

Common Sense Thomas Paine

COMMON SENSE;

ADDRESSED TO THE

INHABITANTS

O F

A M E R I C A,

On the following interesting

S U B J E C T S.

- I. Of the Origin and Design of Government in general,
with concise Remarks on the English Constitution.
- II. Of Monarchy and Hereditary Succession.
- III. Thoughts on the present State of American Affairs.
- IV. Of the present Ability of America, with some miscellaneous Reflections.

Man knows no Master save creating HEAVEN,
Or those whom choice and common good ordain.

THOMSON.

PHILADELPHIA;

Printed, and Sold, by R. BELL, in Third-Street.

MDCC LXXVI.

Common Sense: Thomas Paine's Enduring Legacy

Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, a pamphlet published in 1776, wasn't just a piece of political writing; it was a cultural earthquake. This seemingly simple document ignited the flames of the American Revolution, persuading colonists to break away from British rule. But its impact stretches far beyond its historical context. This post delves into the enduring relevance of *Common Sense*, exploring its core arguments, its literary genius, and its lasting influence on political thought. We'll examine why it remains a compelling read even centuries later, and how Paine's simple yet powerful prose continues to resonate with readers today.

The Revolutionary Power of Simple Language

One of the key reasons for *Common Sense*'s success was its accessibility. Paine eschewed complex philosophical jargon, instead employing clear, concise language that resonated with the common person. This deliberate choice was a masterstroke. In a time when literacy wasn't universally widespread, Paine ensured his message could reach a broad audience, sparking a crucial shift in public opinion.

Targeting the Average Colonist: A Strategic Masterclass

Paine understood his audience. He didn't write for the elite; he wrote for the farmer, the shopkeeper, the everyday colonial citizen grappling with the implications of British rule. This focus on the common person was a radical departure from the often-obscure political treatises of the time, making his arguments instantly relatable and powerful.

The Power of Plain-Spoken Rhetoric: Breaking Down Complex Issues

Paine's brilliance lies not only in his accessibility but in his ability to dissect complex political concepts into easily digestible pieces. He masterfully explained the intricate relationship between Britain and the colonies, exposing the inherent flaws and injustices in the existing system. He framed the debate in simple terms, stripping away the veneer of legitimacy that had long shrouded British authority.

Core Arguments of *Common Sense*: A Blueprint for

Independence

Common Sense wasn't just a call to arms; it presented a carefully constructed argument for independence, grounded in both practical and moral considerations.

The Absurdity of Monarchy: Challenging the Divine Right of Kings

Paine systematically dismantled the legitimacy of monarchy, arguing that hereditary rule was inherently flawed and unjust. He presented a compelling case for republicanism, advocating for a government based on the consent of the governed, a radical concept for its time.

The Economic Burden of British Rule: Highlighting the Practical Disadvantages

Paine highlighted the economic burdens imposed on the colonies by British rule, pointing out the unfair taxation and restrictive trade policies. He presented a pragmatic case for independence, arguing that economic self-determination was essential for the colonies' prosperity.

A Moral Imperative for Freedom: Appealing to the Principles of Liberty

Finally, Paine appealed to the colonists' sense of morality and justice. He framed the struggle for independence not merely as a political conflict but as a fight for fundamental human rights and liberties. This moral appeal was crucial in mobilizing widespread support for the cause of independence.

The Lasting Impact of Common Sense

The impact of Common Sense is undeniable. It's credited with playing a crucial role in galvanizing public support for the American Revolution, shifting the colonial mindset from loyal subjects to independent citizens.

A Foundation for American Political Thought: Shaping the Nation's Identity

The pamphlet's emphasis on republicanism, self-governance, and individual liberty became cornerstones of American political thought. It laid the groundwork for the Declaration of Independence and shaped the very foundation of the newly formed nation.

Inspiring Revolutions Worldwide: A Global Influence on Political Change

Beyond the American context, Common Sense's influence reverberated across the globe, inspiring revolutionary movements and shaping political discourse for centuries. Its emphasis on popular sovereignty and individual rights continues to inspire activists and reformers worldwide.

Conclusion

Thomas Paine's Common Sense remains a powerful testament to the enduring power of clear, concise writing and its ability to effect profound social and political change. Its simple yet profound arguments continue to resonate, reminding us of the importance of self-governance, individual liberty, and the power of the people to shape their own destiny. The pamphlet's accessibility and enduring relevance ensure its place as a landmark achievement in both political and literary history, a document that continues to shape our understanding of freedom and self-determination.

