



Carefully Considered

John Adams, because of his involvement in getting the Declaration of Independence passed, was referred to as the “The Atlas of Independence.” He wrote of the deliberations on the Declaration of Independence and stated, “Objects of the most stupendous magnitude, and measures in which the lives and liberties of million yet unborn are intimately interested, are before us. We are involved in the midst of a revolution, the most complete, unexpected, and remarkable of any in the history of nations.”

“This immortal declaration of the 4th of July, 1776 . . . was not the effect of any sudden passion or enthusiasm, but a measure which had been long in deliberation among the people, maturely discussed in some hundreds of popular assemblies, and by public writings in all the States; it was a measure which the congress [Continental] did not adopt, until they had received the positive instructions of their constituents in

all the states; in the assemblies in the several states, and by them respectably accepted, ratified and recorded among their archives; so that no decree, edict, statute, placard

or fundamental law of any nation, was ever made with more solemnity, or with more unanimity or

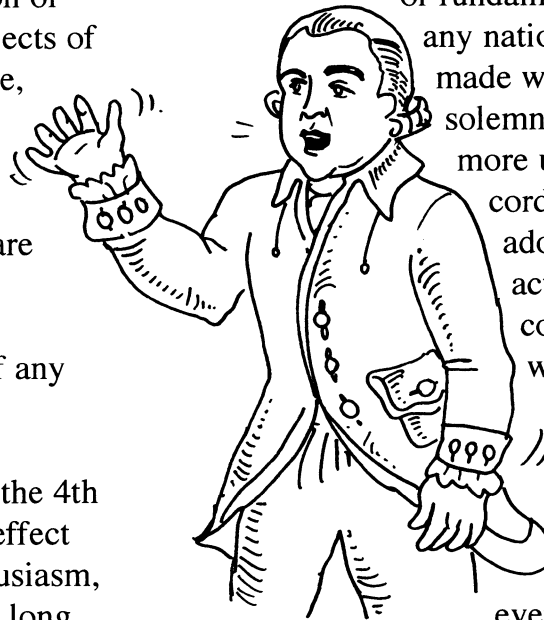
cordiality adopted, as the act and

consent of the whole people, than this;

and it has been held sacred to this day by

every State,

with such unshaken firmness, that not even the smallest has ever been induced to depart from it, although the English have wasted many millions and vast fleets and armies in the vain attempt to invalidate it.”



Suggestions for Study

- Who is considered The Atlas of Independence?
- What does ‘Atlas’ mean?
- What did Mr. Adams say regarding the Declaration of Independence? Let’s talk about it.