

thomas paine common sense

thomas paine common sense stands as one of the most influential political writings in American history, sparking revolutionary thought and inspiring the colonists toward independence from Britain. This article explores Thomas Paine's background, the historical context of "Common Sense," its main arguments, and the profound impact it had on the American Revolution. Readers will discover how Paine's clear prose and radical ideas shifted public opinion, why "Common Sense" remains relevant today, and the legacy it left in shaping democratic ideals. By examining the pamphlet's structure, key themes, and the factors contributing to its widespread popularity, this comprehensive guide offers insight into why "Common Sense" is still studied and admired. Whether you're a history enthusiast, student, or curious reader, this article provides a thorough understanding of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" and its lasting importance.

- Background of Thomas Paine and the Historical Context
- Overview and Structure of "Common Sense"
- Main Arguments Presented in "Common Sense"
- Impact on the American Revolution
- Literary Style and Rhetorical Strategies
- Lasting Legacy and Modern Relevance

Background of Thomas Paine and the Historical Context

Thomas Paine: The Revolutionary Writer

Thomas Paine was an English-born political activist, philosopher, and writer whose efforts played a pivotal role in the American Revolution. Before arriving in America in 1774, Paine had experienced personal and professional hardships in England. His keen intellect and passion for social change positioned him as a leading voice for independence. Paine's ability to communicate complex ideas in accessible language made him a natural propagandist for revolutionary causes.

Colonial America on the Eve of Revolution

The publication of "Common Sense" came at a time when tensions between the American colonies and Great Britain were escalating. Disputes over taxation, lack of representation, and increasing British control fueled resentment. Many colonists were uncertain about pursuing full independence, fearing the risks and consequences. The need for a persuasive, unifying argument was urgent, and Thomas Paine's pamphlet arrived at a critical moment, challenging the status quo and encouraging decisive action.

- Escalating colonial unrest
- Growing dissatisfaction with British rule
- Desire for self-governance
- Uncertainty about independence

Overview and Structure of "Common Sense"

Publication and Distribution

"Common Sense" was published anonymously in January 1776, quickly spreading throughout the colonies. Its affordable price and clear language made it accessible to a wide audience, from urban merchants to rural farmers. Within months, hundreds of thousands of copies were circulated, making it one of the most widely read political pamphlets in American history.

Organizational Structure

The pamphlet is divided into several sections, each addressing key issues related to independence and governance. Paine begins by discussing the nature of government and society, then critiques monarchy and hereditary succession. He presents arguments for American independence, examines the benefits of a republican form of government, and concludes with practical suggestions for building a new nation.

1. Introduction: Purpose and audience
2. Section I: On government and society

3. Section II: Critique of monarchy and hereditary rule
4. Section III: Arguments for independence
5. Section IV: Vision for American government

Main Arguments Presented in "Common Sense"

The Case Against Monarchy

One of Paine's central arguments in "Common Sense" is the rejection of monarchy and hereditary succession. He denounces the idea that kings have a divine right to rule and asserts that hereditary government leads to corruption and oppression. Paine's reasoning is grounded in Enlightenment principles, emphasizing the natural equality of all people and the importance of government by consent.

Advocacy for Independence

Paine makes a compelling case for immediate independence from Britain. He argues that British rule has harmed the colonies economically and politically, and that continued association only invites further exploitation. "Common Sense" challenges the notion that reconciliation is possible, instead urging Americans to seize the opportunity to create a more just and prosperous society.

Blueprint for a Republic

In addition to denouncing monarchy, Paine outlines the advantages of a republican government. He describes a system in which citizens elect their leaders and laws are made for the common good. Paine proposes a continental congress and a written constitution, laying the groundwork for democratic governance in the newly independent nation.

- Condemnation of hereditary monarchy
- Promotion of equal rights and popular sovereignty
- Argument for immediate independence
- Vision for representative government

Impact on the American Revolution

Shifting Public Opinion

Before the publication of "Common Sense," many colonists were undecided about breaking away from Britain. Paine's persuasive arguments and straightforward style resonated with a broad audience, helping to shift public sentiment toward independence. The pamphlet unified disparate groups by framing the struggle as a universal fight for liberty and justice.

Influence on Founding Documents

Paine's ideas directly influenced the drafting of the Declaration of Independence and other foundational texts. His emphasis on natural rights, self-governance, and opposition to tyranny became guiding principles for the new republic. The widespread dissemination of "Common Sense" ensured that these concepts were embedded in the minds of both leaders and ordinary citizens.

