

Thomas Paine Common Sense

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.

Thomas Paine's Common Sense: A Spark That Ignited a Revolution

Introduction:

Few pamphlets have had the seismic impact of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. Published anonymously in January 1776, amidst the growing tensions between Great Britain and its thirteen American colonies, this slender volume didn't just advocate for independence; it ignited the flames of revolution. This post delves deep into the historical context, the compelling arguments within *Common Sense*, its lasting influence, and its continuing relevance today. We'll explore Paine's masterful use of rhetoric, his impactful critiques of monarchy, and the enduring legacy of this revolutionary document.

The Context of Common Sense:

Before we dissect the pamphlet itself, understanding its historical setting is crucial. By 1776, simmering discontent in the colonies had reached a boiling point. Years of taxation without representation, restrictive trade policies, and the perceived tyranny of the British monarchy had fostered a growing sense of resentment. While many colonists desired reconciliation, a significant portion felt that outright separation was the only viable path to liberty. *Common Sense* arrived at a pivotal moment, acting as a powerful catalyst for this burgeoning sentiment.

The Power of Persuasion:

Paine wasn't the first to advocate for independence; others had voiced similar opinions. However, Paine possessed a unique ability to articulate the colonists' grievances in a clear, concise, and emotionally resonant way. He eschewed complex philosophical arguments in favor of plain language that resonated with ordinary people – farmers, shopkeepers, and laborers – effectively mobilizing a broad spectrum of colonial society.

Key Arguments Within Common Sense:

Paine's masterpiece wasn't a dry political treatise; it was a passionate call to arms. His arguments centered on several key themes:

The Absurdity of Monarchy:

Paine systematically dismantled the legitimacy of hereditary monarchy, arguing that it was inherently flawed and incompatible with the ideals of liberty and self-governance. He presented monarchy as a system built upon superstition and tradition rather than reason and justice, a system that inevitably leads to oppression and inequality.

The Advantages of Republicanism:

In contrast to monarchy, Paine championed republicanism – a system of government based on the consent of the governed. He painted a vivid picture of a self-governing nation, where citizens had a voice in their own affairs and where power resided in the people, not a distant king. This vision, particularly appealing after years of feeling marginalized by the British crown, resonated deeply with many colonists.

A Moral Imperative for Independence:

Paine went beyond political arguments; he tapped into the moral conscience of the colonists. He framed the struggle for independence as a fight for freedom, justice, and the inherent rights of mankind. He eloquently articulated the need to break free from the chains of tyranny and build a new nation founded on principles of liberty and equality.

The Lasting Impact of Common Sense:

The impact of Common Sense was immediate and profound. Its simple language and powerful message quickly spread throughout the colonies, reaching a vast audience and galvanizing support for independence. The pamphlet's influence is undeniable; it is widely considered a pivotal factor in the colonies' decision to declare independence and embark on the Revolutionary War.

A Foundation for American Identity:

Beyond its immediate impact on the Revolution, Common Sense helped shape the foundational ideals of American identity. Its emphasis on self-governance, individual liberty, and republican principles continues to resonate in American political discourse to this day. It laid the philosophical groundwork for the Declaration of Independence and the subsequent formation of the United States.

Common Sense Today:

Even centuries later, Common Sense remains a relevant and thought-provoking document. Its arguments against tyranny and for self-governance hold enduring significance in a world still grappling with issues of political oppression and human rights. The pamphlet serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of critical thinking, civic engagement, and the ongoing struggle for freedom and justice.

Conclusion:

Thomas Paine's Common Sense was more than just a pamphlet; it was a revolutionary act of communication. It masterfully harnessed the power of rhetoric to ignite a movement, articulate a vision, and shape the destiny of a nation. Its enduring legacy reminds us of the power of words to inspire change, the importance of self-governance, and the continuing relevance of the fight for liberty and equality.

