN TWICE THE PATRIOT LOSSES. THOUGH THE PATRIOTS WERE FORCED TO RETREAT, THEIR FIERCE RESISTANCE SENT A CLEAR MESSAGE: AMERICA WOULDN'T BACK DOWN.

THE BATTLE MAY HAVE BEEN A BRITISH WIN ON PAPER, BUT IT PROVED THIS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM WAS ONLY JUST BEGINNING. THE MESSAGE WAS CLEAR: THIS WOULDN'T BE AN EASY FIGHT—THE COLONISTS WERE READY TO RESIST.



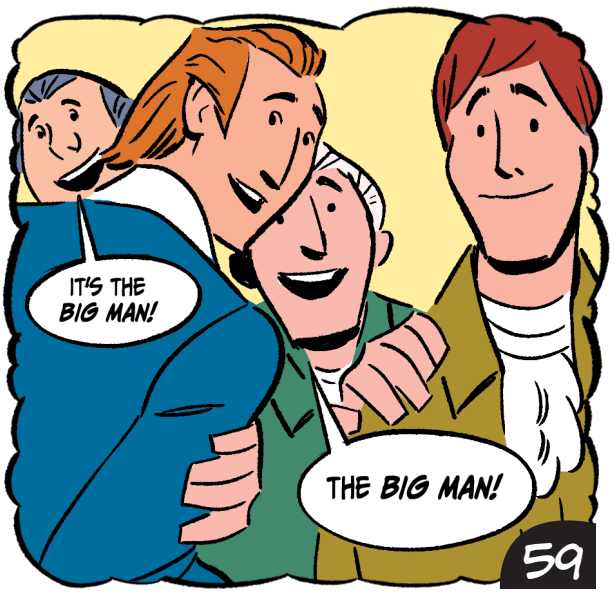

A DECLARATION OF WAR IS LIKE SIGNING OUR OWN DEATH WARRANT.


AYE!!
NAY!!


PEACE!
REBELLION!

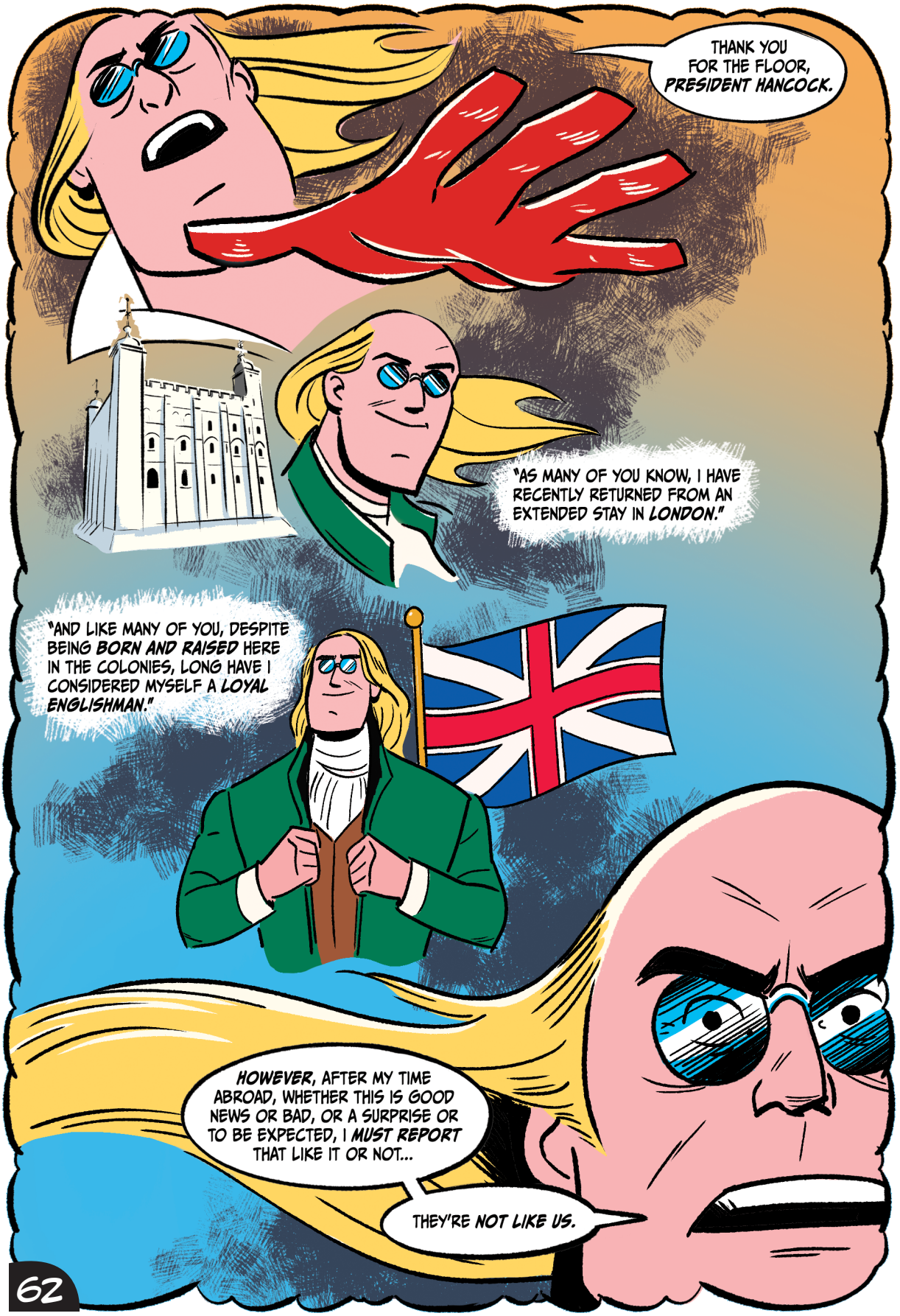

AHEM!!



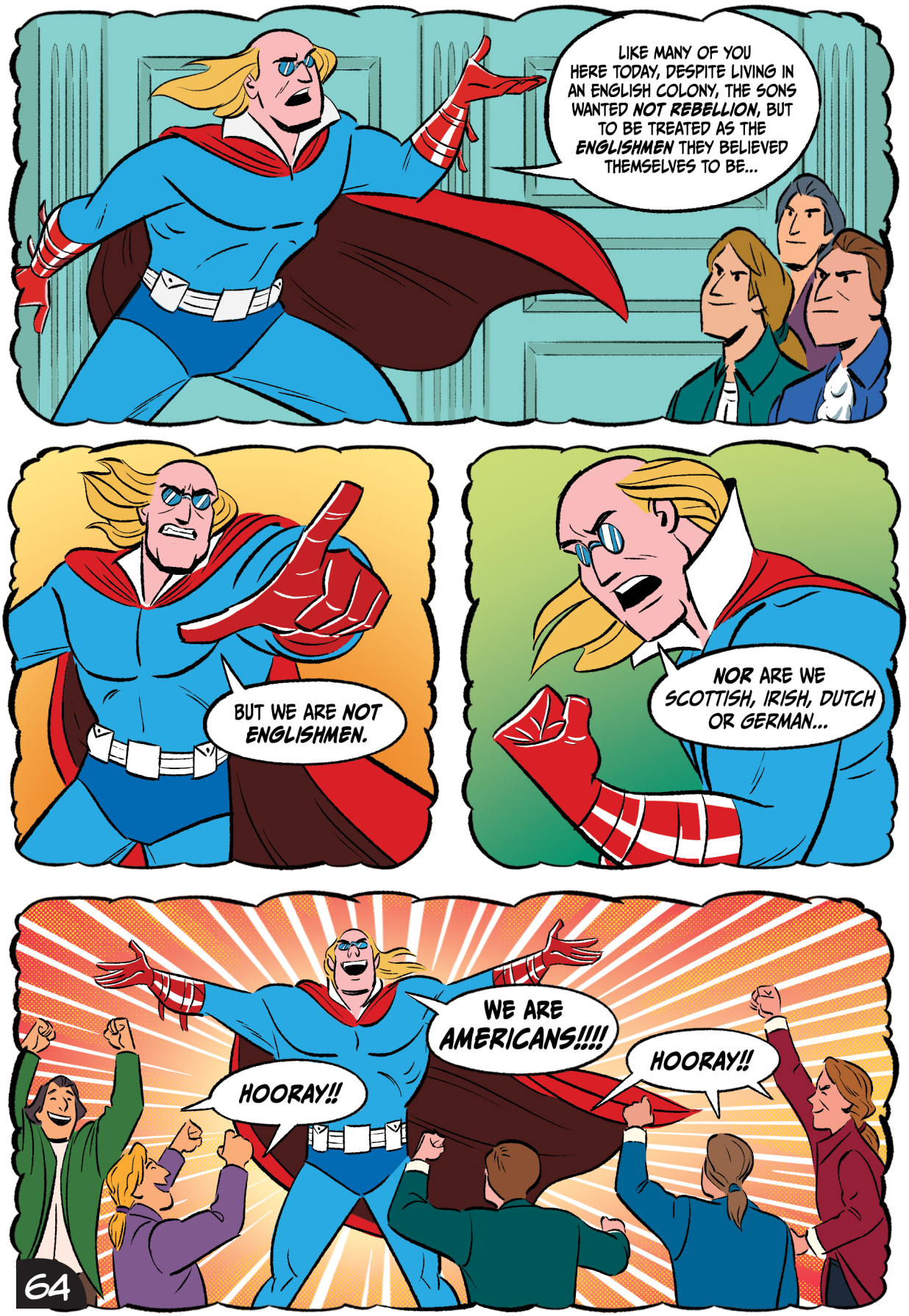

IT'S THE BIG MAN!
THE BIG MAN!


ORDER! GENTLEMAN, ORDER! THE BIG MAN WANTS TO SPEAK.
"Who's *the big man?*"
THE FLOOR IS YOURS, SIR.
"Why, *Mr. Philadelphia* himself..."


"...BENJAMIN FRANKLIN!"
NO GAINS WITHOUT PAINS!
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN:
THE MAN WHO COULD DO IT ALL
• BORN IN BOSTON IN 1706
• ONE OF 17 CHILDREN IN HIS FAMILY
• BEGAN WORKING IN A PRINTSHOP AT AGE 12
• A PRINTER, WRITER, PHILOSOPHER, AND INVENTOR, HE BECAME ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS MEN IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES


THANK YOU FOR THE FLOOR, PRESIDENT HANCOCK.
"AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, I HAVE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM AN EXTENDED STAY IN LONDON."
"AND LIKE MANY OF YOU, DESPITE BEING BORN AND RAISED HERE IN THE COLONIES, LONG HAVE I CONSIDERED MYSELF A LOYAL ENGLISHMAN."
HOWEVER, AFTER MY TIME ABROAD, WHETHER THIS IS GOOD NEWS OR BAD, OR A SURPRISE OR TO BE EXPECTED, I MUST REPORT THAT LIKE IT OR NOT...
THEY'RE NOT LIKE US.


THEY'RE NOT LIKE US!
THEY'RE NOT LIKE US!
YEARS AGO OUR BROTHERS, THE SONS OF LIBERTY, COINED THE FAMOUS PHRASE "NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION."
NO TAXATION!
WITHOUT REPRESENTATION!
AND TO SAM AND JOHN ADAMS WE WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL.
HOORAY FOR THE SONS OF LIBERTY!!


LIKE MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY, DESPITE LIVING IN AN ENGLISH COLONY, THE SONS WANTED *NOT REBELLION*, BUT TO BE TREATED AS THE *ENGLISHMEN* THEY BELIEVED THEMSELVES TO BE...
BUT WE ARE *NOT ENGLISHMEN.*
NOR ARE WE SCOTTISH, IRISH, DUTCH OR GERMAN...
HOORAY!!
WE ARE *AMERICANS!!!!*
HOORAY!!

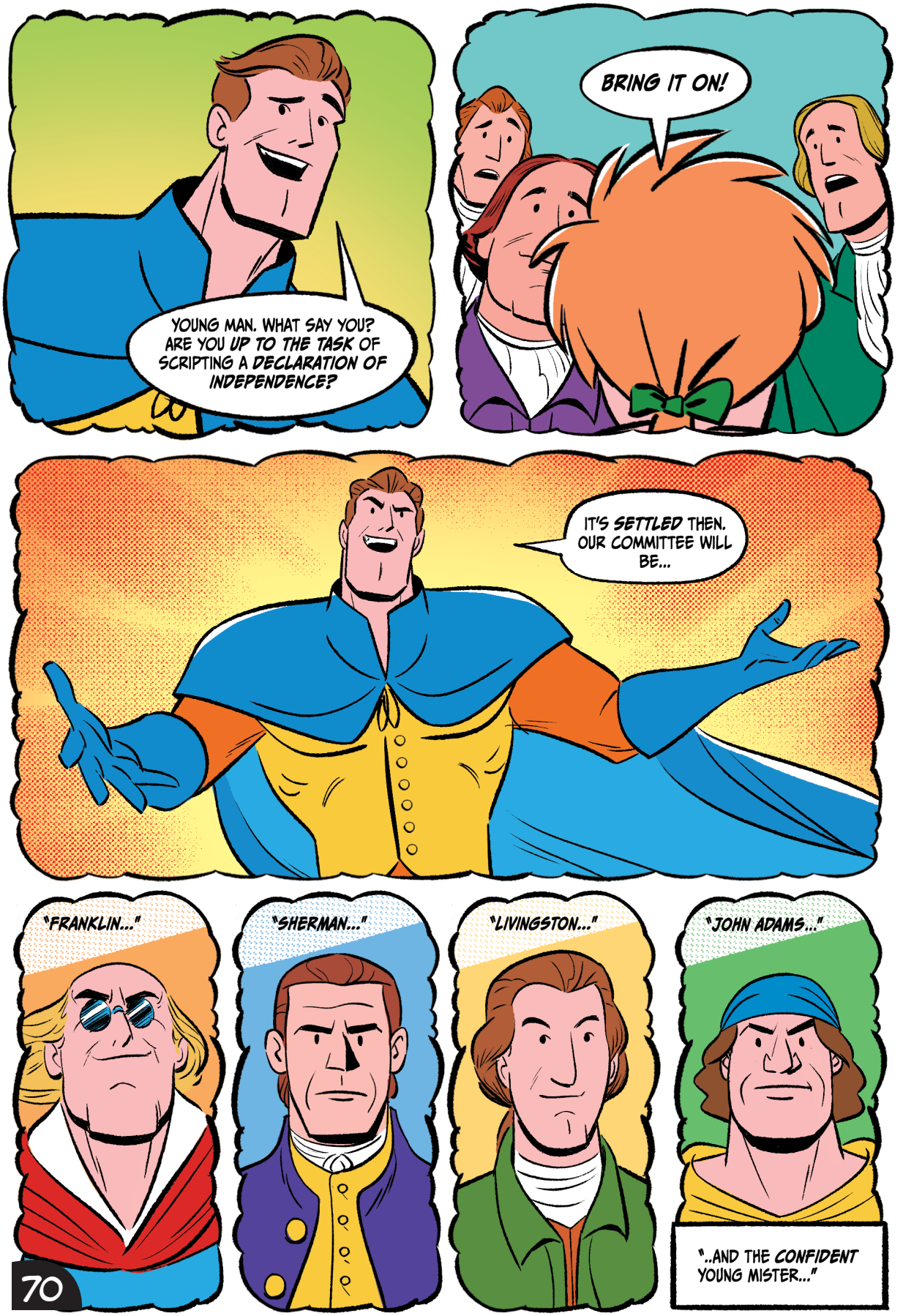

AND AS AMERICANS, AN INDEPENDENT SPIRIT FLOWS THROUGH OUR VEINS THAT NO TYRANT CAN CONTROL.
HOORAY!!
WELL ALRIGHT. I DARE SAY IT'S TIME TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE...
"Congress reorganized the militias into the *Continental Army...*"
"...and *George Washington* was appointed as *Commander-in-Chief.*"


COLONIAL CONTEXT
GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
• BORN IN VIRGINIA IN 1732
• DID NOT RECEIVE A FORMAL EDUCATION
• WIDELY KNOWN FOR ATHLETIC ABILITY AND HORSE RIDING SKILLS
• AT 22 SERVED AS A BRITISH OFFICER DURING THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR
• ACCEPTED THE CALL TO LEAD THE CONTINENTAL ARMY
THE FATE OF UNBORN MILLIONS WILL NOW DEPEND, UNDER GOD, ON THE COURAGE AND CONDUCT OF THIS ARMY.


