

common sense by thomas paine

common sense by thomas paine is one of the most influential political pamphlets in history, shaping the course of the American Revolution and the development of democratic thought. This article offers a comprehensive examination of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense," exploring its historical context, main arguments, impact on colonial America, literary style, and enduring legacy. Readers will gain insight into how Paine's clear and persuasive writing inspired ordinary citizens to support independence from Britain, how "Common Sense" challenged established authority, and why it remains relevant today. Whether you are a student, historian, or simply interested in the roots of American democracy, this article provides a thorough, SEO-optimized overview of the pamphlet's significance, structure, and the ideas that made it a pivotal work in world history.

- Historical Background of "Common Sense" by Thomas Paine
- Thomas Paine: The Author Behind the Pamphlet
- Main Arguments and Themes in "Common Sense"
- Impact of "Common Sense" on Colonial America
- Literary Style and Rhetorical Techniques
- Legacy and Modern Relevance
- Frequently Asked Questions

Historical Background of "Common Sense" by Thomas Paine

"Common Sense" by Thomas Paine was published in January 1776, during a period of intense political and social unrest in the American colonies. The pamphlet emerged at a time when colonists were deeply divided on the question of independence from Great Britain. Tensions had escalated following events such as the Boston Tea Party and the implementation of restrictive British laws. Paine's work provided a clear, compelling argument for separation and self-governance, resonating with a wide audience and accelerating the revolutionary movement.

Political Climate in the Colonies

The political atmosphere in the colonies was fraught with uncertainty. Many colonists still hoped for reconciliation with Britain, while others advocated for complete independence. The lack of a unified vision made progress difficult and left room for influential voices to shape public opinion.

The Need for Persuasive Literature

Prior to "Common Sense," the debate over independence was confined largely to intellectual circles and political leaders. Paine recognized the need for a straightforward, accessible pamphlet that could reach ordinary citizens and galvanize collective action.

- Colonial discontent with British rule
- Desire for a fresh perspective on governance
- Growing revolutionary sentiment

Thomas Paine: The Author Behind the Pamphlet

Thomas Paine was an English-born writer and political activist who arrived in America in 1774. His background in journalism and radical politics made him uniquely suited to address the pressing issues of the time. Paine's commitment to democratic ideals and his ability to communicate complex ideas in simple language contributed to the widespread popularity of "Common Sense."

Paine's Early Life and Influences

Born in Thetford, England, in 1737, Thomas Paine experienced firsthand the limitations of the British social and political system. He was influenced by Enlightenment thinkers and became involved in social causes before emigrating to America, where he quickly immersed himself in revolutionary activities.

Motivations for Writing "Common Sense"

Paine was motivated by a desire to empower the common people and advocate for a new form of government based on equality and representation. He believed that the colonies had the right and responsibility to break free from British control and establish an independent nation.

Main Arguments and Themes in "Common Sense"

Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" is structured around several key arguments aimed at convincing colonists to support independence. The pamphlet critiques monarchy, challenges the legitimacy of British rule, and proposes a vision for a democratic republic.

Critique of Monarchy and Hereditary Rule

Paine denounced monarchy as an outdated and unjust system, arguing that hereditary succession led to corruption and inefficiency. He emphasized that government should be accountable to the people, not a privileged few.

Case for Independence

A central theme of "Common Sense" is the urgent need for American independence. Paine presented practical reasons, including economic opportunities, security, and the ability to form alliances, to persuade colonists that remaining under British rule was detrimental.

Blueprint for a Democratic Republic

Paine outlined a basic framework for a representative government, emphasizing equality, justice, and individual rights. He advocated for a system in which laws would be created by elected officials, reflecting the will of the people.

1. Government should serve the common interest
2. Monarchy is an unnatural form of leadership
3. Independence will bring prosperity and security
4. Democracy is the path to freedom and equality

Impact of "Common Sense" on Colonial America

"Common Sense" had a profound effect on the American public and the course of the Revolution. Its clear language and logical reasoning made complex political ideas accessible, igniting widespread support for independence.