Mobilizing Action

"Common Sense" not only inspired ideological change but also motivated practical action. The pamphlet encouraged enlistment in the Continental Army, increased support for revolutionary leaders, and fostered a sense of urgency. Paine's rhetoric galvanized colonists to actively participate in the fight for independence.

Literary Style and Rhetorical Strategies

Clarity and Accessibility

One of the defining features of "Common Sense" is its clear and accessible prose. Paine intentionally avoided complex philosophical jargon, opting instead for straightforward language that appealed to everyday readers. This stylistic choice helped democratize revolutionary ideas, making them available to people from all walks of life.

Emotional Appeals

Paine's writing employs powerful emotional appeals, invoking themes of injustice, patriotism, and hope. He uses vivid imagery and analogies to illustrate the absurdity of monarchy and the promise of independence. These rhetorical strategies intensified the sense of urgency and moral righteousness, compelling readers to act.

Use of Logical Arguments

In addition to emotional appeals, Paine structures his arguments logically, building a persuasive case step by step. He presents evidence, anticipates counterarguments, and dismantles opposing viewpoints. This balanced approach helped convince skeptics and provided a robust intellectual foundation for the revolutionary cause.

Lasting Legacy and Modern Relevance

Influence on Democratic Ideals

The principles articulated in "Common Sense" continue to shape democratic thought worldwide. Paine's advocacy for popular sovereignty, individual rights, and government accountability remains fundamental to modern democracies. His work is frequently cited in discussions about freedom, equality, and civic responsibility.

Enduring Popularity and Study

"Common Sense" is still widely read and studied in schools, universities, and political circles. Its historical significance and literary merit have secured its place in the canon of revolutionary literature. The pamphlet serves as a model for effective political persuasion and grassroots activism.

Contemporary Relevance

The arguments and ideals presented in "Common Sense" resonate in contemporary debates about government, rights, and social justice. Paine's commitment to reason, equality, and independence inspires ongoing movements for change. The pamphlet's message encourages citizens to question authority, demand accountability, and pursue collective progress.

- Foundation for modern democracy
- Model for political activism
- Source of inspiration for social movements
- Continued influence on political philosophy

Trending Questions and Answers about thomas paine common sense

Q: What was the main purpose of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense"?

A: The primary purpose of "Common Sense" was to persuade American colonists to support independence from Britain and to provide clear arguments against monarchy and for the establishment of a republican government.

Q: How did "Common Sense" influence the American Revolution?

A: "Common Sense" significantly influenced the American Revolution by shifting public opinion toward independence, inspiring action, and impacting the drafting of foundational documents like the Declaration of Independence.

Q: Why was "Common Sense" so widely read and popular?

A: Its popularity stemmed from Paine's clear and accessible language, affordable price, and relatable arguments, making it available and understandable to a broad audience across the colonies.

Q: What arguments did Paine make against monarchy in "Common Sense"?

A: Paine condemned hereditary monarchy as unjust and corrupt, rejected the divine right of kings, and argued that government should be based on the consent and equality of the governed.

Q: In what ways does "Common Sense" remain relevant today?

A: "Common Sense" remains relevant for its advocacy of democratic principles, citizen participation, and its encouragement to question authority, all of which continue to influence modern political thought and activism.

Q: Did Thomas Paine write "Common Sense" under his own name?

A: No, "Common Sense" was originally published anonymously, although Paine's authorship soon became widely known.

Q: What was Paine's vision for America after independence?

A: Paine envisioned a republic with elected representatives, a written constitution, and government dedicated to the common good and protection of individual rights.

Q: How did the pamphlet impact ordinary colonists?

A: "Common Sense" reached ordinary colonists by using straightforward language and relatable examples, inspiring many to support the revolutionary cause and join the movement for independence.

Q: What literary techniques did Paine use in "Common Sense"?

A: Paine employed clear prose, emotional appeals, logical arguments, analogies, and vivid imagery to persuade and motivate readers.

Q: When was "Common Sense" published?

A: "Common Sense" was published in January 1776, just months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

Thomas Paine Common Sense

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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.

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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.

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passion and wit, Kaye shows how Paine turned Americans into radicals—and how we have remained radicals ever since.

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thomas paine common sense: 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.

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