I SAY, HANCOCK. NOW THAT WE HAVE A FORMAL MILITARY, SHOULDN'T WE MAKE A *FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT* THAT WE HAVE *LEFT* THE BRITISH EMPIRE?
THAT'S A *GRAND* IDEA ADAMS. A *DECLARATION* IF YOU WILL.
YES, A *DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE*, THAT WE'LL SEND THROUGHOUT THE COLONIES AND TO OLD KING GEORGE HIMSELF.
WHO WILL WRITE THE DECLARATION? CERTAINLY *NOT YOU*.
LET'S FORM A *COMMITTEE!*
OK—WHO WILL BE IN OUR *INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE?*
I SAY THE *BIG MAN!*
YES. *EXCELLENT.*
"BEN FRANKLIN'S *WISDOM* AND *CELEBRITY* WILL BE MOST USEFUL."

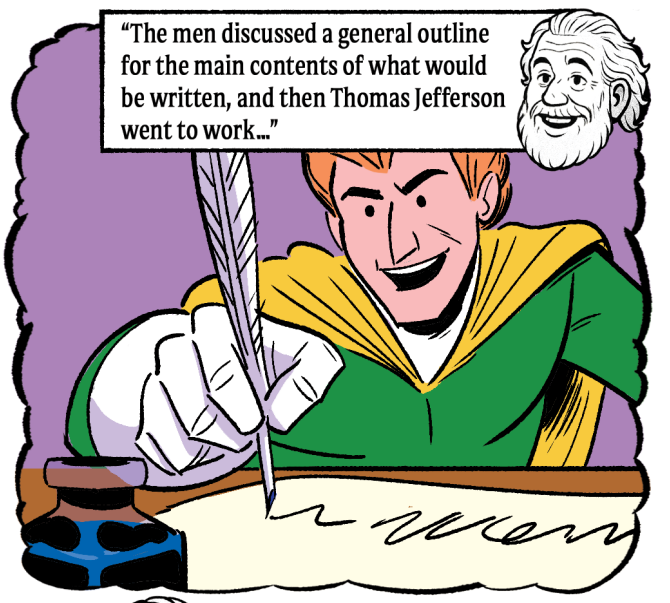

HOW ABOUT ROBERT LIVINGSTON?
"YES. GOOD FORM. HIS LEGAL EXPERTISE AND POLITICAL EXPERIENCE WILL ADD NICELY."
LET US NOT FORGET ROGER SHERMAN!
"MMM, YES. HIS JUDGEMENT IS BEYOND REPROACH."
WHAT ABOUT JOHN ADAMS?
REALLY!? NOBODY LIKES HIM... NO OFFENSE JOHN.

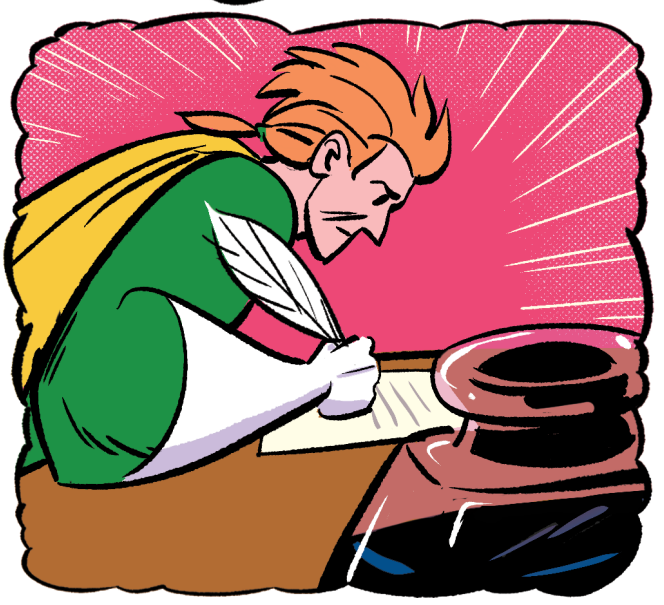

FINE. I SUPPOSE MR. ADAMS' INTELLECT WILL BE NEEDED.
OK. THIS IS A GOOD GROUP, BUT WE NEED A WORDSMITH. A MAN OF THE PEN. A WRITER...
HMMMMM...
I SAY, WHAT ABOUT THE YOUNG VIRGINIAN WHO REPLACED PEYTON RANDOLPH?
THE LONER?
AYE. HE DOES KEEP MOSTLY TO HIMSELF, BUT I'VE HEARD HE HAS A SPECIAL WAY WITH THE WRITTEN WORD.

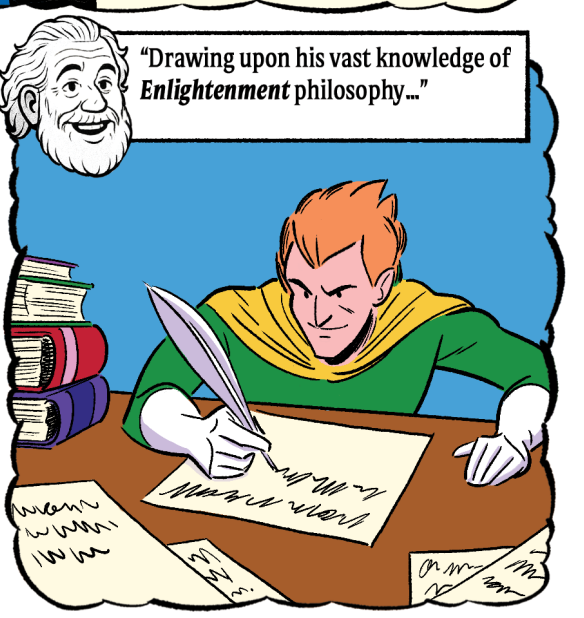

YOUNG MAN. WHAT SAY YOU? ARE YOU UP TO THE TASK OF SCRIPTING A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?
BRING IT ON!
IT'S SETTLED THEN. OUR COMMITTEE WILL BE...
"FRANKLIN..."
"SHERMAN..."
"LIVINGSTON..."
"JOHN ADAMS..."
"..AND THE CONFIDENT YOUNG MISTER..."

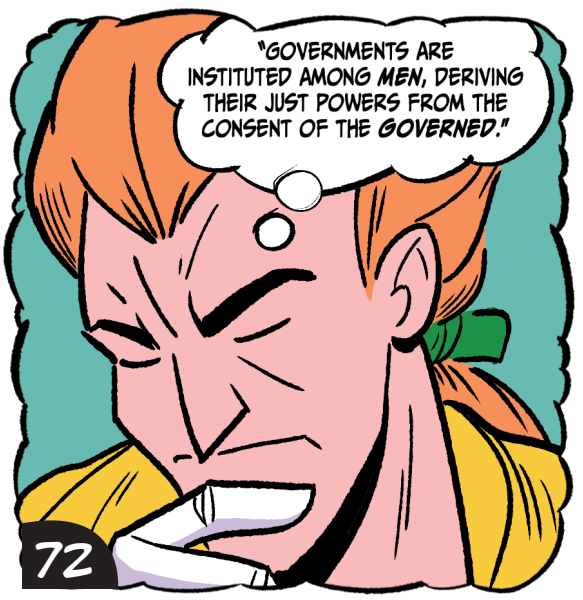

"...THOMAS JEFFERSON!"
OUR CAUSE IS JUST! OUR UNION IS PERFECT.
THOMAS JEFFERSON:
THE PEN OF THE REVOLUTION
• BORN ON A VIRGINIA PLANTATION IN 1743
• AS A YOUTH HE READ AS MANY BOOKS AS POSSIBLE, AND GAINED UNCOMMON KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY, SCIENCE, AND GOVERNMENT.
• A LAWYER WHO FOUGHT FOR REFORMS TO LIMIT SLAVERY, AND DEFENDED SLAVES IN COURT
• BELIEVED IN A VISION OF AMERICA WHERE LIBERTY WAS A GOD-GIVEN RIGHT FOR ALL


"So, what became known as the *Committee of Five* began working on drafting a document..."

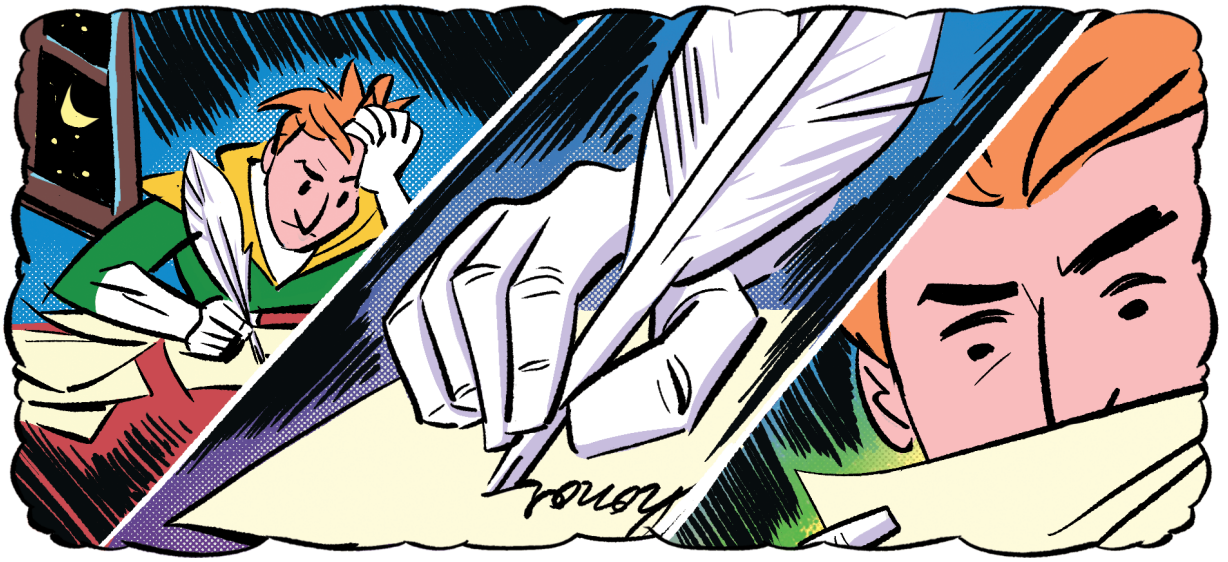

"The men discussed a general outline for the main contents of what would be written, and then Thomas Jefferson went to work..."

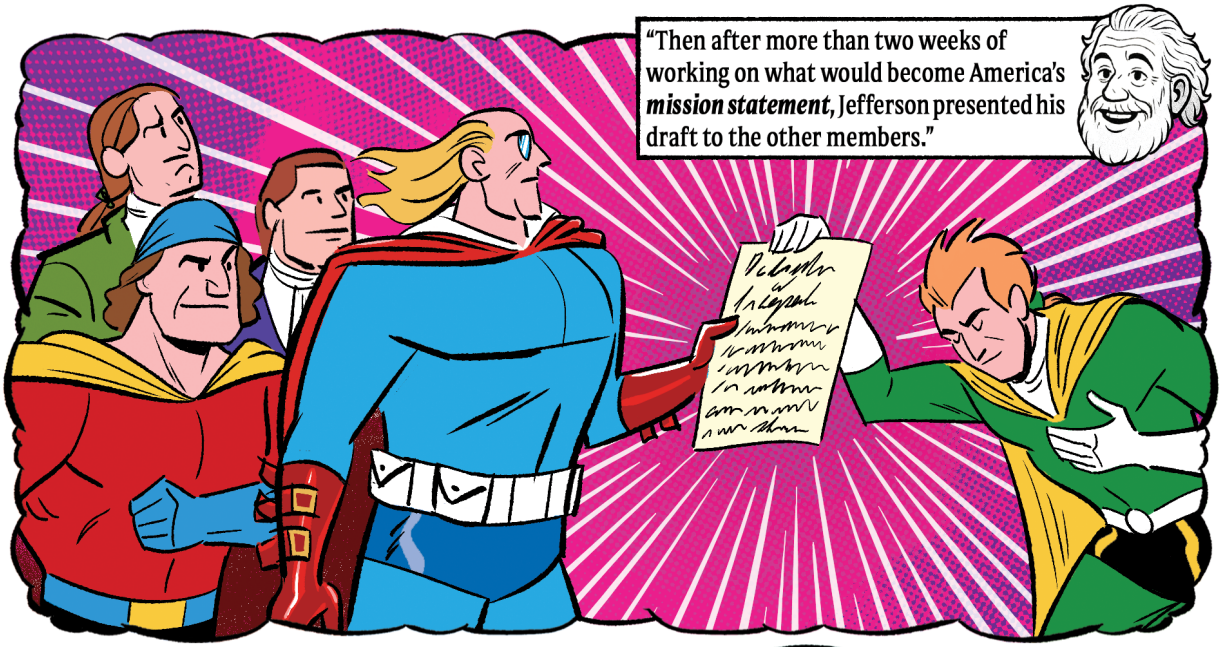


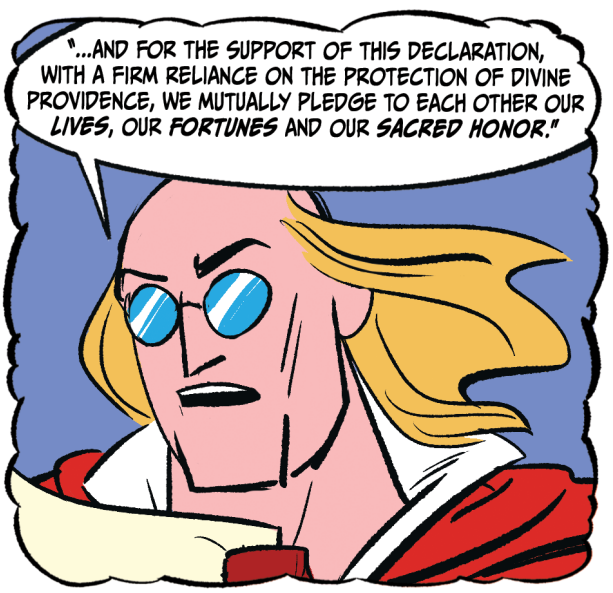

"Drawing upon his vast knowledge of *Enlightenment* philosophy..."


"GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED AMONG *MEN*, DERIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE *GOVERNED*."


"...he wrote and *rewrote*..."



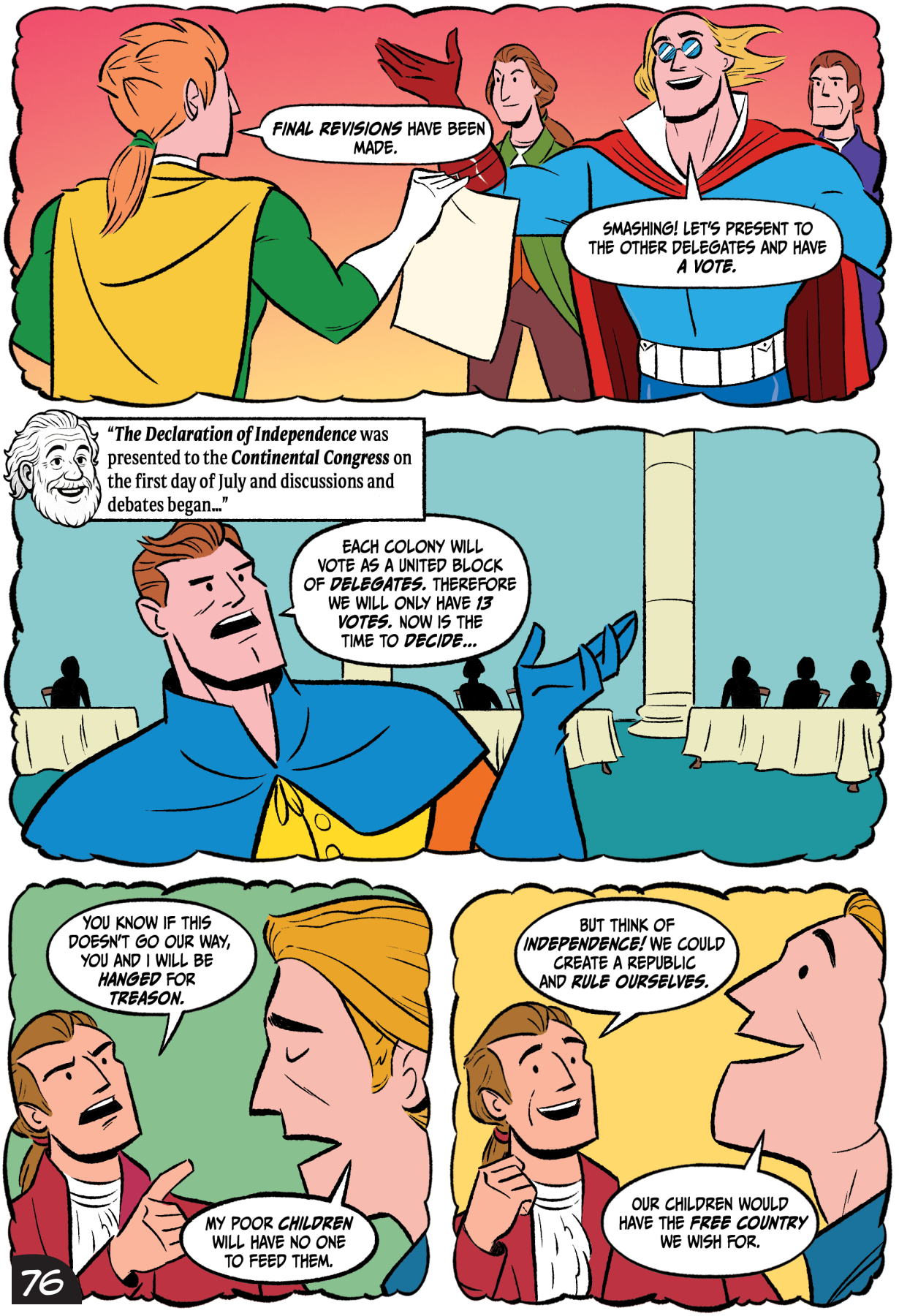

"Then after more than two weeks of working on what would become America's *mission statement*, Jefferson presented his draft to the other members."