FAQs

1. Was Thomas Paine a radical? Yes, by the standards of his time, Paine was considered a radical. His advocacy for republicanism and his outspoken criticism of monarchy were highly controversial.
2. What was the immediate impact of Common Sense? The pamphlet sold incredibly well, reaching a massive audience and significantly swaying public opinion in favor of independence. It's widely considered a catalyst for the American Revolution.
3. Did Common Sense influence the Declaration of Independence? There's strong evidence suggesting that the Declaration's authors were heavily influenced by Paine's ideas, particularly his emphasis on natural rights and self-governance.
4. What is the significance of Paine's use of simple language? His accessible style ensured that his

message reached a broad audience, transcending class and literacy barriers, making his ideas accessible to the average colonist.

5. Is Common Sense still relevant today? Absolutely. Its core themes – self-governance, individual liberty, and the pursuit of justice – remain central to political discourse worldwide, making it a timeless and relevant work.

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense Thomas Paine, 1791

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense Thomas Paine, 2017-11-01 Common Sense by Thomas Paine Fight for Freedom! Thomas Paine's pamphlet was first written and distributed in 1775, and read aloud in meeting places and taverns. Calling the American Colonists to fight for their own representative government, this text made an impassioned plea for independence. Common Sense was an immediate sensation in Philadelphia and across the thirteen colonies. With clear and reasoned style, Paine was the first to advocate for war on the behalf of an idea--launching the American project and distinct American political identity. Thomas Paine's Common Sense maintains its readability and passion for Americans today.

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense, The Rights of Man and Other Essential Writings of ThomasPaine Thomas Paine, 2003-07-01 A volume of Thomas Paine's most essential works, showcasing one of American history's most eloquent proponents of democracy. Upon publication, Thomas Paine's modest pamphlet Common Sense shocked and spurred the founding American colonies of 1776 to action. It demanded freedom from Britain—when even the most fervent patriots were only advocating tax reform. Paine's daring prose paved the way for the Declaration of Independence and, consequently, the Revolutionary War. For “without the pen of Paine,” as John Adams said, “the sword of Washington would have been wielded in vain.” Later, his impassioned defense of the French Revolution, Rights of Man, caused a worldwide sensation. Napoleon, for one, claimed to have slept with a copy under his pillow, recommending that “a statue of gold should be erected to [Paine] in every city in the universe.” Here in one volume, these two complete works are joined with selections from Paine's other major essays, “The Crisis,” “The Age of Reason,” and “Agrarian Justice.” Includes a Foreword by Jack Fruchtman Jr. and an Introduction by Sidney Hook

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense Thomas Paine, 2020-02 Common Sense is the timeless classic that inspired the Thirteen Colonies to fight for and declare their independence from Great Britain in the summer of 1776. Written by famed political theorist Thomas Paine, this pamphlet boldly challenged the authority of the British government and the royal monarchy to rule over the American colonists. By using plain language and a reasoned style, Paine chose to forego the philosophical and Latin references made popular by the Enlightenment era writers. As a result, Paine united average citizens and political leaders behind the central idea of independence and transformed the tenor of the colonists' argument against the British. As the best-selling American title of all time, Common Sense has been eloquently described by historian Gordon S. Wood as the most incendiary and popular pamphlet of the entire revolutionary era. Thomas Paine (1737-1809) was an English-American political activist, philosopher, and revolutionary. As one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, he authored the most influential pamphlets at the start of the American Revolution and inspired the colonists to declare independence from Great Britain in 1776. His ideas reflected Enlightenment-era rhetoric of transnational human rights and the separation of church and state. He has been called a corset-maker by trade, a journalist by profession, and a propagandist by inclination.

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense Sophia Rosenfeld, 2011 Common sense has always been a cornerstone of American politics. In 1776, Tom Paine's vital pamphlet with that title sparked the American Revolution. And today, common sense—the wisdom of ordinary people, knowledge so self-evident that it is beyond debate—remains a powerful political ideal, utilized alike by George W. Bush's aw-shucks articulations and Barack Obama's down-to-earth reasonableness.

