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### From Imperialism to Freedom: Signing of the Declaration of Independence

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1776, fifty-six delegates committed high treason by signing a powerful document that would challenge the role of the British in the future of the Thirteen Colonies. These men knew that they were doing more than just committing treason against the British Crown; they were separating themselves from the power hungry empire and setting in stone the foundation for the remarkable country that we live in today. The Continental Congress adopted the United States Declaration of Independence on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776. This document dealt such a powerful blow to the King and instilled such unyielding morale in the colonial Patriots that seven years later Great Britain was forced to recognize the independence and sovereignty of the United States of America. This Declaration was not just another “piece of literature” as the documents that preceded it had been. There was fervor behind this document that stressed values and beliefs that modern-day Americans take for granted.

There is one line that I feel underscores the meaning of the Declaration of Independence and signifies what these men risked their lives to defend. “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.” At the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the delegates were not afforded the liberties that they so desperately desired. Because of the unending devotion to freedom and the bravery of the Patriots, we are able to enjoy

something that was once only a dream. With the document signed unanimously by the representatives of the thirteen colonies, the Americans showed that they were unified and ready to stand up for their long awaited rights.

The significance of the Declaration of Independence to me is that it gave motivation to the revolutionaries of India. They too were under the rule of the British Empire, and were abused and mistreated much like the American colonists. The Indian people saw that they too could gain independence just like the United States had accomplished. Independence in India gave my grandparents and parents the power to live a free life. These freedoms afforded my parents the opportunity to eventually move to the United States. Having been born in the United States, I too can enjoy the liberties that the founding fathers fought and died for.

Bibliography and References

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**Total Word Count Excluding “a” and “the”: 358**