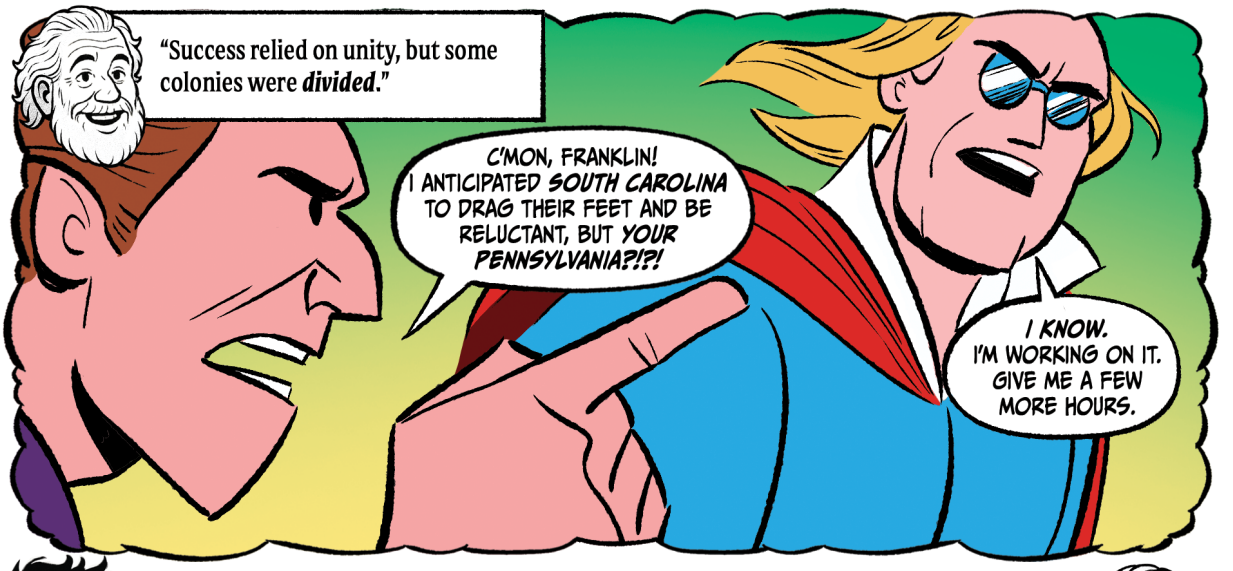

"...AND FOR THE SUPPORT OF THIS DECLARATION, WITH A FIRM RELIANCE ON THE PROTECTION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, WE MUTUALLY PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER OUR *LIVES*, OUR *FORTUNES* AND OUR *SACRED HONOR*."


THANK YOU MR. FRANKLIN.
IT'S *GLORIOUS!* GOODNESS JEFFERSON, YOU ARE INDEED THE *POET OF THE REVOLUTION.*

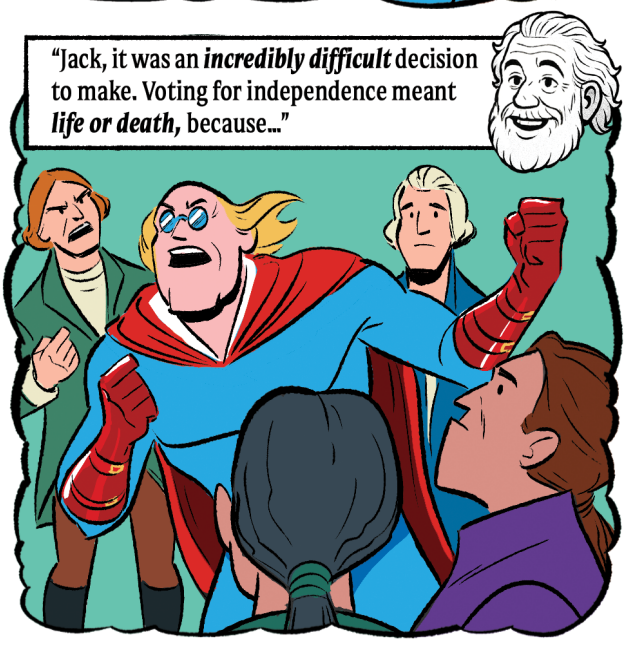

AGREED. MASTERFUL ELOQUENCE, BUT SOME REVISIONS ARE NEEDED.
"For two days the Committee poured over the document, making changes so it was *just right.*"
INSTEAD OF THE OPENING LINE HAVING "SACRED AND UNDENIABLE," HOW ABOUT, "WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT?"
OOH, THAT'S GOOD.
THE MAIN POINTS MUST REMAIN—MEN DO HAVE NATURAL RIGHTS, A GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY DOES COME FROM ITS CITIZENS, AND REVOLUTION IS IN ORDER WHEN RIGHTS ARE NOT HONORED—BUT THE LIST OF GRIEVANCES NEEDS TWEAKING.
I BEG YOUR PARDON?
JOHN'S RIGHT. IN THIS ROOM, WE AGREE WITH YOUR LIST OF OBJECTIONS, THOMAS, BUT NOT ALL THE DELEGATES WILL.


THERE IS NO CHANCE OF VICTORY WITHOUT *UNITY*. IF WE DON'T CHANGE THE OBJECTIONS, GEORGIA AND THE CAROLINAS WILL *LEAVE* THE DELEGATION.
AND OUR REVOLUTION WILL BE *LOST*.
FINE...

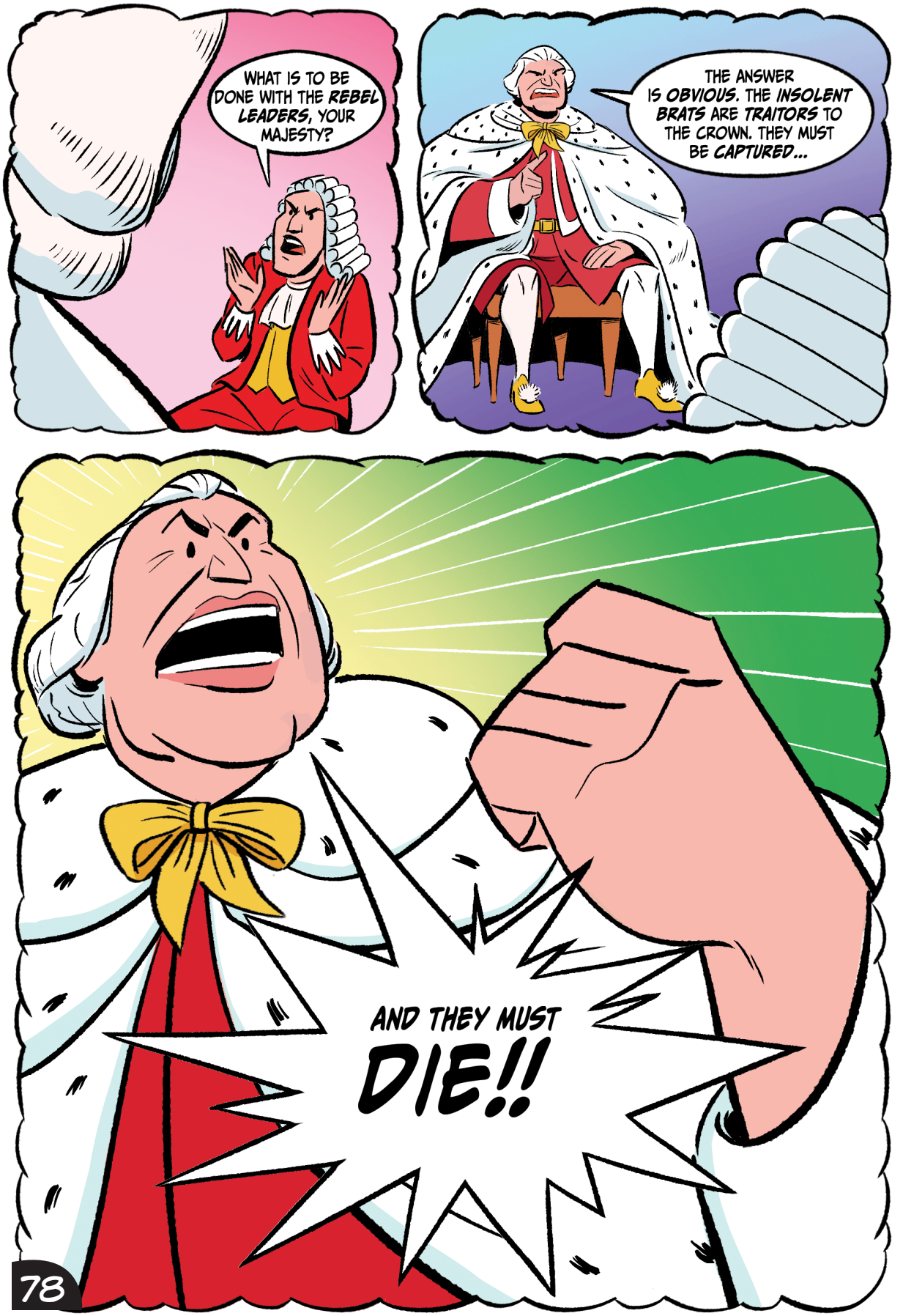

FINAL REVISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE.
SMASHING! LET'S PRESENT TO THE OTHER DELEGATES AND HAVE A VOTE.
"The Declaration of Independence was presented to the Continental Congress on the first day of July and discussions and debates began..."
EACH COLONY WILL VOTE AS A UNITED BLOCK OF DELEGATES. THEREFORE WE WILL ONLY HAVE 13 VOTES. NOW IS THE TIME TO DECIDE...
YOU KNOW IF THIS DOESN'T GO OUR WAY, YOU AND I WILL BE HANGED FOR TREASON.
MY POOR CHILDREN WILL HAVE NO ONE TO FEED THEM.
BUT THINK OF INDEPENDENCE! WE COULD CREATE A REPUBLIC AND RULE OURSELVES.
OUR CHILDREN WOULD HAVE THE FREE COUNTRY WE WISH FOR.


"Success relied on unity, but some colonies were ***divided***."
C'MON, FRANKLIN! I ANTICIPATED *SOUTH CAROLINA* TO DRAG THEIR FEET AND BE RELUCTANT, BUT *YOUR PENNSYLVANIA?!?!*
I KNOW. I'M WORKING ON IT. GIVE ME A FEW MORE HOURS.

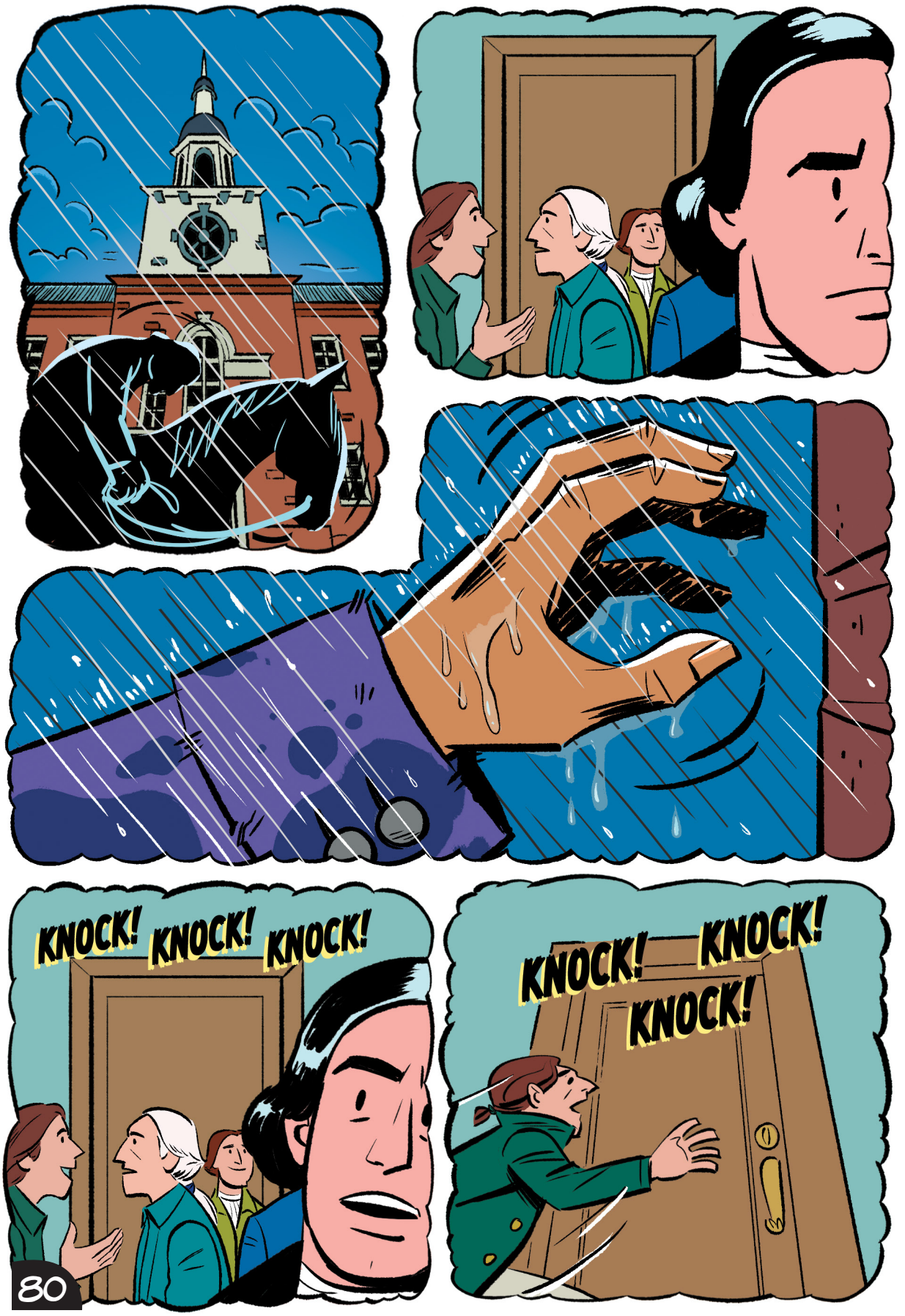

"***Wait a minute.*** Pennsylvania didn't want to be free from King George's ***tyranny?!***"


"Jack, it was an ***incredibly difficult*** decision to make. Voting for independence meant ***life or death,*** because..."