But far from self-evident is where our faith in common sense comes from and how its populist logic has shaped modern democracy. *Common Sense: A Political History* is the first book to explore this essential political phenomenon. The story begins in the aftermath of England's Glorious Revolution, when common sense first became a political ideal worth struggling over. Sophia Rosenfeld's accessible and insightful account then wends its way across two continents and multiple centuries, revealing the remarkable individuals who appropriated the old, seemingly universal idea of common sense and the new strategic uses they made of it. Paine may have boasted that common sense is always on the side of the people and opposed to the rule of kings, but Rosenfeld demonstrates that common sense has been used to foster demagoguery and exclusivity as well as popular sovereignty. She provides a new account of the transatlantic Enlightenment and the Age of Revolutions, and offers a fresh reading on what the eighteenth century bequeathed to the political ferment of our own time. Far from commonsensical, the history of common sense turns out to be rife with paradox and surprise.

common sense thomas paine: *The Writings of Thomas Paine* Thomas Paine, 1894

common sense thomas paine: *The Elementary Common Sense of Thomas Paine* Mark Wilensky, 2007-12-05 An easy-to-understand adaptation of Paine's revolutionary pamphlet, plus insights on colonial history, life, and culture. The Declaration of Independence may have severed political bonds with England, but it was Thomas Paine's dynamic pamphlet, "Common Sense," that conceptualized the idea of unity and freedom months before Thomas Jefferson put pen to parchment. Paine's publication energized colonists to embark on a long and bloody war that imperiled their livelihoods and dismantled their cultural identity—all in the hope of creating a new nation constructed upon the concepts of liberty and independence. Although many know of Tom Paine and his famous "Common Sense," the historic pamphlet has not been readily accessible or widely read. But it needs to be, because it is one of our nation's most important founding documents. Now, fifth-grade history teacher Mark Wilensky rectifies this oversight with *The Elementary Common Sense of Thomas Paine: An Interactive Adaptation for All Ages*. This remarkable interactive version is adapted for young and old alike and makes Paine's words and the concepts he espoused widely available to everyone. This book offers a rich array of colonial history sprinkled with audio, video, and text graphics linked to a dynamic online website. This adaptation includes the original "Common Sense," a new adapted version in plain language everyone can understand today, an extensive chronology of important pre-revolutionary events leading up to the publication of Paine's pamphlet, and adapted versions of the Olive Branch Petition, A Proclamation For Suppressing Rebellion And Sedition, and the Boston Port Act. Wilensky also includes a wide variety of insights on colonial coins and mercantilism, and many humorous illustrations designed to convey the important concepts of independence and liberty. Instructors and parents will especially appreciate Wilensky's decision to include supplementary materials such as teaching plans for classroom and home-schooling use. These include a wide variety of activities to engage students, all based on National Curriculum Standards. Colonial America was a continent with multiple cultures and customs spanning vast geographic distances. Tom Paine's amazing persuasive essay "Common Sense" unified these seemingly conflicting characteristics into the most remarkable nation ever founded in the history of mankind. *The Elementary Common Sense of Thomas Paine* will reignite the ardor of our Founding Fathers for a new generation.

common sense thomas paine: *The Daily Thomas Paine* Thomas Paine, 2020-03-08 Thomas Paine was the spark that ignited the American Revolution. More than just a founding father, he was a verbal bomb-thrower, a rationalist, and a rebel. In his influential pamphlets *Common Sense* and *The American Crisis*, Paine codified both colonial outrage and the intellectual justification for independence, arguing consistently and convincingly for Enlightenment values and the power of the people. Today, we are living in times that, as Paine famously said, "try men's souls." Whatever your politics, if you're seeking to understand the political world we live in, where better to look than Paine? *The Daily Thomas Paine* offers a year's worth of pithy and provocative quotes from this quintessentially American figure. Editor Edward G. Gray argues that we are living in a moment that

Thomas Paine might recognize—or perhaps more precisely, a moment desperate for someone whose rhetoric can ignite a large-scale social and political transformation. Paine was a master of political rhetoric, from the sarcastic insult to the diplomatic aperçu, and this book offers a sleek and approachable sampler of some of the sharpest bits from his oeuvre. As Paine himself says in the entry for January 20: “The present state of America is truly alarming to every man who is capable of reflexion.” The Daily Thomas Paine should prove equally incendiary and inspirational for contemporary readers with an eye for politics, even those who prefer the tweet to the pamphlet.