FAQs:

1. Was Thomas Paine's Common Sense truly anonymous? While initially published anonymously, Paine's authorship was quickly revealed and widely acknowledged.
2. What was the pamphlet's circulation like? Common Sense experienced unprecedented sales for its time, with estimates ranging in the hundreds of thousands of copies distributed throughout the American colonies.
3. Did Common Sense have any detractors? Yes, the pamphlet faced criticism from Loyalists who remained loyal to the British Crown and opposed the movement for independence.
4. How did Common Sense influence the Declaration of Independence? The pamphlet's emphasis on natural rights, self-governance, and the illegitimacy of monarchy directly influenced the philosophical underpinnings of the Declaration.
5. Where can I read Common Sense today? The full text of Common Sense is readily available online through various sources, including Project Gutenberg and many academic websites.

thomas paine common sense: *Common Sense* Thomas Paine, 1918

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: *Common Sense* Thomas Paine, 1922

thomas paine common sense: *Common Sense* Thomas Paine, 2003-02-11 Includes the complete texts of *Common Sense*; *Rights of Man, Part the Second*; *The Age of Reason* (part one); *Four Letters on Interesting Subjects*, published anonymously and just discovered to be Paine's work; and *Letter to the Abbé Raynal*, Paine's first examination of world events; as well as selections from *The American Crises* In 1776, America was a hotbed of enlightenment and revolution. Thomas Paine not only spurred his fellow Americans to action but soon came to symbolize the spirit of the Revolution. His elegantly persuasive pieces spoke to the hearts and minds of those fighting for freedom. He was later outlawed in Britain, jailed in France, and finally labeled an atheist upon his return to America.

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: 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

thomas paine common sense: Common Sense Thomas Paine, 2020-06-03 Thomas Paine (1737 - 1809) was an Englishman and American political activist. He authored pamphlets which helped motivate the American colonists to declare independence in 1776. Common Sense is his most famous of such pamphlets.

thomas paine common sense: Common Sense Thomas Paine, 2006-06-01 In its time over 600,000 copies of Common Sense were circulated through the Colonies. Not one to be politically correct, Thomas Paine and his thoughts were key to starting a revolution.

thomas paine common sense: Common Sense Thomas Paine, 2015-06-30 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. Now, Penguin brings you the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization, and helped make us who we are. Penguin's Great Ideas series features twelve groundbreaking works by some of history's most prodigious thinkers, and each volume is beautifully packaged with a unique type-drive design that highlights the bookmaker's art. Offering great literature in great packages at great prices, this series is ideal for those readers who want to explore and savor the Great Ideas that have shaped the world. Published anonymously in 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.

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

thomas paine common sense: Common Sense, The Crisis, & Other Writings from the American Revolution Thomas Paine, 2015-05-26 An authoritative collection of Thomas Paine's essential writings on American politics and governance—including the landmark Revolutionary War pamphlet, Common Sense After a life of obscurity and failure in England, Thomas Paine came to America in 1774 at age 37. Within fourteen months he published Common Sense, the most influential pamphlet of the American Revolution, and began a career that would see him hailed and reviled in the American nation he helped create. Collected in this volume are Paine's most influential texts. In Common Sense, he sets forth an inspiring vision of an independent America as an asylum for freedom and an example of popular self-government in a world oppressed by despotism and hereditary privilege. The American Crisis, begun during "the times that try men's souls" in 1776, is a masterpiece of popular pamphleteering in which Paine vividly reports current developments, taunts and ridicules British adversaries, and enjoins his readers to remember the immense stakes of their struggle. They are joined in this invaluable reader by a selection of Paine's other American pamphlets and his letters to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and others.

thomas paine common sense: Common Sense Thomas Paine, Isaac Kramnick, 1976 ...well orated by reader George Vafiadis. The language and sentiment are not as outmoded as some listeners might expect and it definitely feels patriotic to hear again the fundamentals of America's beginnings. -- Kliatt Magazine George Washington wrote, I find that Common Sense is working a powerful change there (Virginia) in the minds of many men. The passion of the patriot Thomas Paine comes straight on and one can better understand the forces that shaped this country.