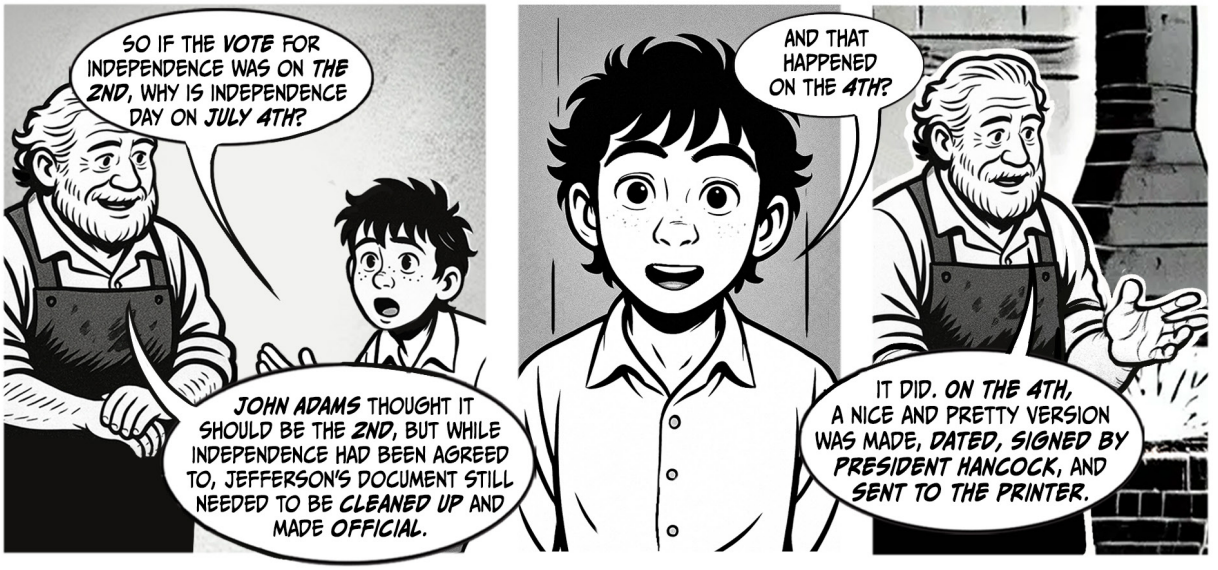

MEANWHILE, BACK IN BRITAIN...
IF IT'S A WAR THEY WANT, *THEN IT'S A WAR THEY WILL GET!*


WHAT IS TO BE DONE WITH THE REBEL LEADERS, YOUR MAJESTY?
THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS. THE INSOLENT BRATS ARE TRAITORS TO THE CROWN. THEY MUST BE CAPTURED...
AND THEY MUST
DIE!!


"Back in Philadelphia, it was time for a *final vote*, and tension was in the air."
PENNSYLVANIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA HAVE *SWITCHED* THEIR VOTE TO *INDEPENDENCE!* THAT GIVES US *11*. WHAT ABOUT YOU, *NEW YORK?*
WE ARE *NOT CONFIDENT* IN THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR COLONY, AND THEREFORE WILL *ABSTAIN* FROM VOTING UNTIL A LATER DATE.
SEEMS RATHER *WEAK*, BUT FAIR ENOUGH. THE VOTE IS NOW *12 TO ZERO*. WHAT ABOUT YOU *DELAWARE?*
SORRY, FELLAS BUT WE'RE STILL TIED *ONE TO ONE.*
THIS IS SO *NERVEWRACKING!*
UNACCEPTABLE! WHERE IS *RODNEY* TO BREAK THE TIE?
HE'S HOME IN DELAWARE, STRICKEN WITH *CANCER.* THERE ARE ONLY *TWO OF US.*


KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!
KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!


IT'S CAESAR RODNEY!!
I CHOOSE... FREEDOM.
THANK YOU, CAESAR. HISTORY WILL REMEMBER YOU WELL.
THAT SETTLES IT! WE HAVE BROKEN FREE FROM BRITAIN AND WE ARE UNITED!
TODAY, JULY 2ND, WE DECLARE THAT WE ARE UNITED... THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!
HOORAY!!!!
SEND WORD AT ONCE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON!
THERE'S NO GOING BACK NOW...


SO IF THE VOTE FOR INDEPENDENCE WAS ON THE 2ND, WHY IS INDEPENDENCE DAY ON JULY 4TH?
JOHN ADAMS THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE THE 2ND, BUT WHILE INDEPENDENCE HAD BEEN AGREED TO, JEFFERSON'S DOCUMENT STILL NEEDED TO BE CLEANED UP AND MADE OFFICIAL.
AND THAT HAPPENED ON THE 4TH?
IT DID. ON THE 4TH, A NICE AND PRETTY VERSION WAS MADE, DATED, SIGNED BY PRESIDENT HANCOCK, AND SENT TO THE PRINTER.

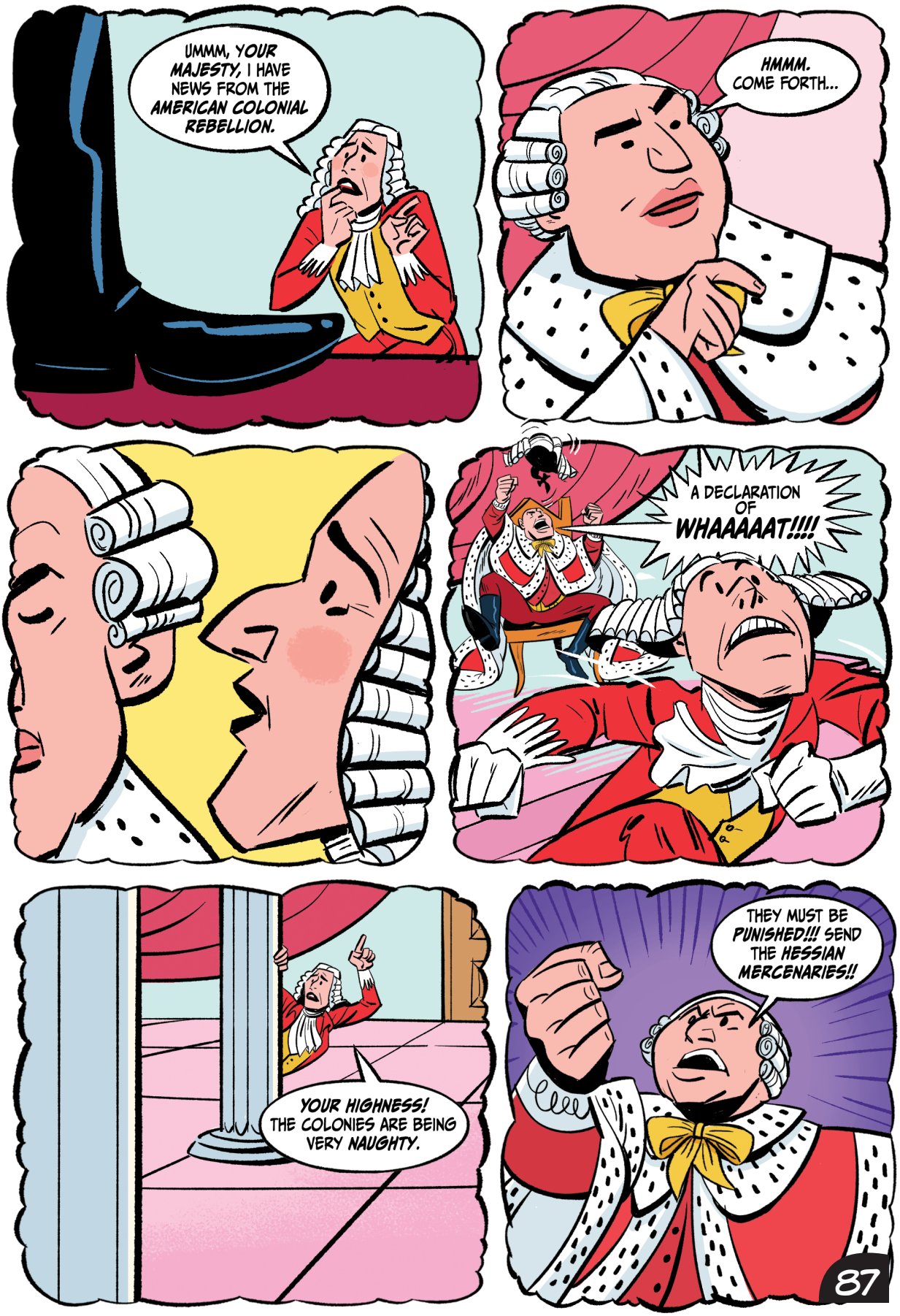

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!
ATTENTION! ATTENTION!
THE INDEPENDENCE DAY 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BEGINS IN 30 MINUTES!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO FINISH JUST IN TIME TO JOIN THE PARTY.
BUT I NEED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE DOCUMENT WENT TO THE PRINTER!
THERE'S JUST ENOUGH TIME TO FINISH THE STORY TOO. HAND ME THAT HAMMER.


SO...BACK IN 1776
IT READS, "THE DECLARATION OF THE THIRTEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA..."
"...WHEN IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS, IT BECOMES NECESSARY FOR ONE PEOPLE TO DISSOLVE THE POLITICAL BANDS WHICH HAVE CONNECTED THEM..."
"Copies of the Declaration were sent up and down the states..."
OH PAUL, YOUR RIDE WAS WORTH THE RISK!
"...THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS..."
GOOD JOB, JOHN QUINCY. KEEP GOING.
"Wait. That's our president now. He was a kid back then?"
"...THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS..."


" Dear boy, how did you not know that John Quincy Adams is the son of John Adams?"
"I'm more of a Jackson guy."
"Figures..."
"...THE HISTORY OF THE PRESENT KING OF GREAT BRITAIN IS A HISTORY OF REPEATED INJURIES AND USURPATIONS...
OHHHHHH SNAP!!!
"...and General Washington had it read to the Continental Army."
"...WE MUTUALLY PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES AND OUR SACRED HONOR!!!"
HOORAY!!!!!!
NOW THAT NEW YORK'S VOTE IS IN, AND THE TALLY IS OFFICIALLY 13-0, I THINK WE SHOULD ADD "UNANIMOUS" TO THE DOCUMENT'S FIRST LINE.
I THINK WE SHOULD ALL SIGN IT TOO.


SOME DELEGATES HAVE LEFT.
AND MAYBE NOT EVERYONE WANTS THEIR NAMES SO VISIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH—
I DO.
I DO.
I DO.
Samuel Adams
Benjamin Franklin
Thomas Jefferson
I DO!!


"In total 56 delegates signed their names to America's founding document."
OF COURSE HANCOCK HAD TO MAKE A SHOW OF HIS SIGNATURE.
JUST WANT TO MAKE CERTAIN OLD GEORGIE BOY CAN READ IT....
John Hancock


UMMM, YOUR MAJESTY, I HAVE NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN COLONIAL REBELLION.
HMMM. COME FORTH...
A DECLARATION OF WHAAAAAT!!!!
YOUR HIGHNESS! THE COLONIES ARE BEING VERY NAUGHTY.
THEY MUST BE PUNISHED!!! SEND THE HESSIAN MERCENARIES!!


"The British hired thousands of *German Hessian soldiers* to join the British, and sent them to America to fight..."
GENERAL WASHINGTON! WE'RE OUTNUMBERED TWO TO ONE, AND THEY'VE GOT US CORNERED.
SURRENDERING IS NOT AN OPTION, MEN. TIME TO RETREAT TO MANHATTAN.




SIR! NOW FORT WASHINGTON HAS BEEN LOST AND ALMOST 3,000 MEN HAVE BEEN CAPTURED!


THERE'S NO TIME TO GRIEVE. THE LOBSTERBACKS WILL BE HOT ON OUR HEELS. NEW YORK IS LOST. WE MUST NOW RETREAT INTO NEW JERSEY.


"Wait a minute...George Washington *lost battles?*"


"Yes, ***many*** battles were lost, ***especially at first.*** The British quickly captured New York, but they couldn't get their hands on General Washington..."


I KNOW IT'S NOT LOOKING GREAT, BUT WHILE WE'VE LOST BATTLES, WE HAVE NOT LOST THE WAR.
WE'VE ONLY *BEGUN* TO FIGHT!
I AGREE SAMUEL, BUT WE NEED *HELP*. I'D LOVE TO STAY HERE WITH YOU ALL AND CONTINUE WORKING ON THE *ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION*, BUT I MUST GO TO *FRANCE* AND GET SUPPORT FOR OUR CAUSE.
"While Franklin was lobbying France, and Congress was figuring out what an American government would look like, the Continental Army was ***struggling***..."
"...but General Washington had ***a plan***."
MEN, I KNOW IT'S FREEZING, *AND* IT'S *CHRISTMAS*, BUT THIS IS *OUR CHANCE!*


"After being forced from New Jersey, the Continental Army made a *surprise return* on Christmas night of 1776..."
"...and caught the British mercenaries by surprise at the *Battle of Trenton*."
VICTORY!


"Then about a week later, on January 3, 1777, at the *Battle of Princeton*, General Washington personally led another remarkable win."
CHARGE!!!
WE GOT 'EM ON THE RUN NOW BOYS!
"These victories, plus others that year, helped Franklin with his efforts in *France*."

TURNING THE TIDE: *TRENTON, PRINCETON, AND SARATOGA*

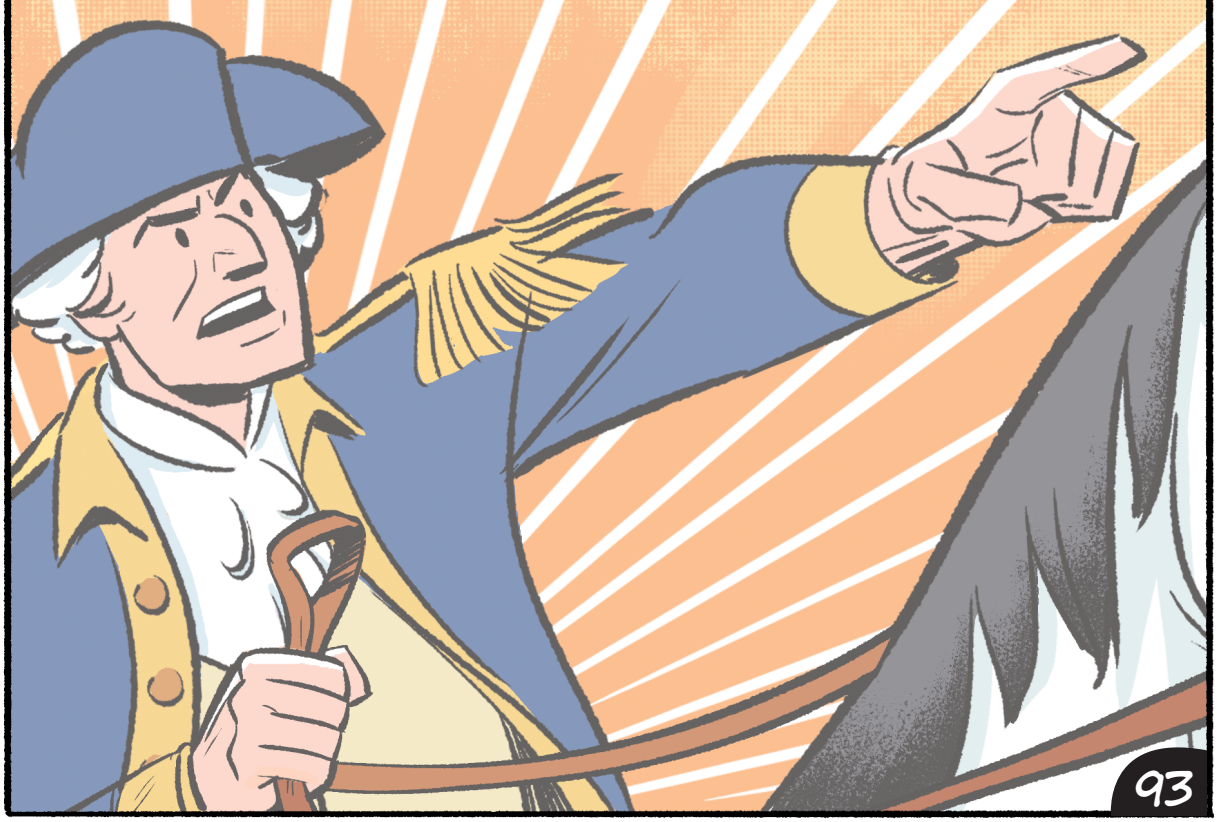
THE WINTER OF 1776 WAS DARK. THE ***CONTINENTAL ARMY*** HAD LOST BATTLE AFTER BATTLE. MEN WERE COLD, STARVING, AND READY TO GIVE UP. ***GEORGE WASHINGTON***—BRAVE, DETERMINED, BUT BATTERED BY DEFEATS—KNEW HE HAD ONE LAST CHANCE TO TURN THINGS AROUND.

ON THE ICY NIGHT OF DECEMBER 25, 1776, WASHINGTON LED HIS MEN ACROSS THE FROZEN ***DELAWARE RIVER***, THROUGH SNOW AND SLEET, WITH NOTHING BUT GRIT AND HOPE. THEY MARCHED ALL NIGHT AND LAUNCHED A SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE ***HESSIANS*** (GERMAN SOLDIERS HIRED BY THE BRITISH TO FIGHT AGAINST THE AMERICAN COLONISTS DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR) AT ***TRENTON, NEW JERSEY***, THE NEXT MORNING. THE VICTORY ELECTRIFIED THE COLONIES.