Widespread Distribution and Reception

The pamphlet sold over 100,000 copies within months of publication, an unprecedented figure for the time. It was read aloud in public gatherings, discussed in taverns, and shared among communities, quickly becoming a rallying point for patriots.

Influence on Revolutionary Leaders

"Common Sense" influenced major figures such as George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. Its arguments helped shift the Continental Congress toward adopting the Declaration of Independence in July 1776.

Mobilizing the Public

By addressing ordinary citizens directly, Paine's pamphlet empowered people to participate in the revolutionary cause. It provided clarity and confidence during a period of uncertainty and inspired many to take decisive action.

Literary Style and Rhetorical Techniques

One reason "Common Sense" was so effective is its masterful use of language and rhetoric. Paine wrote in a manner that was direct, passionate, and accessible, utilizing techniques that made his arguments persuasive and memorable.

Plain Language and Clarity

Unlike many political tracts of the era, Paine employed simple, direct language that could be understood by readers of all backgrounds. This democratization of information was central to the pamphlet's success.

Use of Analogies and Metaphors

Paine frequently used analogies and metaphors to illustrate his points, comparing the relationship between Britain and the colonies to that of a parent and child who must eventually part ways. These rhetorical devices helped readers connect emotionally to his arguments.

Emotional Appeals

By appealing to the reader's sense of justice, pride, and hope, Paine created

a powerful emotional impact. His words stirred feelings of patriotism and urgency, motivating people to embrace the revolutionary cause.

Legacy and Modern Relevance

The legacy of “Common Sense” by Thomas Paine endures in both American history and global political thought. Its principles of self-governance, equality, and resistance to tyranny remain influential in contemporary discussions about democracy and human rights.

Influence on Constitutional Ideals

Many of the ideas presented in “Common Sense” were incorporated into the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Paine’s advocacy for representative government and individual freedoms helped shape the foundational documents of the United States.

Global Impact

Beyond America, “Common Sense” inspired movements for independence and democracy around the world. Its arguments have been cited in struggles for freedom across Europe, Latin America, and beyond.

Continued Relevance

The pamphlet’s emphasis on rational thought, civic duty, and the value of common understanding remains pertinent today. “Common Sense” serves as a reminder of the power of clear communication and the enduring importance of democratic principles.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is “Common Sense” by Thomas Paine?

A: “Common Sense” is a political pamphlet written by Thomas Paine in 1776 that argued for American independence from Great Britain and advocated for the creation of a democratic republic.

Q: Why was “Common Sense” by Thomas Paine so

influential?

A: The pamphlet was influential because it used clear, persuasive language to present compelling arguments for independence, reaching a wide audience and helping unify colonial support for the revolutionary cause.

Q: What were the main arguments in “Common Sense”?

A: Paine’s main arguments included a critique of monarchy and hereditary rule, a case for independence, and a blueprint for a democratic government based on equality and representation.

Q: How did “Common Sense” impact the American Revolution?

A: “Common Sense” galvanized public support for independence, influenced key leaders, and contributed to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress.

Q: What rhetorical techniques did Thomas Paine use in “Common Sense”?

A: Paine used plain language, analogies, metaphors, and emotional appeals to make his arguments accessible and persuasive to a broad audience.

Q: How many copies of “Common Sense” were sold during its initial release?

A: Over 100,000 copies of “Common Sense” were sold within its first few months of publication, making it one of the best-selling works of its time.

Q: How did “Common Sense” by Thomas Paine influence the U.S. Constitution?

A: Many of Paine’s ideas about representative government, individual rights, and checks on power were incorporated into the drafting of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Q: Is “Common Sense” by Thomas Paine still relevant today?

A: Yes, its themes of self-governance, equality, and opposition to tyranny continue to influence democratic movements and political discourse worldwide.

Q: What was Thomas Paine's background before writing "Common Sense"?

A: Paine was born in England, worked as a journalist and political activist, and was influenced by Enlightenment thinkers before emigrating to America in 1774.

Q: What is the legacy of "Common Sense" by Thomas Paine?

A: The legacy of "Common Sense" includes its role in shaping American independence, influencing constitutional thought, and inspiring global movements for democracy and human rights.

