Great American Trials

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Apart from being terrific theater, great trials can shape history, Professor Linder notes. They can change attitudes and reinforce ideals. And they can provide a remarkably clear window for observing societies, both past and present. A harbinger of the American Revolution, the Boston Massacre trials (and the reaction to the verdict) reflected the heated partisanship of the times. Central to this story is the young attorney John Adams, who paid a price for his decision to represent the accused British soldiers and their captain.
September 9th Vice president Joe Biden announces his campaign for the 2016 Democratic party presidential nomination. September 11th A van carrying a bomb filled with nails explodes outside the New York stock exchange right at the ringing of the bell. Over 900 are injured and 103 die. Stocks plunge and the exchange is evacuated. The terrorist group Isis claims responsibility. The two attackers die in the explosion. President Obama condemns the attack and promises justice will be served.