A WEEK LATER, WASHINGTON STRUCK AGAIN—THIS TIME AT ***PRINCETON***. HE OUTSMARTED THE BRITISH AND WON ANOTHER BATTLE. IN JUST TEN DAYS, WASHINGTON HAD DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE: HE GAVE THE AMERICAN CAUSE NEW LIFE. THESE VICTORIES REVERSED THE EARLY SETBACKS OF THE WAR AND RESTORED MORALE AND CONFIDENCE IN WASHINGTON'S LEADERSHIP.

THEN CAME ***SARATOGA***. IN OCTOBER 1777, AMERICAN FORCES LED BY GENERAL ***HORATIO GATES*** DEFEATED THE BRITISH AT SARATOGA, NEW YORK. THIS WAS MORE THAN A MILITARY WIN. IT WAS A ***TURNING POINT***. AND THE WORLD WAS WATCHING. WORD OF THE VICTORY ECHOED ACROSS THE OCEAN, CATCHING THE ATTENTION OF POWERFUL NATIONS. HELP WAS COMING—SHIPS, SUPPLIES, AND ALLIES—DRAWN BY THE COURAGE SHOWN ON THAT BATTLEFIELD. THE REVOLUTION WAS NO LONGER JUST A COLONIAL UPRISING. IT WAS BECOMING SOMETHING BIGGER. SOMETHING ***GLOBAL***.

THESE THREE BATTLES SHOWED THAT THE RAGTAG CONTINENTAL ARMY HAD HEART, STRATEGY, AND A LEADER WORTH FOLLOWING. THE DREAM OF INDEPENDENCE HAD FLICKERED LOW—BUT THANKS TO TRENTON, PRINCETON, AND SARATOGA, IT ***BLAZED BRIGHT*** ONCE MORE.



"How did the continental army buy weapons and feed their soldiers? Didn't you say that they could barely afford shoes and food?

"You are correct. Many soldiers didn't get paid for a long time. Mothers and children had to work. Most kids did not go to school because they needed to earn money for the family."

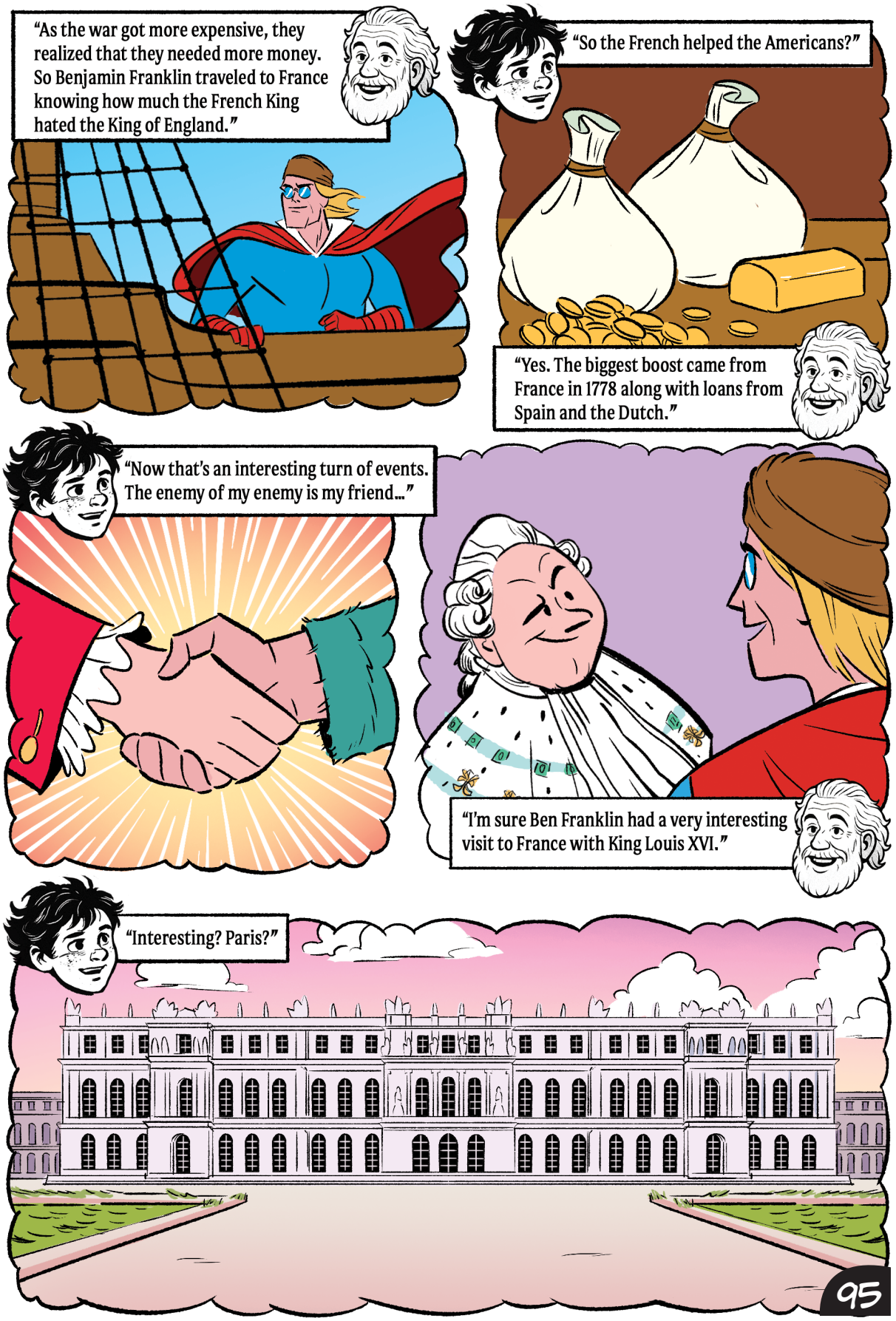
GRAMMAR

GEOGRAPHY

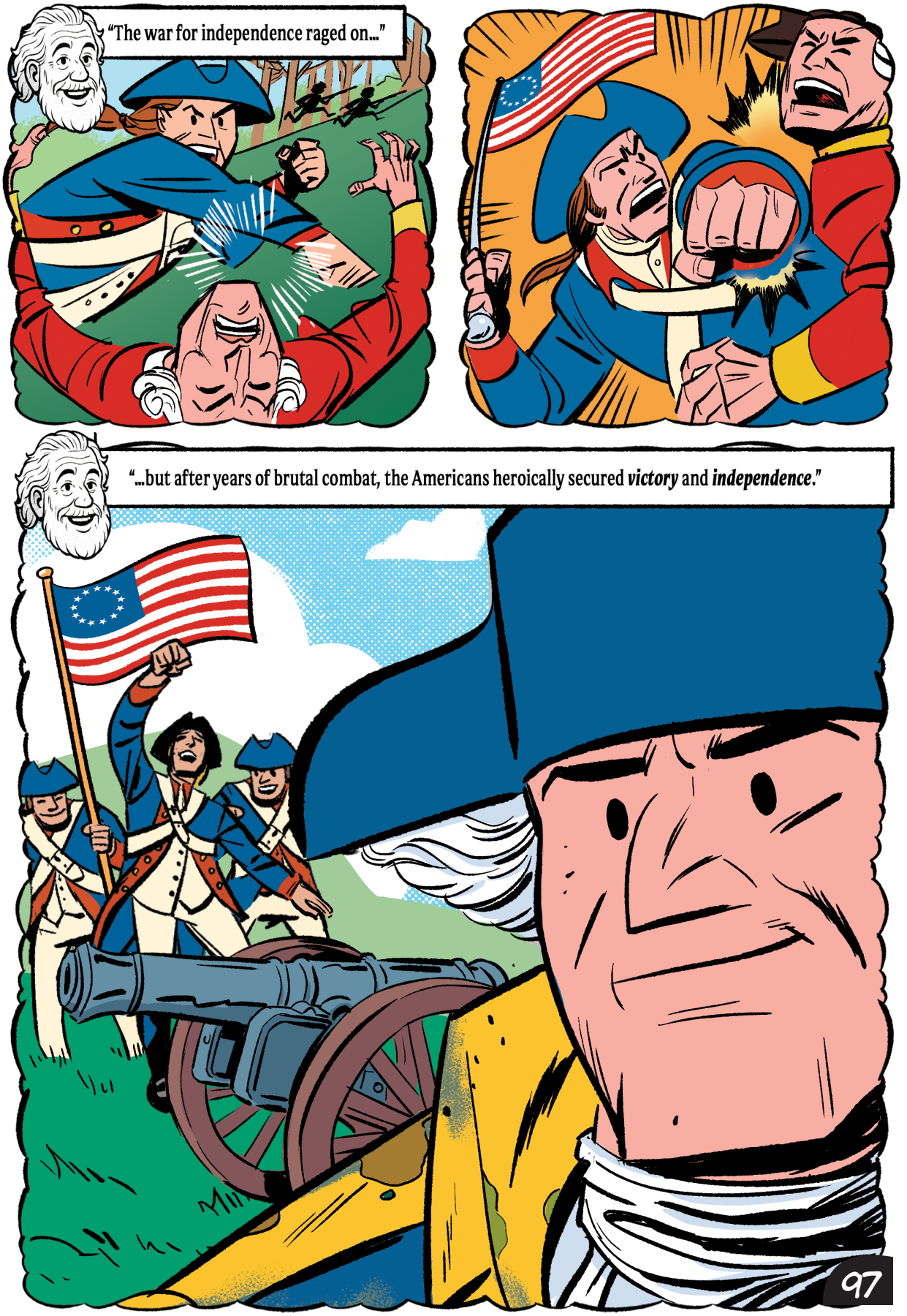
"Figures like Robert Morris and Haym Salomon donated and raised money to keep the Continental Army going."

"So moms and children helped pay for the revolutionary war?"

"Yes. Everyone sacrificed. I remember my mother running a farm while raising eight children. I started working at age seven."


"As the war got more expensive, they realized that they needed more money. So Benjamin Franklin traveled to France knowing how much the French King hated the King of England."
"So the French helped the Americans?"
"Yes. The biggest boost came from France in 1778 along with loans from Spain and the Dutch."
"Now that's an interesting turn of events. The enemy of my enemy is my friend..."
"I'm sure Ben Franklin had a very interesting visit to France with King Louis XVI."
"Interesting? Paris?"


MEANWHILE, BACK IN PARIS...
OOH-LA-LA MR. FRANKLIN, CONGRATULATIONS!
OUI! THE AMERICAN ARMY IS AS SURPRISING AS YOU ARE.
AND YOU LADIES, ARE EVEN MORE KIND AND KNOWLEDGEABLE AS YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL...
OH, MR. FRANKLIN. HAHAHAHA...
BUT TRULY, ALL THANKS GOES TO HIS MAJESTY. THANK YOU, KING LOUIS XVI. WITH FRENCH MILITARY SUPPORT, WE WILL SURELY DEFEAT THE BRITISH.
ANYTHING FOR YOU FRANKLIN, YOU CHEEKY ROGUE, AND ANYTHING TO HURT THE BRITS.
BUT SIRE, THE COST?
SO, WE SPEND SOME MONEY. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?


"The war for independence raged on..."
"...but after years of brutal combat, the Americans heroically secured *victory* and *independence*."


I GUESS AMERICA IS HERE TO STAY.


"Hancock had left the congress to lead the Massachusetts militia."
GOODBYE, GENTLEMEN. IT'S BEEN AN *HONOR* SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF THE 2ND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, BUT I MUST RETURN TO *NEW ENGLAND*.


SO LONG, CONGRESS. DON'T *MESS THIS UP!*
"Despite their many differences, Sam Adams not only joined Hancock back in Boston, but he served as his ***Lieutenant Governor.*** He then took over as ***governor*** of Massachusetts after Hancock passed away in 1793."


"Did all the signers of the Declaration of Independence go on to more success like John Hancock and Sam Adams?"
I WILL SIGN THE DECLARATION IN HONOR OF MY FAMILY, FATHER, AND THE LYNCH FAMILY!!
"Oh no. some lost their homes..."
" ...their fortunes..."
TRAITOR
TRAITOR
" ...and even loved ones."
OH, FRANCIS. I'M STILL PROUD TO CALL MYSELF MRS. LEWIS... YOU ARE A HERO.

THE HIDDEN COST OF SIGNING

WHEN 56 MEN SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, THEY WEREN'T JUST WRITING THEIR NAMES—THEY WERE RISKING EVERYTHING. IF THE REVOLUTION FAILED, THEY COULD BE ARRESTED, TORTURED, OR HANGED FOR TREASON, THE ULTIMATE CRIME OF TURNING AGAINST YOUR KING AND COUNTRY. MANY LOST HOMES, WEALTH, HEALTH, AND EVEN FAMILY MEMBERS. WHILE SOME SIGNERS ARE FAMOUS TODAY, OTHERS MADE ENORMOUS SACRIFICES AND ARE RARELY REMEMBERED. THEY DIDN'T SEEK FAME. THEY DIDN'T CRAVE GLORY. BUT WHEN THEIR MOMENT CAME, THEY STEPPED FORWARD. THESE ARE SOME OF THE FORGOTTEN WARRIORS OF THE REVOLUTION—MEN WHO RISKED EVERYTHING AND ASKED FOR NOTHING:

- ***CAESAR RODNEY*** (DE) RODE ALL NIGHT THROUGH A STORM—WHILE SUFFERING FROM CANCER—TO CAST A TIEBREAKING VOTE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

- ***FRANCIS LEWIS*** (NY) LOST HIS WIFE AFTER SHE WAS CAPTURED AND JAILED BY BRITISH TROOPS.

- ***JOHN HART*** (NJ) FLED HIS HOME WITH 11 OF HIS 13 CHILDREN FOR HIS ROLE IN SIGNING THE DECLARATION, HIDING IN CAVES WHILE HIS WIFE DIED ALONE.

- ***CARTER BRAXTON*** (VA) LOST HIS FLEET OF SHIPS, SOLD EVERYTHING TO PAY WAR DEBTS, AND DIED PENNILESS.

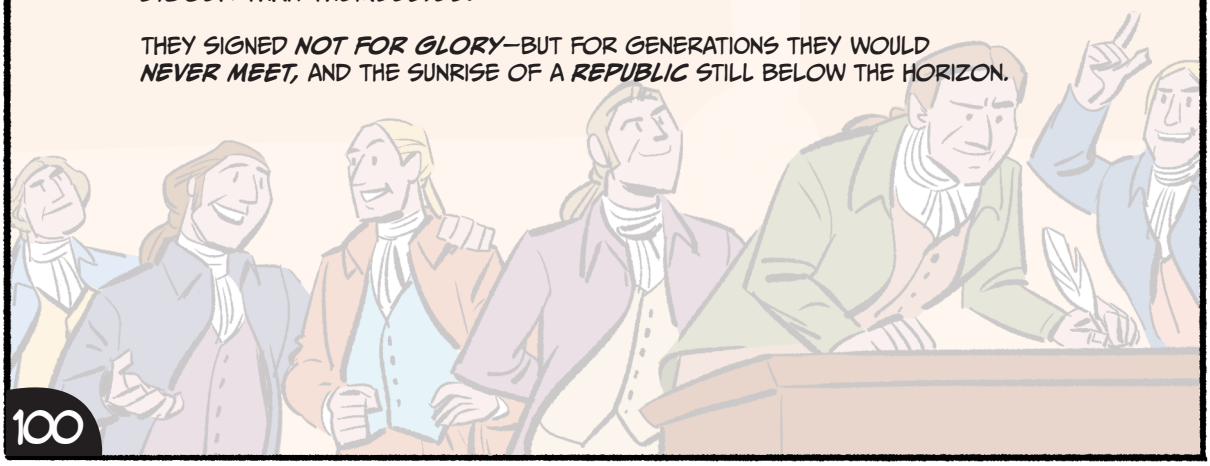
- ***THOMAS NELSON JR.*** (VA) HAD HIS OWN HOME FIRED ON BY AMERICAN CANNONS WHEN BRITISH GENERAL CORNWALLIS TOOK IT OVER DURING THE BATTLE OF YORKTOWN. NELSON REPORTEDLY URGED WASHINGTON TO DO IT—CHOOSING FREEDOM OVER FORTUNE. THE HOUSE WAS DESTROYED, AND NELSON DIED BANKRUPT.

- ***THOMAS HEYWARD JR.*** (SC) DEFIED HIS LOYALIST FATHER TO SIGN—THEN WAS WOUNDED IN BATTLE, CAPTURED, AND NEARLY DROWNED CLINGING TO A SHIP'S RUDDER DURING A PRISONER EXCHANGE.