common sense thomas paine: *The 100 Best Nonfiction Books of All Time* Robert McCrum, 2018 Beginning in 1611 with the King James Bible and ending in 2014 with Elizabeth Kolbert's 'The Sixth Extinction', this extraordinary voyage through the written treasures of our culture examines universally-acclaimed classics such as Pepys' 'Diaries', Charles Darwin's 'The Origin of Species', Stephen Hawking's 'A Brief History of Time' and a whole host of additional works --

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense and Selected Works of Thomas Paine Thomas Paine, 2014-05-01 The pen is mightier than the sword, and this pen helped bring about the American Revolution. Thomas Paine is one of history's most renowned thinkers and was indispensable to both the American and French revolutions. The three works included, Common Sense, The Rights of Man, and The Age of Reason, are among his most famous publications. Paine is probably best known for his hugely popular pamphlet, Common Sense, which swayed public opinion in favor of American independence from England. The Rights of Man and The Age of Reason further advocated for universal human rights, a republican instead of monarchical government, and truth and reason in politics. The works of this moral visionary, whose ideas are as relevant today as ever, are now available as part of the Word Cloud Classics series, providing a stylish and affordable addition to any library.

common sense thomas paine: *Common Sense* Christopher Scott, 2018-11-26 Common Sense by Thomas Paine is the most compelling case for freedom ever made. It's the most influential book in American History. It's not just a book for Americans but a case for humanity and it's ideas are as relevant today as ever. There's just one problem. Published in 1776 it was written in Old English and it could very well be another language for someone trying to read it today. The original manuscript is nearly impossible to understand. For the first time ever it's been translated into modern English so that everyone can read and understand it. It's a book that offers nothing more than simple facts, plain arguments and commonsense. Some people won't agree with the principles, but it doesn't make them any less true today than they were when it was originally written.

common sense thomas paine: The Political Philosophy of Thomas Paine Jack Fruchtman Jr., 2009-07-30 This concise, insightful study explores the sources and impact of one of the early republic's most influential minds. An Englishman by birth, an American by choice and necessity, Thomas Paine advocated ideas about rights, equality, democracy, and liberty that were far advanced beyond those of his American compatriots. His seminal works, Common Sense and the Rights of Man, were rallying cries for the American and French Revolutions. More than any other eighteenth-century political writer and activist, Paine defies easy categorization. A man of contrasts and contradictions, Paine was as much a believer in the power of reason as he was in a benevolent deity. He was at once liberal and conservative, a Quaker who was not a pacifist, and an inherently gifted writer who was convinced he was always right. Jack Fruchtman Jr. analyzes Paine's radical thought both in the context of his time and as a blueprint for the future development of republican government. His systematic approach identifies the themes of signal importance to Paine's political thought, demonstrating especially how crucial religion and God were to the development and expression of his political ideals.

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense, and Plain Truth Thomas Paine, 1776

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense Thomas Paine, 1986 New, Unabridged on 3 CD's; Shrinkwrapped. Narrated by George Vafiadis. The work that George Washington said helped spark the Revolutionary War.

common sense thomas paine: 46 Pages Scott Liell, 2004-03-03 Includes complete text of

Thomas Paine's Common sense--Cover.

common sense thomas paine: Glenn Beck's Common Sense Glenn Beck, 2009-06-16 Glenn Beck, the New York Times bestselling author of *The Great Reset*, revisits Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. In any era, great Americans inspire us to reach our full potential. They know with conviction what they believe within themselves. They understand that all actions have consequences. And they find commonsense solutions to the nation's problems. One such American, Thomas Paine, was an ordinary man who changed the course of history by penning *Common Sense*, the concise 1776 masterpiece in which, through extraordinarily straightforward and indisputable arguments, he encouraged his fellow citizens to take control of America's future—and, ultimately, her freedom. Nearly two and a half centuries later, those very freedoms once again hang in the balance. And now, Glenn Beck revisits Paine's powerful treatise with one purpose: to galvanize Americans to see past government's easy solutions, two-party monopoly, and illogical methods and take back our great country.

common sense thomas paine: Revolutionary Characters Gordon S. Wood, 2006-05-18 In this brilliantly illuminating group portrait of the men who came to be known as the Founding Fathers, the incomparable Gordon Wood has written a book that seriously asks, What made these men great? and shows us, among many other things, just how much character did in fact matter. The life of each—Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, Hamilton, Madison, Paine—is presented individually as well as collectively, but the thread that binds these portraits together is the idea of character as a lived reality. They were members of the first generation in history that was self-consciously self-made men who understood that the arc of lives, as of nations, is one of moral progress.