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: Common Sense (Aziloth Books) Thomas Paine, 2014-09-30 Thomas Paine was born at Thetford, England, in 1737. The son of a corset-maker, he spent just six years in formal education, yet despite these social disadvantages he became one of the foremost writers of his time. Paine espoused the cause of the ordinary citizen in works that spoke with refreshing directness compared to the turgid circumlocutions of the moneyed aristocracy and academia. Paine emigrated to the American Colonies in 1774 and discovered a society seething with repressed resentment against the impositions of the British Crown. Sparked by the rightness of their cause, he produced 'Common Sense', a pamphlet that gathered together the scattered arguments for Independence and presented them as a powerful single thesis for change. Paine argued that Hereditary Right was no basis upon which to found efficient government, and that the British monarchy (and its aristocrats) could make no valid claim on the colonists' wealth or loyalty. The pamphlet struck a deep chord with the population - selling a phenomenal 100,000 copies in its first two months - and crystalising the American desire for national independence. 'Common Sense' has since inspired many struggling for independence, and Paine's uncompromising demand for human rights has made him a symbol of social justice the world over.

thomas paine common sense: 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 its 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.

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: Common Sense. (a Pamphlet Written) by Thomas Paine, 2016-11-12 Common Sense was a pamphlet written by Thomas Paine. It was first published anonymously on January 10, 1776, during the American Revolution. Paine wrote it with editorial feedback from Benjamin Rush, who came up with the title. The document denounced British rule and, through its immense popularity, contributed to stimulating the American Revolution. The second edition was published soon thereafter. A third edition, with an accounting of the worth of the British navy, an expanded appendix, and a response to criticism by the Quakers, was published on February 14, 1776.

thomas paine common sense: 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!

thomas paine common sense: An Analysis of Thomas Paine's Common Sense Ian Jackson, 2017-07-05 Thomas Paine's 1776 Common Sense has secured an unshakeable place as one of history's most explosive and revolutionary books. A slim pamphlet published at the beginning of the American Revolution, it was so widely read that it remains the all-time best selling book in US history. An impassioned argument for American independence and for democratic government, Common Sense can claim to have helped change the face of the world more than almost any other book. But Paine's pamphlet is also a masterclass in critical thinking, demonstrating how the reasoned construction of arguments can be reinforced by literary skill and passion. Paine is perhaps more famous as a stylist than as a constructor of arguments, but Common Sense marries the best elements of good reasoning to its polemic. Moving systematically from the origins of government,

through a criticism of monarchy, and on to the possibilities for future democratic government in an independent America, Paine neatly lays out a series of persuasive reasons to fight for independence and a new form of government. Indeed, as the pamphlet's title suggested, to do so was nothing more than 'common sense.'

thomas paine common sense: 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.

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

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: Thomas Paine's Common Sense Thomas Paine, 2014-01 Enormously popular and widely read pamphlet, first published in January of 1776, clearly and persuasively argues for American separation from Great Britain and paves the way for the Declaration of Independence. This highly influential landmark document attacks the monarchy, cites the evils of government and combines idealism with practical economic concerns.

thomas paine common sense: Thomas Paine: Common Sense (1776). , 1998 Presents the full-text of Common Sense written by American political philosopher and author Thomas Paine (1737-1809). Explains that the pamphlet expresses Paine's ideas on American independence. Notes that the publication calls for a declaration of independence.

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: Thomas Paine's Common Sense Thomas Paine, 1975 Presents the text with annotations of the single most influential political pamphlet ever published in America.

thomas paine common sense: 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!

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

Thomas Paine's Common sense--Cover.

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: Thomas Paine and the Power of "Common Sense"

Jeremy Aldritt, 2015-07-15 British-born Thomas Paine came to Philadelphia in 1774. Inspired by the colonists' cries for liberty, Paine captured his own political philosophy and ideals for freedom in a revolutionary pamphlet called Common Sense. Primary source material and easily accessible text tell the story of how Paine helped set the stage for the writing of the Declaration of Independence and how he profoundly influenced the course of our nation's history and ideology.

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: Common Sense: Large Print Thomas Paine, 2018-10-07 *Common Sense: Large Print* 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. 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.

thomas paine common sense: 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.

thomas paine common sense: 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.

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