- ***RICHARD STOCKTON*** (NJ) WAS THE ONLY SIGNER WHO WAS ARRESTED, IMPRISONED, STARVED, AND HELD IN HARSH, PUNISHING CONDITIONS BY THE BRITISH JUST FOR SIGNING THE DECLARATION.

THEIR NAMES LIVE BETWEEN THE LINES OF HISTORY—NOT IN BOLD PRINT, BUT BOLD ***IN PURPOSE***. THESE VALIANT MEN PAID IN BLOOD, IN TEARS, IN EXILE, AND IN SILENCE. THEY GAVE UP HOMES, FORTUNES, FAMILIES—***EVEN THEIR LIVES***—NOT FOR FAME OR RECOGNITION, BUT BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED IN ***SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THEMSELVES.***

THEY SIGNED ***NOT FOR GLORY***—BUT FOR GENERATIONS THEY WOULD ***NEVER MEET,*** AND THE SUNRISE OF A ***REPUBLIC*** STILL BELOW THE HORIZON.




"What happened to John Adams, Ben Ben Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson?"
"During the war, Adams joined Franklin in *France*."
" ...The two of them further secured the French alliance..."
" ...and at the war's end, they were among the signers of the *Treaty of Paris*."
DO YOU LIKE *APPLES?*
UM, SURE.
WELL, HOW DO YOU LIKE *THEM APPLES?!?*
The USA is free and Independent!

COLONIAL CONTEXT

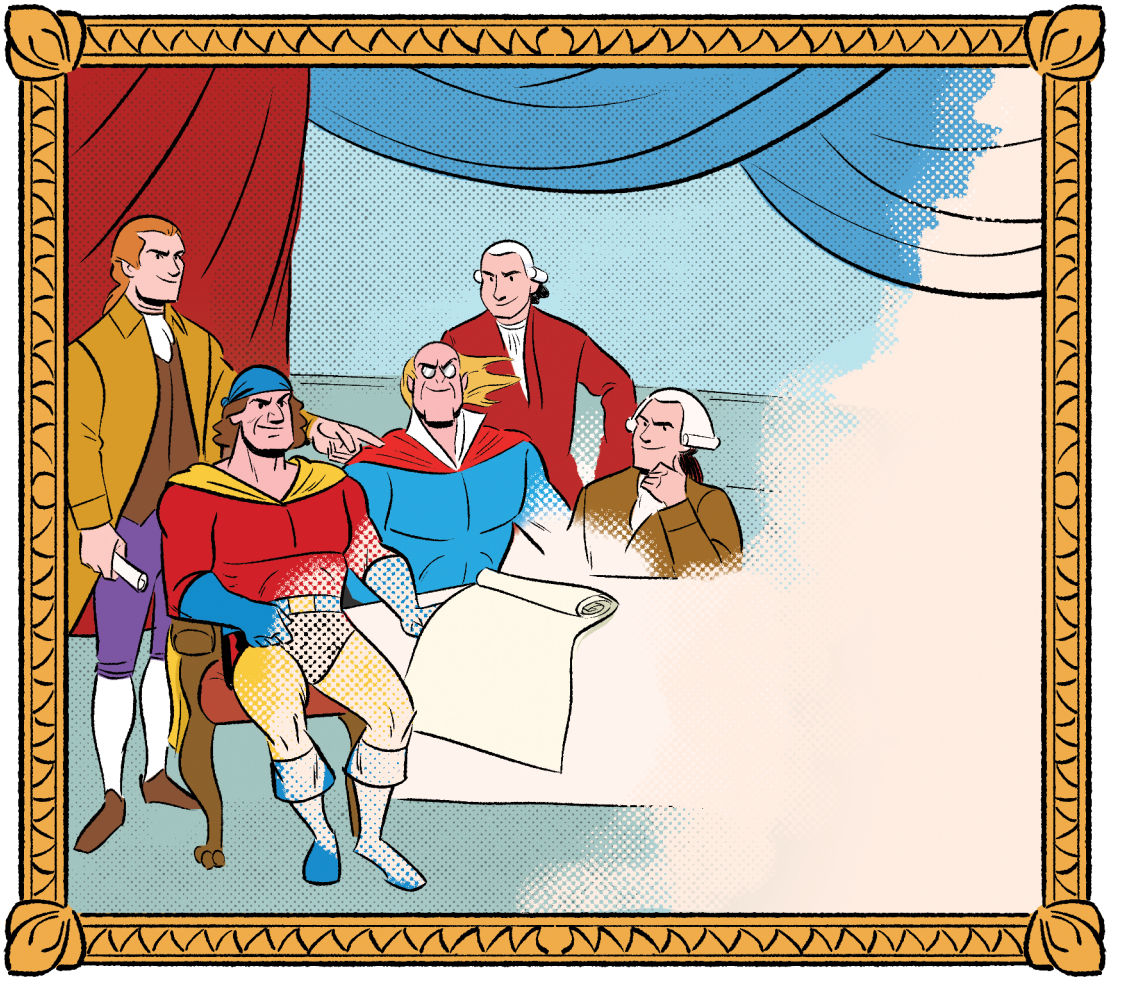
THE TREATY OF PARIS: *A NEW NATION BEGINS*

AFTER EIGHT LONG YEARS OF WAR, THE FIGHTING FINALLY ENDED IN 1783 WITH THE SIGNING OF **THE TREATY OF PARIS.** THIS IMPORTANT AGREEMENT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED THE UNITED STATES AS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY—NO LONGER A GROUP OF BRITISH COLONIES, BUT A ***FREE NATION*** WITH A VOICE ON THE WORLD STAGE.

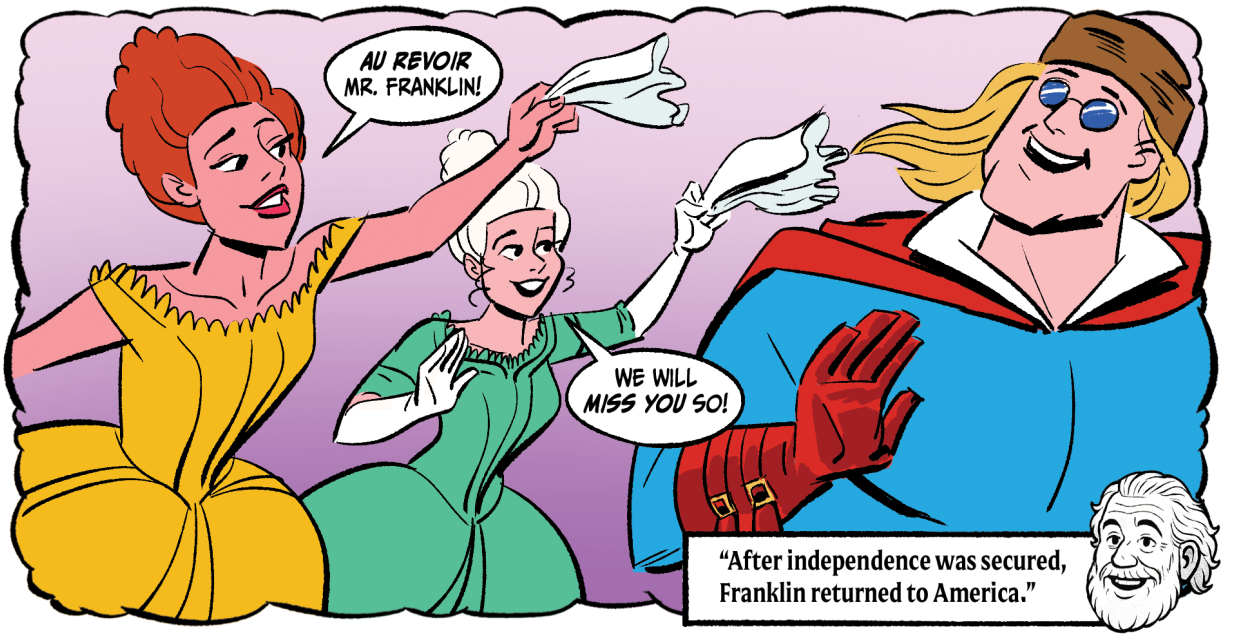
THE TREATY DIDN'T JUST STOP THE WAR. IT GAVE AMERICA THE RESPECT IT HAD FOUGHT SO HARD TO EARN. ENGLAND GAVE UP ITS CLAIMS TO AMERICAN LAND, AND NEW BORDERS WERE DRAWN FROM THE ATLANTIC OCEAN TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

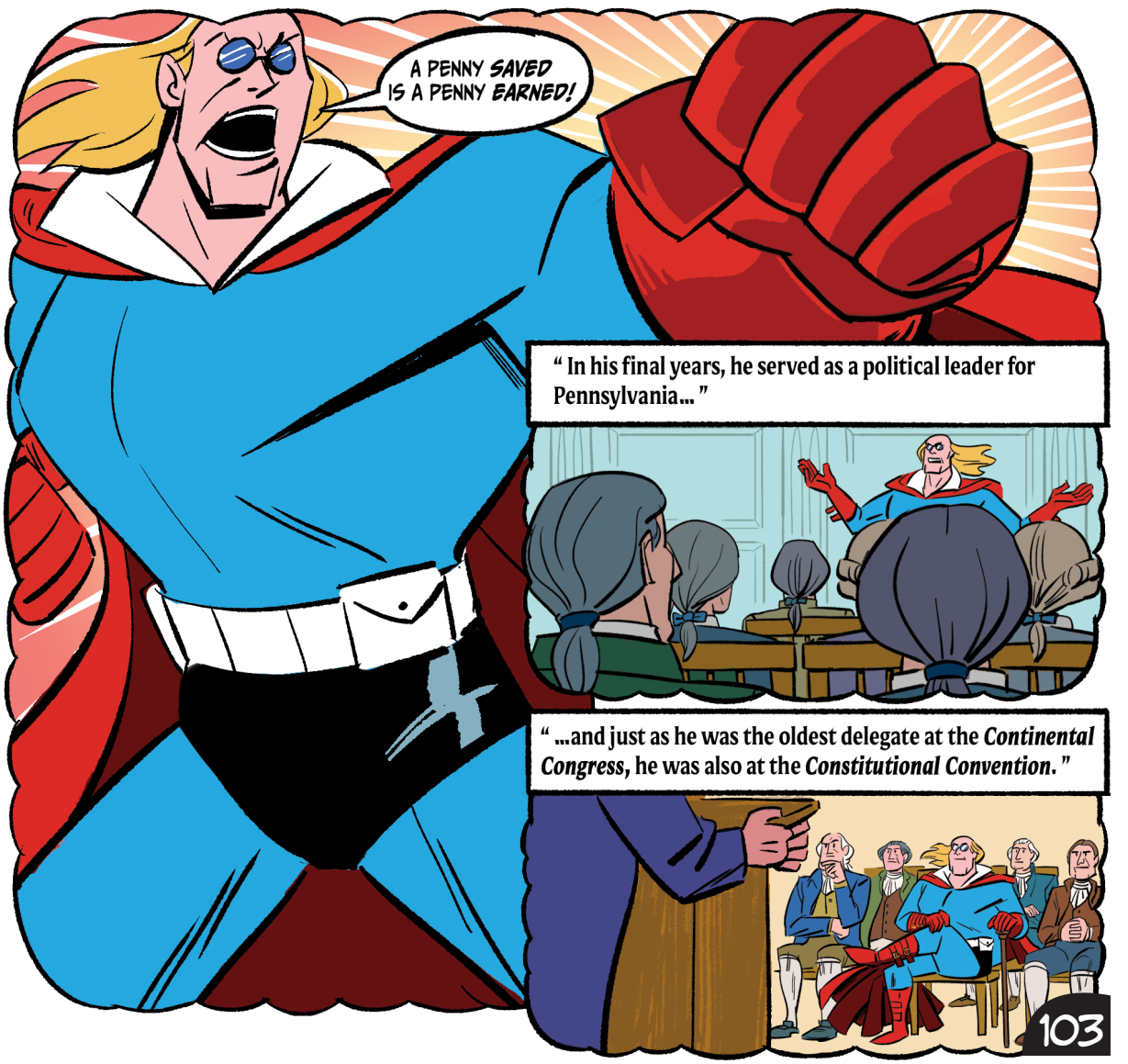
WITH PEACE SECURED, THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS NOW FACED AN ***EVEN GREATER CHALLENGE:*** BUILDING A LASTING GOVERNMENT STRONG ENOUGH TO UNITE THE THIRTEEN COLONIES, BUT FAIR ENOUGH TO PROTECT THEIR FREEDOMS.

THE REVOLUTION WAS OVER. BUT THE WORK OF CREATING A COUNTRY—***THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA***—WAS JUST BEGINNING.



FOLLOWING NEGOTIATIONS, A PAINTING WAS MADE TO HONOR THE PEACE TREATY. HOWEVER, THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES ***REFUSED*** TO SIT AND POSE FOR THE ARTIST (POOR LOSERS). THE UNFINISHED PAINTING HANGS TODAY IN THE ***WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, GARDEN AND LIBRARY*** IN DELAWARE.


AU REVOIR MR. FRANKLIN!
WE WILL MISS YOU SO!
"After independence was secured, Franklin returned to America."

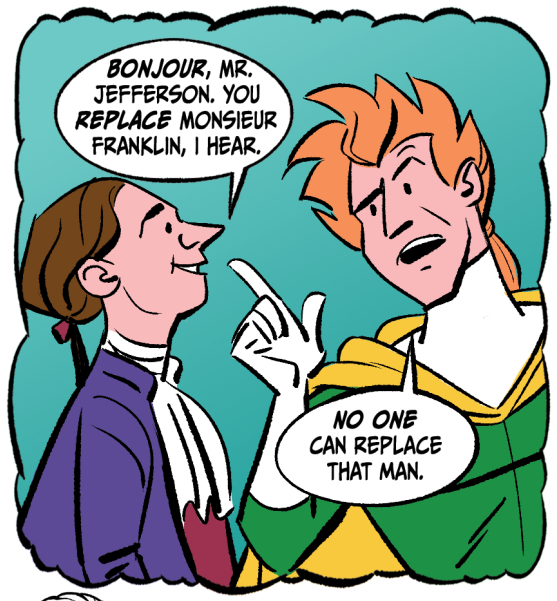

A PENNY SAVED IS A PENNY EARNED!
" In his final years, he served as a political leader for Pennsylvania... "
" ...and just as he was the oldest delegate at the Continental Congress, he was also at the Constitutional Convention. "


"John Adams remained in Europe after Franklin left, and traveled to *Great Britain* once peace was made."
WELCOME TO *ENGLAND*, MR. AMBASSADOR.
I TAKE IT *YOU'RE* MR. ADAMS.
HMMM... I THOUGHT YOU'D BE *TALLER*.
HIS MAJESTY THE KING WILL SEE YOU NOW.

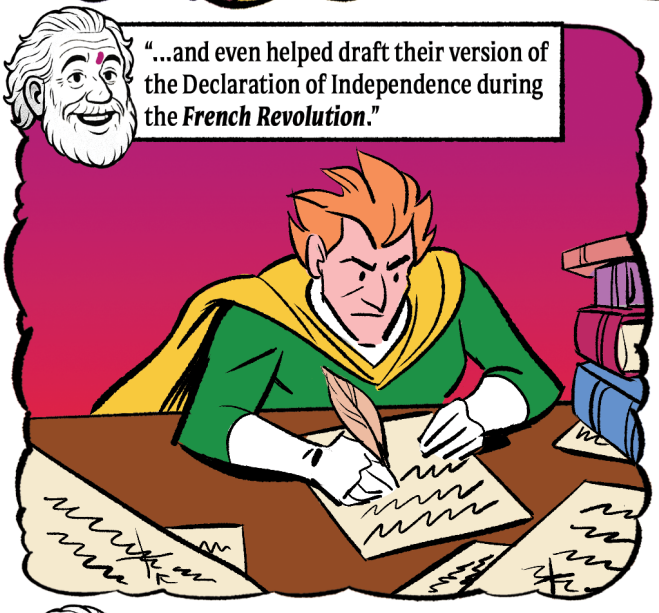

SO, YOU'RE JOHN ADAMS.
THAT I AM.


I HEAR YOU DON'T LIKE THE FRENCH.
YOU'VE HEARD CORRECTLY.
AT LEAST WE AGREE ON ONE THING.


"Adams eventually returned home to Massachusetts, but he didn't stay there *long*."
GREETINGS, MR. PRESIDENT.
WELCOME TO NEW YORK CITY, MR. VICE PRESIDENT.
"Under George Washington, Adams served as our nation's first *vice president*..."
"...and then followed him, as the second *President of the USA*."


BONJOUR, MR. JEFFERSON. YOU REPLACE MONSIEUR FRANKLIN, I HEAR.
NO ONE CAN REPLACE THAT MAN.