common sense thomas paine: *Thomas Paine and the Idea of Human Rights* Robert Lamb, 2015-05-28 An introduction to and analytical reconstruction of Thomas Paine's political philosophy and his account of human rights.

common sense thomas paine: *Common Sense* Thomas Paine, 2000-11-17 Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* is one of the most important and often assigned primary documents of the Revolutionary era. This edition of the pamphlet is unique in its inclusion of selections from Paine's other writings from 1775 and 1776 — additional essays that contextualize *Common Sense* and provide unusual insight on both the writer and the cause for which he wrote. The volume introduction includes coverage of Paine's childhood and early adult years in England, arguing for the significance of personal experience, environment, career, and religion in understanding Paine's influential political writings. The volume also includes a glossary, a chronology, 12 illustrations, a selected bibliography, and questions for consideration.

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense Thomas Paine, 2017-10-06 *Common Sense* is a pamphlet written by Thomas Paine in 1775-76 advocating independence from Great Britain to people in the Thirteen Colonies. Written in clear and persuasive prose, Paine marshaled moral and political arguments to encourage common people in the Colonies to fight for egalitarian government. It was published anonymously on January 10, 1776, at the beginning of the American Revolution, and became an immediate sensation. It was sold and distributed widely and read aloud at taverns and meeting places. In proportion to the population of the colonies at that time (2.5 million), it had the largest sale and circulation of any book published in American history. As of 2006, it remains the all-time best selling American title.

common sense thomas paine: Thomas Paine Craig Nelson, 2007-09-04 A fresh new look at the Enlightenment intellectual who became the most controversial of America's founding fathers. Despite his being a founder of both the United States and the French Republic, the creator of the phrase United States of America, and the author of *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine is the least well known of America's founding fathers. This edifying biography by Craig Nelson traces Paine's path from his years as a London mechanic, through his emergence as the voice of revolutionary fervor on two continents, to his final days in the throes of dementia. By acquainting us as never before with this complex and combative genius, Nelson rescues a giant from obscurity-and gives us a fascinating

work of history.

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense and Other Writings Thomas Paine, 2005
Thomas Paine was an important leader in the fight for independence from England. His pamphlet *Common Sense* stirred the populace to join the fight.

common sense thomas paine: Thomas Paine and the Promise of America Harvey J. Kaye, 2007-04-15 This acclaimed biography "provides the most comprehensive assessment yet of [the Founding Father's] controversial reputation" (Joseph J. Ellis, *The New York Times Book Review*). After leaving London for Philadelphia in 1774, Thomas Paine became one of the most influential political writers of the modern world and the greatest radical of a radical age. Through writings like *Common Sense*, he not only turned America's colonial rebellion into a revolutionary war but, as Harvey J. Kaye demonstrates, articulated an American identity charged with exceptional purpose and promise. *Thomas Paine and the Promise of America* fiercely traces the revolutionary spirit that runs through American history—and demonstrates how that spirit is rooted in Paine's legacy. With passion and wit, Kaye shows how Paine turned Americans into radicals—and how we have remained radicals ever since.

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense Thomas Paine, 2021-03-22 A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right, and raises at first a formidable outcry in defense of custom. But the tumult soon subsides. Time makes more converts than reason. — Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves-and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives-and destroyed them. *Common Sense* is a pamphlet written by Thomas Paine in 1775-76 that inspired people in the Thirteen Colonies to declare and fight for independence from Great Britain in the summer of 1776. six months before the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* was a radical and impassioned call for America to free itself from British rule and set up an independent republican government. Savagely attacking hereditary kingship and aristocratic institutions, Paine urged a new beginning for his adopted country in which personal freedom and social equality would be upheld and economic and cultural progress encouraged. His pamphlet was the first to speak directly to a mass audience-it went through fifty-six editions within a year of publication-and its assertive and often caustic style both embodied the democratic spirit he advocated, and converted thousands of citizens to the cause of American independence. All time American History bestseller!