[Common Sense By Thomas Paine](#)

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Common Sense by Thomas Paine: A Revolutionary Read That Still Resonates

Introduction:

Have you ever wondered about the spark that ignited the American Revolution? While numerous factors contributed, one pamphlet stands out as a pivotal catalyst: Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. Published anonymously in January 1776, this seemingly small booklet became a runaway bestseller, profoundly influencing public opinion and galvanizing support for American independence from Great Britain. This post delves deep into *Common Sense*, exploring its key arguments, lasting impact, and enduring relevance in today's world. We'll unpack Paine's powerful prose, analyzing its rhetorical strategies and examining why this 18th-century text remains a compelling and insightful read.

The Context of Paine's *Common Sense*: A Nation's Birth Pangs

Before diving into the pamphlet's content, it's crucial to understand the historical backdrop. Colonists were grappling with increasing tensions with the British crown. Taxation without representation, restrictive trade policies, and the looming threat of further oppression fueled discontent. However, the move towards independence was not universally supported. Many colonists, loyal to the British monarchy, feared the uncertainty and potential chaos of revolution.

Paine's Masterful Use of Plain Language

Paine's genius lay in his ability to articulate the colonists' grievances in clear, concise, and emotionally resonant language. He eschewed the complex political jargon of the time, opting for a style accessible to the common person – hence the title, *Common Sense*. This simple yet powerful prose resonated deeply with a broad audience, transforming abstract political concepts into relatable everyday concerns.

Key Arguments in Common Sense: A Case for Independence

Common Sense is not a systematic political treatise; it's a passionate appeal to reason and liberty. Paine's core arguments can be summarized as follows:

The Absurdity of Monarchy: A Critique of Hereditary Rule

Paine launched a scathing critique of monarchy, arguing that hereditary succession is inherently illogical and unjust. He posited that a king's right to rule is not divinely ordained but rather a product of arbitrary tradition and force. He eloquently argued that the concept of inheriting power, regardless of merit or capability, is inherently flawed and detrimental to societal progress.

The Benefits of Republicanism: A Vision of Self-Governance

Paine championed republicanism, advocating for a government based on the consent of the governed. He envisioned a society where power resides with the people, exercised through elected representatives. This vision of self-governance offered a powerful alternative to the perceived tyranny of British rule, promising liberty, equality, and prosperity.

The Practicalities of Independence: Addressing Colonial

Concerns

Paine addressed the practical concerns of independence, acknowledging the challenges and risks involved. However, he argued persuasively that the potential benefits of self-governance far outweighed the potential costs of continued subjugation under British rule. He presented a compelling case, addressing economic and security concerns with reasoned arguments.

The Impact and Legacy of Common Sense: A Lasting Influence

The pamphlet's impact was immediate and profound. It sold hundreds of thousands of copies within months, dramatically shifting public opinion in favor of independence. Common Sense became a rallying cry for the revolution, fueling the flames of rebellion and providing a philosophical justification for the fight for freedom.

Common Sense and the Declaration of Independence: A Shared Vision

The influence of Common Sense can be clearly seen in the Declaration of Independence, drafted later that same year. Many of Paine's arguments and themes resonate strongly in Jefferson's masterful articulation of the American ideals of liberty, equality, and self-government.

Enduring Relevance of Common Sense in the Modern World

Despite being written over two centuries ago, Common Sense retains its relevance today. Paine's arguments against tyranny, his advocacy for self-governance, and his emphasis on human rights continue to resonate with readers across the globe. The pamphlet serves as a timeless reminder of the importance of critical thinking, civic engagement, and the ongoing struggle for freedom and justice. Its accessibility and powerful message make it an essential read for anyone interested in political philosophy and the history of the American Revolution.

Conclusion:

Thomas Paine's Common Sense remains a powerful and relevant text. Its simple yet profound message continues to inspire readers to question authority, strive for self-governance, and fight for a

more just and equitable world. The pamphlet's lasting legacy lies not only in its contribution to the American Revolution but also in its enduring relevance to the ongoing struggle for liberty and self-determination throughout history.