"Jefferson took over for Franklin as Minister to France..."


"...and even helped draft their version of the Declaration of Independence during the *French Revolution*."


THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, THOMAS.
MY DEAR FRIEND, LAFAYETTE. IT IS THE LEAST I CAN DO, AFTER EVERYTHING YOU DID FOR US.


"When Washington became President, he chose Jefferson to join his staff as our nation's first *Secretary of State*."
FAREWELL FRANCE. I WILL REMEMBER YOU FONDLY.


I SAY JOHN, OTHER THAN INDEPENDENCE, IT TURNS OUT WE DISAGREE ON JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING.
I DO MISS THOSE DAYS IN PHILLY WHEN THE TWO OF US WERE UNITED.


"During Washington's two terms as president, a *political divide* began to grow."
WE *FEDERALISTS* ARE NOT AFRAID OF A LITTLE BANK INFLUENCE, AND WE DESIRE A STRONG *CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.*
SOUNDS A LITTLE *KING-ISH* TO ME AND MY DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICANS. WE FAVOR *STATES' RIGHTS* AND LOCAL CONTROL OVER CENTRALIZED AUTHORITY.
"The two political rivals squared off in the election of 1796, which Adams won, and then again in 1800, which *Jefferson* won."


I AM PROUD OF MY TWO TERMS AS PRESIDENT. I WILL NOW GLADLY RETIRE AND BEGIN WORKS ON A UNIVERSITY FREE OF CHURCH INFLUENCE, WHERE STUDENTS CAN SPECIALIZE IN A HOST OF NEW AREAS OF STUDY.
"Adams and Jefferson remained at odds for years, but eventually mended their relationship."
TO MY DEAR FRIEND JOHN...
DEAR THOMAS, I WOULD LOVE TO GET YOUR OPINION REGARDING...
"No men have done more to shape our nation's first 50 years, and it's wonderful that they are friends again."
ATTENTION! ATTENTION! THE 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY SPECTACULAR BEGINS IN 2 MINUTES!!!
QUICKLY, LET'S GET UP ON THE SHOP'S ROOF.

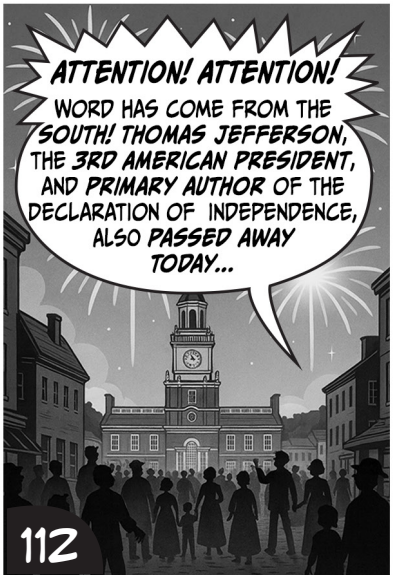

BOOM!
CRACKLE!
BOOM!
CRACKLE!
BOOM!
CRACKLE!
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?
THANKS FOR MY HISTORY LESSON TODAY.
MY PLEASURE, JACK.
WE AMERICANS SURE HAVE AN INCREDIBLE HISTORY.
INDEED WE DO. A FOUNDING TO BE PROUD—
ATTENTION! ATTENTION!
WORD HAS COME FROM THE NORTH! JOHN ADAMS, THE 2ND AMERICAN PRESIDENT, PASSED AWAY EARLIER TODAY...


WHOAH! SO, PRESIDENT ADAMS DIED EXACTLY 50 YEARS FROM WHEN HE SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE!
MAY HE REST IN PEACE.


PREPARE FOR A MINUTE OF SILENCE!!




I LOVE HOW INDEPENDENCE HALL LOOKS WITH THE FIRE CRACKERS EXPLODING OVER IT.
BETTER OVER IT THAN AT IT, EH, JACK?
YES, SIR.


ATTENTION! ATTENTION!
WORD HAS COME FROM THE SOUTH! THOMAS JEFFERSON, THE 3RD AMERICAN PRESIDENT, AND PRIMARY AUTHOR OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, ALSO PASSED AWAY TODAY...


HOW REMARKABLE THAT THE TWO GREAT MEN DIED ON THE SAME DAY...AND ON TODAY OF ALL DAYS.
I BET THEY WERE PROUD AMERICA HAS MADE IT TO 50 YEARS.
INDEED. I'M SURE ALL THE SIGNERS ARE PROUD OF THE NATION THEY HELPED CREATE.


HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY AMERICA. I WONDER IF YOU'LL HAVE A 250TH...

EPILOGUE

INCREDIBLY, JOHN ADAMS AND THOMAS JEFFERSON ***EACH DIED*** ON JULY 4, 1826. THE TWO FOUNDING FATHERS PASSED AWAY EXACTLY ***50 YEARS*** AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE THAT THEY WORKED TO CREATE.

AN ORIGINAL SIGNED COPY OF THE DECLARATION IS PERMANENTLY ON DISPLAY IN WASHINGTON D.C., AND CAN BE VIEWED AT THE ***NATIONAL ARCHIVES MUSEUM.***

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WILL CELEBRATE ITS ***250TH BIRTHDAY*** ON JULY 4TH, 2026.



APPENDIX

MEET KING GEORGE III:
THE CROWN BEHIND THE CRISIS



KING GEORGE III BECAME KING OF GREAT BRITAIN IN 1760, WHEN HE WAS JUST 22 YEARS OLD. HE CAME TO POWER DURING A TRICKY TIME—BRITAIN WAS AT WAR WITH FRANCE, AND THE COUNTRY WAS DEEP IN DEBT.

GEORGE WAS KNOWN TO BE HARDWORKING, SERIOUS, AND SOMETIMES STUBBORN. HE WASN'T CRUEL, BUT HE OFTEN REFUSED TO COMPROMISE. HE WAS MARRIED TO ***QUEEN CHARLOTTE***, AND THEY HAD A HUGE FAMILY—***15 CHILDREN!***

TO GEORGE, THE AMERICAN COLONIES WEREN'T ENEMIES AT FIRST—THEY WERE VALUABLE PARTS OF HIS EMPIRE. BUT AS KING, HE BELIEVED STRONGLY IN ORDER, LOYALTY, AND CONTROL. SO WHEN THE COLONISTS STARTED PUSHING BACK ON TAXES AND RULES, HE SAW IT AS ***DISOBEDIENCE,*** ALMOST LIKE A PARENT DEALING WITH REBELLIOUS CHILDREN.



THE STAMP ACT:
A TAX TOO FAR

IN 1765, THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT PASSED A LAW THAT LIT A FIRE UNDER THE COLONIES—IT WAS CALLED THE ***STAMP ACT.***

BUT IT WASN'T JUST ABOUT STAMPS ON LETTERS.

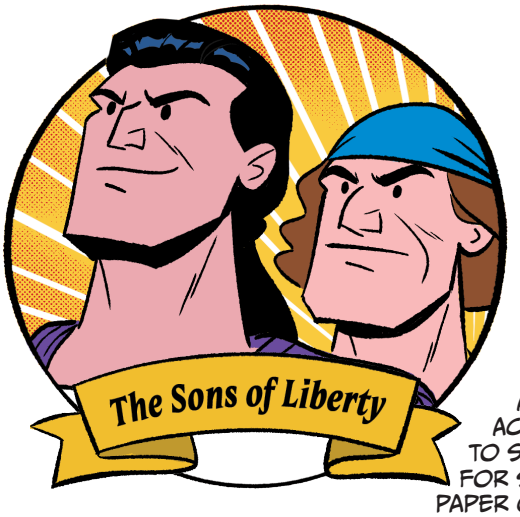
THE LAW SAID COLONISTS HAD TO BUY SPECIAL STAMPED PAPER FOR ANYTHING PRINTED—NEWSPAPERS, CONTRACTS, LICENSES, WILLS, EVEN ***PLAYING CARDS!*** THAT STAMPED PAPER COULD ONLY COME FROM LONDON, AND WORSE—IT HAD TO BE PAID FOR IN ***BRITISH POUNDS***, NOT THE LOCAL COLONIAL MONEY MOST PEOPLE USED.

FOR MANY FAMILIES, IT WAS UNAFFORDABLE. FOR OTHERS, IT WAS UNFAIR.

COLONISTS WERE FURIOUS. THEY HAD NO SAY IN THE DECISION—NO VOTE IN PARLIAMENT, NO VOICE IN THE TAX. THAT'S WHEN THEY BEGAN SHOUTING SOMETHING NEW:

"NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION!"

APPENDIX



THE TOWNSHEND ACTS:
ROUND TWO OF UNFAIR TAXES

THE COLONISTS THOUGHT THEY HAD WON WHEN THE BRITISH REPEALED ***THE STAMP ACT*** IN 1766. BUT ONE YEAR LATER—BAM!—PARLIAMENT HIT THEM WITH A NEW SET OF TAXES CALLED ***THE TOWNSHEND ACTS.***

THESE LAWS TAXED EVERYDAY ITEMS COLONISTS USED ALL THE TIME, LIKE GLASS, PAINT, PAPER, AND TEA. THE BRITISH SAID IT WAS TO HELP PAY FOR SOLDIERS STATIONED IN THE COLONIES. BUT TO THE COLONISTS, IT FELT LIKE THE SAME OLD TRICK: MORE TAXES WITHOUT THEIR SAY.

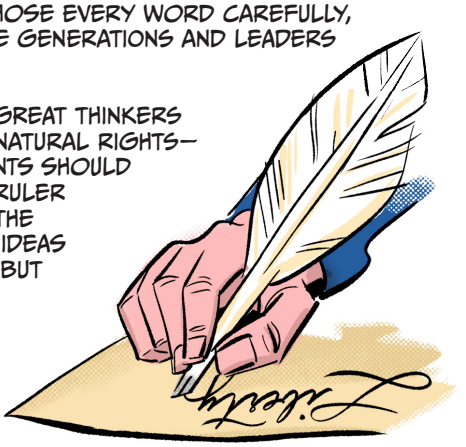
AND IT WASN'T JUST THE TAXES. THE TOWNSHEND ACTS ALSO GAVE BRITISH OFFICIALS MORE POWER TO SEARCH COLONISTS' HOMES AND BUSINESSES FOR SMUGGLED GOODS—WITHOUT A WARRANT (A LEGAL PAPER GIVING PERMISSION TO SEARCH). THAT FELT LIKE A MAJOR INVASION OF PRIVACY AND FREEDOM.

IN RESPONSE, COLONISTS HELD PROTESTS AND MANY BOYCOTTED BRITISH GOODS. TENSIONS GREW, AND IN BOSTON A NEW GROUP CALLED ***THE SONS OF LIBERTY*** EMERGED.

THE MESSAGE WAS CLEAR: THE KING HADN'T LEARNED HIS LESSON...BUT THE COLONISTS ***HAD.***

THE POWER OF WORDS:
WHAT SHAPED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WASN'T JUST A LETTER TO THE KING—IT WAS A MESSAGE TO THE WORLD. THOMAS JEFFERSON CHOSE EVERY WORD CAREFULLY, KNOWING THIS DOCUMENT WOULD BE READ BY FUTURE GENERATIONS AND LEADERS ACROSS THE GLOBE.



JEFFERSON WAS DEEPLY INFLUENCED BY THE BIBLE, GREAT THINKERS VLOCKE BELIEVED THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE BORN WITH NATURAL RIGHTS—LIFE, LIBERTY, AND PROPERTY—AND THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PROTECT THOSE RIGHTS, NOT TAKE THEM AWAY. IF A RULER ACTED LIKE A TYRANT, LOCKE SAID, THE PEOPLE HAD THE RIGHT TO CREATE A NEW GOVERNMENT. THESE BOLD IDEAS WERE PART OF ENGLAND'S OWN POLITICAL THINKING, BUT JEFFERSON GAVE THEM A NEW SPARK.

HE ALSO DREW FROM ***THOMAS PAINE'S*** PAMPHLET ***COMMON SENSE***, WHICH INSPIRED AMERICANS TO BREAK FREE FROM THE KING.

JEFFERSON WORKED ALONGSIDE ***JOHN ADAMS*** AND ***BENJAMIN FRANKLIN***, WHO HELPED EDIT AND SHARPEN THE MESSAGE. SOME WORDS WERE SOFTENED, OTHERS STRENGTHENED—EVERY LINE CRAFTED TO DEFEND AMERICA'S DECISION TO SEPARATE.

JEFFERSON, FLUENT IN FRENCH, MADE SURE IT COULD BE EASILY TRANSLATED FOR ALLIES LIKE FRANCE. THIS WASN'T JUST A DECLARATION FOR THE COLONIES—IT WAS WRITTEN TO WIN SUPPORT ***ACROSS THE WORLD.***

FROM THE OPENING LINES TO THE FAMOUS WORDS ***"ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL,"*** THE DECLARATION WAS WRITTEN TO LAST. AND IT HAS.

APPENDIX

CAESAR RODNEY'S ALL-NIGHT RIDE:
THE MAN WHO RODE FOR LIBERTY

ON THE STORMY NIGHT OF JULY 1, 1776, A PATRIOT FROM DELAWARE NAMED ***CESAR RODNEY*** DID SOMETHING TRULY HEROIC. HE RODE ***80 MILES*** ON HORSEBACK—THROUGH RAIN, THUNDER, AND ROUGH ROADS—TO CAST A VOTE THAT WOULD CHANGE HISTORY.

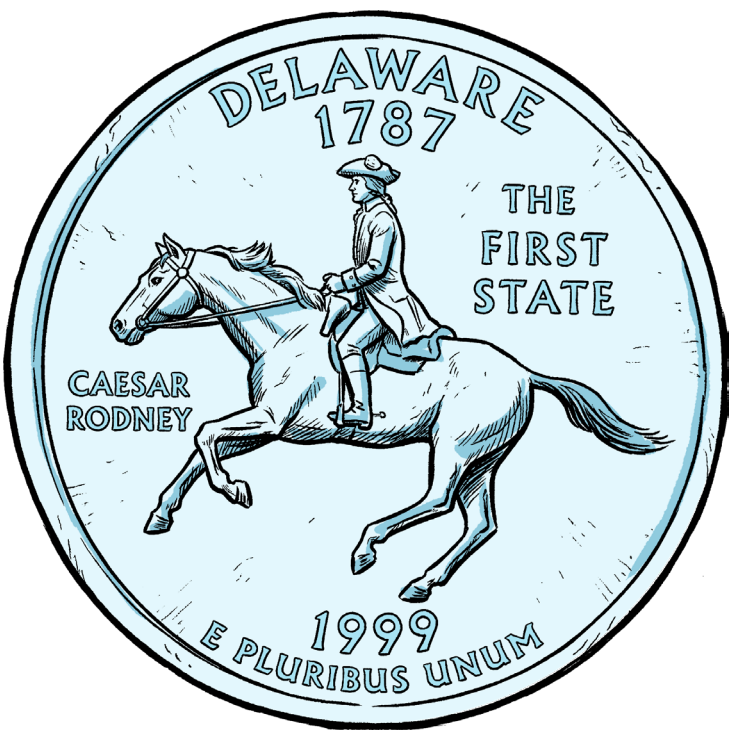
AT THE TIME, THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN PHILADELPHIA WAS DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO DECLARE INDEPENDENCE FROM BRITAIN. DELAWARE HAD THREE DELEGATES, BUT TWO OF THEM DISAGREED—ONE FOR INDEPENDENCE, ONE AGAINST. THAT MEANT THE COLONY COULDN'T VOTE UNLESS SOMEONE BROKE THE TIE.

RODNEY WAS HOME IN DOVER, SICK WITH CANCER AND STRUGGLING TO BREATHE. BUT WHEN HE GOT WORD THAT HIS VOTE WAS NEEDED, HE DIDN'T HESITATE. HE SADDLED HIS HORSE AND RODE ALL NIGHT THROUGH MUD AND DARKNESS.

HE ARRIVED ***JUST IN TIME***—COVERED IN DUST AND RAIN—TO BURST THROUGH THE DOORS OF INDEPENDENCE HALL AND VOTE ***YES FOR FREEDOM.***

THANKS TO RODNEY'S COURAGE, DELAWARE JOINED THE OTHER COLONIES IN SUPPORTING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. HIS RIDE DIDN'T JUST BREAK A TIE—IT UNITED A COLONY AND HELPED ***BIRTH A NATION.***

RODNEY'S BRAVERY REMINDS US THAT EVEN ***ONE PERSON'S ACTION*** CAN TIP THE SCALES OF HISTORY. HE RODE FOR LIBERTY, AND HIS LEGACY STILL GALLOPS THROUGH AMERICA'S STORY.