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense for the 21st Century Roger Hallam, 2019 What can we do to avert catastrophe and avoid extinction? The political class won't save us. According to Roger Hallam, real change comes from ordinary people breaking the law. In *Common Sense for the 21st Century*, Hallam explains why mass disruption, mass arrests, and mass sacrifice are necessary and details how to carry out acts of civil disobedience effectively, respectfully and non-violently. He bypasses contemporary political theory and takes his inspiration from Thomas Paine, the pragmatic 18th century revolutionary whose pamphlet *Common Sense* sparked the American Revolution.-- Back cover.

common sense thomas paine: The Thomas Paine Reader Thomas Paine, 2013-07-18 This major collection demonstrates the extent to which Thomas Paine (1737-1809) was an inspiration to the Americans in their struggle for independence, a passionate supporter of the French Revolution and perhaps the outstanding English radical writer of his age. It contains all of Paine's major works including *The Rights of Man*, his groundbreaking defence of the revolutionary cause in France, *Common Sense*, which won thousands over to the side of the American rebels, and the first part of *The Age of Reason* (Part One), a ferocious attack on Christianity. The shorter pieces - on capital punishment, social reform and the abolition of slavery - also confirm the great versatility and power of this master of democratic prose.

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense Thomas Paine, Project Gutenberg, Infomotions, Inc, 1776

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense Thomas Paine, 2018-04-29 Common Sense by Thomas Paine. Common Sense is a pamphlet written by Thomas Paine in 1775-76 advocating independence from Great Britain to people in the Thirteen Colonies. In order to gain a clear and just idea of the design and end of government, let us suppose a small number of persons settled in some sequestered part of the earth, unconnected with the rest; they will then represent the first peopling of any country, or of the world. In this state of natural liberty, society will be their first thought. A thousand motives will excite them thereto; the strength of one man is so unequal to his wants, and his mind so unfitted for perpetual solitude, that he is soon obliged to seek assistance and relief of another, who in his turn requires the same. Four or five united would be able to raise a tolerable dwelling in the midst of a wilderness, but one man might labour out the common period of life without accomplishing any thing; when he had felled his timber he could not remove it, nor erect it after it was removed; hunger in the mean time would urge him to quit his work, and every different want would call him a different way. Disease, nay even misfortune, would be death; for, though neither might be mortal, yet either would disable him from living, and reduce him to a state in which he might rather be said to perish than to die.

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense and Other Political Writings Thomas Paine, 2012-08 Thomas Paine (1737-1809) was an English-American political activist, political theorist and theologian. As the author of highly influential pamphlets at the start of the American Revolution, 1776's Common Sense and the series The American Crisis. His ideas reflected Enlightenment era rhetoric of transnational human rights. This volume also includes selections from Paine's Rights of Man, written in light of the French Revolution.

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense Thomas Paine,

common sense thomas paine: Thomas Paine and the Dangerous Word Sarah Jane Marsh, 2018-05-04 The mind once enlightened cannot again become dark. As an English corset-maker's son, Thomas Paine was expected to spend his life sewing women's underwear. But as a teenager, Thomas dared to change his destiny, enduring years of struggle until a meeting with Benjamin Franklin brought Thomas to America in 1774-and into the American Revolution. Within fourteen months, Thomas would unleash the persuasive power of the written word in Common Sense-a brash wake-up call that rallied the American people to declare independence against the mightiest empire in the world. This fascinating and extensively researched biography, based on numerous primary sources, will immerse readers in Thomas Paine's inspiring journey of courage, failure, and resilience that led a penniless immigrant to change the world with his words.

common sense thomas paine: *Common sense; addressed to the inhabitants of America [by T. Paine]*. Thomas Paine, 1776

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense by Thomas Paine Thomas Paine, 2013-11-08 Common Sense by Thomas Paine is one of the most influential works ever written. Thomas Paine wrote Common Sense in 1775-76, and the pamphlet would be so powerful that it helped inspire the American colonies to fight Great Britain for its independence. Common Sense by Thomas Paine is truly one of the must read books for historical buffs and those simply interested in America's history. Grab a copy of Common Sense by Thomas Paine today!

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense (Annotated) Thomas Paine, 2020-07-26 common sense thomas paine with annotations Easy to Read Thomas Paine's Common Sense (released in January 1776) is no doubt one of the most important books ever written in American History. Initially, Paine published the book anonymously. However, after three months in publication Paine was revealed as the author, putting him in serious danger. Still, Paine and his fellow revolutionaries labored on. Since most of the population was illiterate, those who were sympathetic to the book's message who could read went around to taverns and gathering areas to read the pamphlet out loud. After all, the Revolution was in its infancy and many more people needed to support it in order for it to succeed. In the book, Paine advocates for independence from Great Britain through moral and political arguments. Society is produced by our wants, Paine said in Common Sense, and government by wickedness; the former promotes our happiness positively by uniting our affections,

the latter negatively by restraining our vices. That is the truly the crux of Paine's argument.