FAQs:

1. Was Thomas Paine actually the author of *Common Sense*? While published anonymously, strong evidence points to Thomas Paine as the author. His later writings and the style of *Common Sense* all support this conclusion.
2. What was the pamphlet's immediate impact on the American colonies? *Common Sense* rapidly shifted public opinion in favor of independence, dramatically increasing support for the revolutionary cause and providing a philosophical justification for rebellion.
3. How did *Common Sense* influence the Declaration of Independence? The pamphlet's arguments about self-governance, natural rights, and the illegitimacy of monarchy strongly influenced the Declaration's core principles.
4. Is *Common Sense* still relevant today? Absolutely. Paine's arguments against tyranny, for self-governance, and for human rights remain powerfully relevant in contemporary discussions of political philosophy and social justice.
5. Where can I find a copy of *Common Sense* to read? The pamphlet is widely available online as a free ebook and in print from numerous publishers. Many libraries also have copies in their collections.

common sense by thomas paine: *Common Sense* Thomas Paine, 1791

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

common sense by thomas paine: *Common Sense by Thomas Paine* , 2006

common sense by thomas paine: *Common Sense By Thomas Paine* Thomas Paine, 2020-08-09 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.

common sense by 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 by thomas paine: Common Sense, The Rights of Man and Other Essential Writings of Thomas Paine 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

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

common sense by 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 by 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 by 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 by 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 by 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 by 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 by 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 by thomas paine: Common Sense: A Pamphlet by Thomas Paine Advocating Independence from Great Britain to People in the Thirteen Colonies. Thomas Paine, 2020-09-19 *Common Sense* is a pamphlet written by Thomas Paine in 1775-1776 advocating independence from Great Britain to people in the Thirteen Colonies. Writing 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 and is still in print today. *Common Sense* made public a persuasive and impassioned case for independence, which had not yet been given serious intellectual consideration. Paine connected independence with common dissenting Protestant beliefs as a means to present a distinctly American political identity and structured *Common Sense* as if it were a sermon. Historian Gordon S. Wood described *Common Sense* as the most incendiary and popular pamphlet of the entire revolutionary era. The text was translated into French by Antoine Gilbert Griffet de Labaume in 1790.

common sense by thomas paine: Common Sense Thomas Thomas Paine, 2016-12-15 Why buy our paperbacks? Unabridged (100% Original content) Printed in USA on High Quality Paper 30 Days Money Back Guarantee Standard Font size of 10 for all books Fulfilled by Amazon Expedited shipping BEWARE OF LOW-QUALITY SELLERS Don't buy cheap paperbacks just to save a few dollars. Most of them use low-quality papers & binding. Their pages fall off easily. Some of them even use very small font size of 6 or less to increase their profit margin. It makes their books completely unreadable. About *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine *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. Washington had it read to all his troops, which at the time were surrounding the British army in Boston. 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* presented the American colonists with an argument for freedom from British rule at a time when the question of whether or not to seek independence was the central issue of the day. Paine wrote and reasoned in an easily understood style. Forgoing the philosophical and Latin references used by Enlightenment era writers, he structured *Common Sense* as if it were a sermon, relying on biblical references to make his case. He connected independence with common dissenting Protestant beliefs as a means to present a distinctly American political identity. Historian Gordon S. Wood described *Common Sense* as the most incendiary and popular pamphlet of the entire revolutionary era.

common sense by thomas paine: Common Sense Thomas Paine, 2014-07-06 *Common Sense - The Fight for Independence* by Thomas Paine. Brand New Edition - Complete. *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. In clear, simple language it explained the advantages of and the need for immediate independence. 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. Washington had it read to all his troops, which at the time had surrounded the British army in Boston. 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. Common Sense presented the American colonists with an argument for freedom from British rule at a time when the question of whether or not to seek independence was the central issue of the day. Paine wrote and reasoned in a style that common people understood. Forgoing the philosophical and Latin references used by Enlightenment era writers, he structured Common Sense as if it were a sermon, and relied on Biblical references to make his case to the people. He connected independence with common dissenting Protestant beliefs as a means to present a distinctly American political identity. Historian Gordon S. Wood described Common Sense as the most incendiary and popular pamphlet of the entire revolutionary era.

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

common sense by 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.

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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.

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