LEGACY

THE LASTING IMPACT OF THE SIGNERS

THE COURAGE AND ACTIONS OF ***SAM ADAMS***, ***JOHN HANCOCK***, ***JOHN ADAMS***, ***BENJAMIN FRANKLIN***, AND ***THOMAS JEFFERSON,*** AS WELL AS THEIR FELLOW ***51 SIGNERS,*** STILL REVERBERATE ACROSS THE GLOBE, EVEN ***250 YEARS*** AFTER THE UNITED STATES DECLARED ITS INDEPENDENCE.

READ ON TO GET A GLIMPSE OF EACH PERSON'S ***LEGACY***: HOW THEY EXEMPLIFIED THE AMERICAN WAY OF CONFRONTING CHALLENGES— WITH COURAGE, INTELLIGENCE, AND PERSEVERANCE.

SAM ADAMS' LEGACY:
THE FLAME THAT KEPT BURNING

SAM ADAMS DIDN'T JUST LIGHT THE SPARK OF REVOLUTION—HE KEPT IT BURNING LONG AFTER THE WAR BEGAN. AFTER SIGNING THE DECLARATION, HE CONTINUED TO FIGHT FOR LIBERTY AS A POWERFUL VOICE IN THE ***CONTINENTAL CONGRESS***. HE HELPED PUSH THROUGH THE ***ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION,*** AMERICA'S FIRST ATTEMPT AT A NATIONAL CONSTITUTION.

EVEN WHEN WAR LEFT HIS HOME RANSACKED AND HIS NAME SMEARED, ADAMS NEVER BACKED DOWN. HE BELIEVED THAT COURAGE AND CONVICTION WERE CONTAGIOUS—AND HE INSPIRED OTHERS TO KEEP GOING WHEN HOPE WAS SCARCE.

LATER, HE RETURNED TO MASSACHUSETTS AND SERVED AS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND THEN GOVERNOR, HELPING TO SHAPE THE NEW STATE HE'D ONCE RISKED EVERYTHING TO FREE. AND WHEN THE NEW ***U.S. CONSTITUTION*** NEEDED SUPPORT, ADAMS AND JOHN HANCOCK PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN SECURING MASSACHUSETTS' RATIFICATION—ON THE CONDITION THAT A ***BILL OF RIGHTS*** WOULD BE ADDED. WITHOUT THEM, WE MAY NEVER HAVE GAINED THE RIGHTS WE TREASURE TODAY.

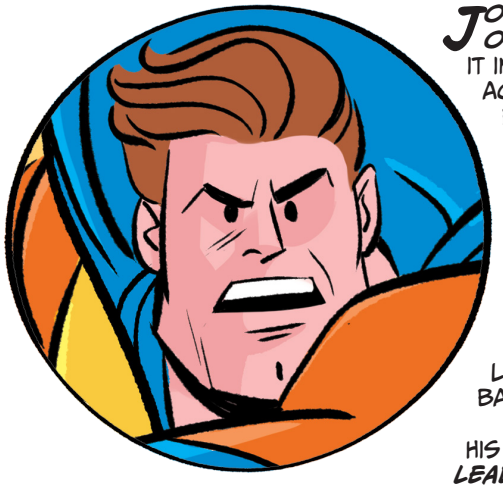


ADAMS' FIERY WORDS AND RELENTLESS SPIRIT WERE A FORCE BEHIND THE REVOLUTION FROM START TO FINISH— AND HIS LEGACY AS THE ***"VOICE OF THE REVOLUTION"*** LIVES ON IN THE VERY FREEDOMS HE HELPED CREATE.



LEGACY

HANCOCK'S LEGACY:
THE BOLDEST SIGNATURE IN HISTORY





JOHN HANCOCK DIDN'T JUST SIGN ***THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE***—HE BLAZED HIS NAME ACROSS IT IN SWEEPING, UNMISTAKABLE LETTERS. IT WAS AN ACT OF COURAGE. SIGNING MEANT RISKING DEATH FOR TREASON. BUT HANCOCK, WEALTHY AND WELL-KNOWN, STEPPED FORWARD FIRST. HE ***KNEW*** THE KING WOULD SEE IT. ***THAT WAS THE POINT.***

HANCOCK SACRIFICED DEEPLY FOR THE CAUSE. AS PRESIDENT OF THE ***CONTINENTAL CONGRESS***, HE SPENT LONG MONTHS AWAY FROM HIS YOUNG BRIDE, DOROTHY. HE LED TROOPS IN RHODE ISLAND AND POURED HIS OWN FORTUNE INTO THE WAR—UNTIL THE RICHES WERE NEARLY GONE. HE ENDURED LOSS, FRUSTRATION, AND FEAR... BUT HE NEVER BACKED DOWN.

HIS BOLD SIGNATURE WAS MORE THAN INK—IT WAS ***LEADERSHIP***. IT GAVE THE OTHER DELEGATES THE STRENGTH TO FOLLOW. AND IT LEFT BEHIND A LEGACY OF BRAVERY THAT STILL ECHOES THROUGH HISTORY.

HIS NAME WAS SO BIG, BOLD, AND BRAVE THAT PEOPLE STILL USE IT TODAY WHEN THEY ASK FOR A SIGNATURE. THAT'S WHY WE SAY, "PUT YOUR ***JOHN HANCOCK*** RIGHT HERE."

JOHN ADAMS' LEGACY:
A VOICE OF PRINCIPLE

JOHN ADAMS WAS ONE OF AMERICA'S FIERCEST DEFENDERS OF INDEPENDENCE—AND HE DIDN'T STOP ONCE THE REVOLUTION ENDED. HE BECAME THE NATION'S VERY FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, SERVING TWO TERMS UNDER GEORGE WASHINGTON. THEN, IN 1796, ADAMS MADE HISTORY AGAIN: HE WON THE COUNTRY'S FIRST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WHERE MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE HAD A CHANCE OF WINNING. ADAMS DEFEATED ***THOMAS JEFFERSON***, BECOMING THE SECOND ***PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.***



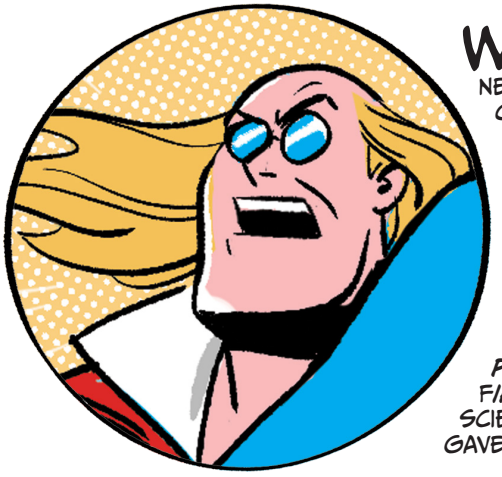


AS THE SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, ADAMS KEPT AMERICA OUT OF A MAJOR WAR WITH FRANCE—NO EASY TASK AT THE TIME. HE STRENGTHENED THE NAVY, IMPROVED THE COURT SYSTEM, AND BELIEVED DEEPLY IN FOLLOWING THE CONSTITUTION, EVEN WHEN IT COST HIM POPULARITY.

THOUGH NOT ALWAYS LOVED IN HIS DAY, ADAMS VALUED TRUTH AND PRINCIPLE OVER APPLAUSE. HIS LEGACY LIVES ON IN THE PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER TO JEFFERSON AFTER A HEATED ELECTION—PROVING THAT IN AMERICA, LEADERSHIP COMES NOT FROM ***POWER,*** BUT FROM ***THE PEOPLE.***

LEGACY

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S LEGACY:
A MIND THAT LIT THE WAY





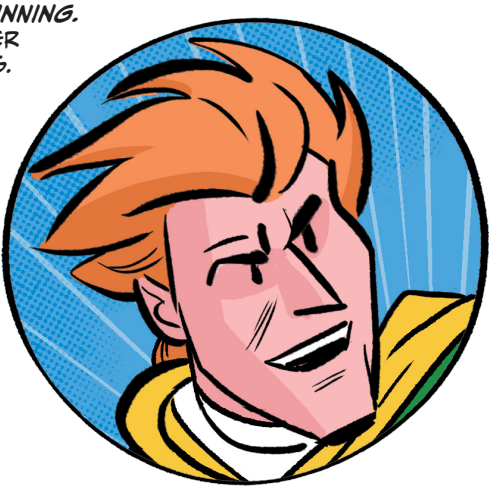
WITH A QUILL IN ONE HAND AND A LIGHTNING ROD IN THE OTHER, ***BENJAMIN FRANKLIN*** SHAPED A NEW NATION WITH BRILLIANCE, WIT, AND BOUNDLESS CURIOSITY. AFTER SIGNING THE DECLARATION, HE CROSSED THE SEA TO FRANCE—WHERE HIS WISDOM AND WARMTH HELPED WIN THE HEART OF ***KING LOUIS XVI.*** THAT ALLIANCE BROUGHT THE MIGHTY FRENCH NAVY TO AMERICA'S AID, TURNING THE TIDE OF THE REVOLUTION.

BUT FRANKLIN'S GIFTS WEREN'T JUST FOR WAR AND POLITICS. HE LIT CITY STREETS WITH THE IDEA OF ***LANTERNS,*** FOUNDED AMERICA'S FIRST ***PUBLIC LIBRARY,*** AND DREAMED UP ***UNIVERSITIES, FIRE BRIGADES,*** AND ***CIVIC PROTECTIONS.*** A SCIENTIST, STORYTELLER, AND STATESMAN, FRANKLIN GAVE HIS GENIUS FREELY TO THE PEOPLE.

HE DIDN'T JUST HELP BUILD A COUNTRY—HE ***ILLUMINATED*** IT. AND THROUGH EVERY INNOVATION, EVERY IDEA, HIS SPIRIT STILL FLICKERS IN THE SOUL OF AMERICA.

THOMAS JEFFERSON'S LEGACY:
THE PEN THAT MOVED A NATION

THOMAS JEFFERSON'S JOURNEY DIDN'T ***END*** WITH THE DECLARATION—IT WAS JUST THE ***BEGINNING.*** IN 1800, HE WON THE PRESIDENCY IN A BITTER FIGHT AGAINST HIS OLD FRIEND JOHN ADAMS. BUT WHEN THE DUST SETTLED, SOMETHING REMARKABLE HAPPENED: POWER SHIFTED ***PEACEFULLY*** BETWEEN POLITICAL RIVALS—A FIRST FOR THE YOUNG REPUBLIC, AND A POWERFUL PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE.



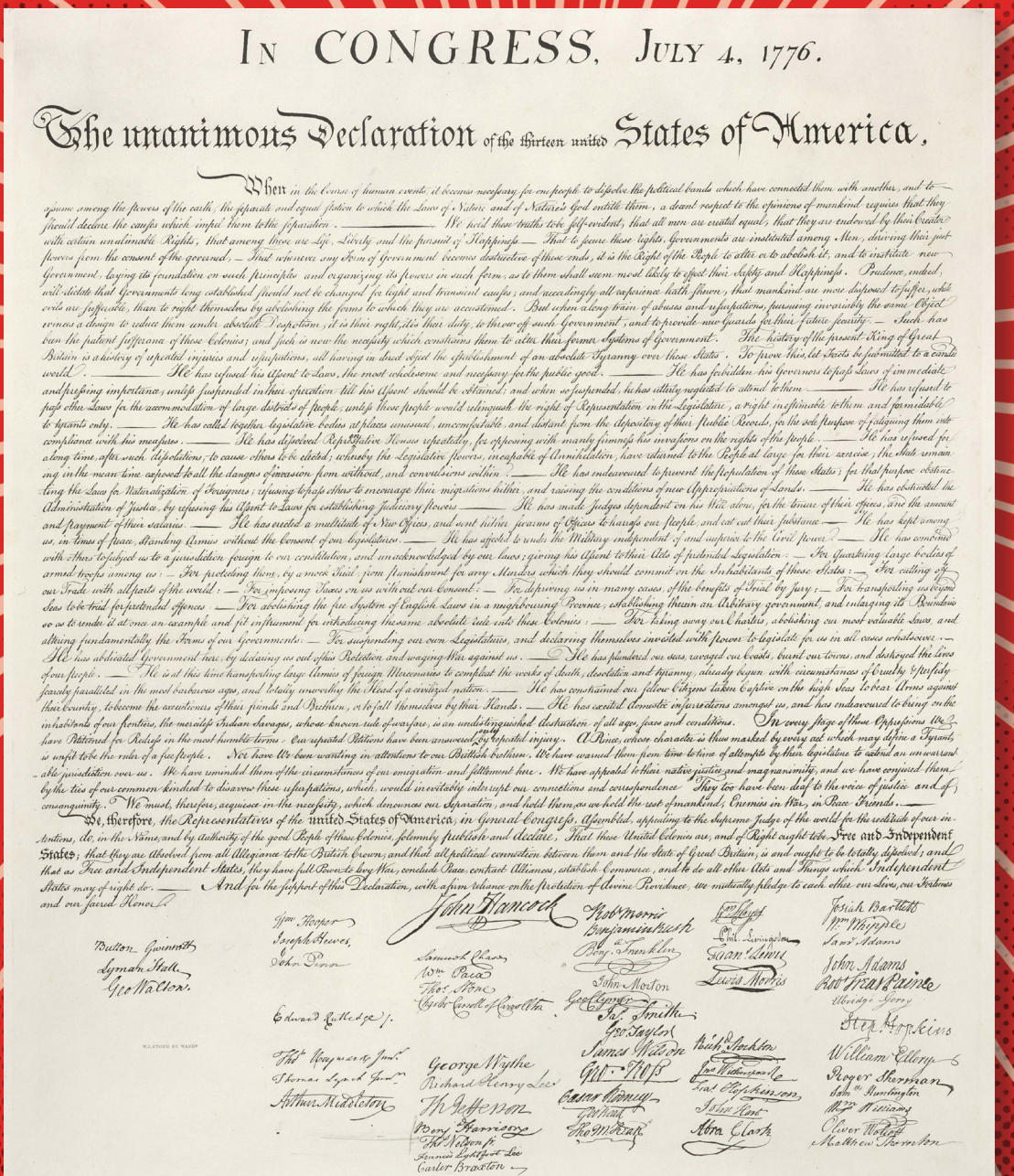
AS PRESIDENT, JEFFERSON LOOKED WEST. WITH THE ***LOUISIANA PURCHASE,*** HE DOUBLED THE SIZE OF THE NATION AND SENT ***LEWIS AND CLARK*** TO EXPLORE ITS WILD UNKNOWNS. HE TRIMMED THE GOVERNMENT, LOWERED THE NATIONAL DEBT, AND KEPT HIS FOCUS ON LIBERTY.



BUT ABOVE ALL, JEFFERSON'S GREATEST LEGACY STILL FLOWS FROM HIS PEN. HIS WORDS IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE LIT A TORCH THAT WOULD BURN FOR CENTURIES. ***"ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL"***—AN IDEA BOLD ENOUGH TO FUEL A REVOLUTION, AND STILL STRONG ENOUGH TO STIR HEARTS TODAY.

...AND HERE IT IS!

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE!



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. — 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. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. — He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. — He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance. — He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences. — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

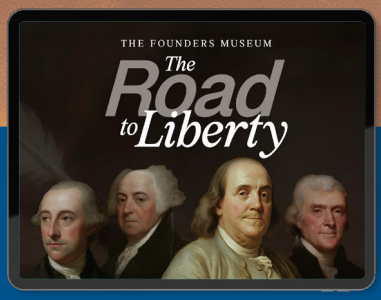
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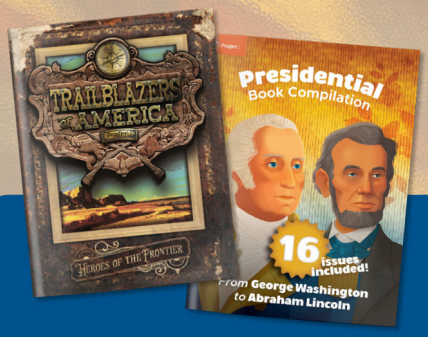
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HOW DID AMERICA START?





"AN UNFORTUNATE TALE, BUT STILL I COULDN'T PUT IT DOWN. MOST CREATIVE STORYTELLING, INDEED."

– KING GEORGE III OF GREAT BRITAIN

"THIS GRAPHIC NOVEL IS SO CLEVER, I ALMOST LOST MY HEAD WITH LAUGHTER."

– KING LOUIS XVI OF FRANCE





"I LOVED THIS GRAPHIC NOVEL FOR A WHILE, BUT THEN I CHANGED MY MIND."

– GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD

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