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense and Other Writings Thomas Paine, J. M. Opal, 2012 Thomas Paine often declared himself a citizen of the world. This Norton Critical Edition presents Paine and his writing within the transatlantic and global context of the revolutionary ideas and actions of his time. Thomas Paine's loyalties were with universal and self-evident principles rather than with a particular group or nation, and it is this dimension that informed his most important works. This Norton Critical Edition shows how Paine's fury at the British Empire, including its injustices to South Asians and Africans, shaped his first best seller, *Common Sense*, and how his direct involvement with the French Revolution pushed his ideas toward a unique form of democratic radicalism. Together with his rejection of organized religion, Paine's radicalism resulted in his being one of the most hated men in both monarchical Britain and republican America. This volume includes J. M. Opal's introduction, *Thomas Paine and the Revolutionary Enlightenment, 1770s-90s*, which provides essential biographical and historical details across three tumultuous decades. Paine's most important works—from *Common Sense* (1776) through *Agrarian Justice* (1796)—are reprinted and are accompanied by explanatory annotations. Supporting materials include a wide range of documents from the turbulent years following the publication of both *Common Sense* and the Declaration of Independence. These include Pennsylvania's gradual emancipation statute of the 1780s, an ex-slave's impassioned call for revolutionary violence against European imperialists and masters, and a British conservative's witty rejoinder to Paine's vision of a brave new world. Four major interpretations of Paine's work are provided by Nathan R. Perl-Rosenthal, Robert A. Ferguson, Gary Kates, and Gregory Claeys. A Selected Bibliography is also included.

common sense thomas paine: *Common Sense by Thomas Paine Illustrated Edition* Thomas Paine, 2021-04-22 Thomas Paine published *Common Sense* in 1776, a time when America was a hotbed of revolution. The pamphlet, which called for America's political freedom, sold more than 150,000 copies in three months. Paine not only spurred his fellow Americans to action but soon came to symbolize the spirit of the Revolution itself. His persuasive pieces, written so elegantly, spoke to the hearts and minds of all those fighting for freedom from England.

common sense thomas paine: *Common Sense* Thomas Paine, 2021-03-27 Thomas Paine arrived in America from England in 1774. A friend of Benjamin Franklin, he was a writer of poetry and tracts condemning the slave trade. In 1775, as hostilities between Britain and the colonies intensified, Paine wrote *Common Sense* to encourage the colonies to break the British exploitative hold and fight for independence. The little booklet of 50 pages was published January 10, 1776 and sold a half-million copies, approximately equal to 75 million copies today.

common sense thomas paine: *Common Sense* Thomas Paine, 2010-05-23 In *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine sparked the fire that turned into the American Revolution by starting with *These are the times that try men's souls*. His words solidified a nation to believe that freedom was worth fighting for and that diplomacy had been exhausted, leaving no other recourse than war. It presented many unique ideas of the time such as questioning the fairness of a hereditary kingship and the overbearing nature of treating a colony as a revenue source that can be abused. No other book in American history has been read by a larger part of the population at the time of its release than *Common Sense*, arguably making it the most influential book on the United States.

common sense thomas paine: Common Sense (Original Edition) Thomas Paine, 2016-02-01 *Common Sense* is a pamphlet written by Thomas Paine in 1775-76 that inspired people in the Thirteen Colonies to declare and fight for independence from Great Britain in the summer of 1776. The pamphlet explained the advantages of and the need for immediate independence in clear, simple language. It was published anonymously on January 10, 1776, at the beginning of the American Revolution, and became an immediate sensation. It was sold and distributed widely and read aloud at taverns and meeting places.

common sense thomas paine: *Thomas Paine's Common Sense* Ryan Nagelhout, 2013-08-01 If people ever doubt that the printed word can change the world, they should look to *Common Sense*, the pamphlet penned by Thomas Paine. Just paper and ink helped persuade American

colonists that independence from England was imperative. The powerful piece is examined in this book in the context of the turbulent era in which it was written. Readers are provided a close look at the time period through relevant images and invited to imagine whether they, too, would have joined the cause of the Americans.

Common (rapper) - Wikipedia

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