



Paine

Collected Writings

Common Sense

The Crisis

Rights of Man

The Age of Reason

Pamphlets, Articles, & Letters



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THOMAS PAINE

COLLECTED WRITINGS

*Common Sense, The Crisis,
and Other Pamphlets,
Articles, and Letters
Rights of Man
The Age of Reason*



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Contents

[Common Sense, The Crisis, and Other Pamphlets, Articles, and Letters](#)

[Rights of Man](#)

[Part One](#)

[Part Two](#)

[The Age of Reason](#)

[Part One](#)

[Part Two](#)

[Chronology](#)

[Note on the Texts](#)

[Notes](#)

[Index](#)

**COMMON SENSE,
THE CRISIS,
AND
OTHER PAMPHLETS,
ARTICLES, AND LETTERS**

Contents

[Common Sense, February 14, 1776](#)

[The Forester's Letters](#)

[Letter I, April 1, 1776](#)

[Letter II, April 10, 1776](#)

[Letter III, April 22, 1776](#)

[Reply to Cato's Eighth Letter, April 30, 1776](#)

[Letter IV, May 8, 1776](#)

[The American Crisis, Number I, December 19, 1776](#)

[The American Crisis, Number II, January 13, 1777](#)

[The American Crisis, Number III, April 19, 1777](#)

[The American Crisis, Number IV, September 12, 1777](#)

[The American Crisis, Number V, March 21, 1778](#)

[Prospects for War Between Britain and France, June 10, 1778](#)

[The Crisis, Number VI, October 20, 1778](#)

[The Crisis, Number VII, November 11, 1778](#)

[Portion of a Letter to Henry Laurens, 1778?](#)

[Response to *Observations on the American Revolution*, March 20, 1779](#)

[Response to the Riot Outside James Wilson's House, October 16, 1779](#)

[The Crisis, Number VIII, February 26, 1780](#)

[The Crisis, Number IX, June 9, 1780](#)

[The Crisis Extraordinary, October 4, 1780](#)

[Public Good, December 30, 1780](#)

[Common Sense, on the King of England's Speech, February 19 and 28, 1782](#)

[Common Sense, on Financing the War, March 5, 1782](#)

[The Necessity of Taxation, April 4, 1782](#)

[Response to an Accusation of Bribery, May 1, 1782](#)

[The Crisis, Number XI, May 11, 1782](#)

[To Sir Guy Carleton, May 31, 1782](#)

[To the Earl of Shelburne, October 29, 1782](#)

[The Last Crisis, Number XIII, April 19, 1783](#)

[Commerce with Britain and the Necessity of Union, December 9, 1783](#)

[On the Affairs of Pennsylvania, September 15, 1786](#)

[Attack on Paper Money Laws, November 3, 1786](#)

[To Thomas Jefferson, February? 1788](#)

[To George Washington, October 16, 1789](#)

[To Benjamin Rush, March 16, 1790](#)

[To George Washington, May 1, 1790](#)

[To the Authors of *The Republican*, July 2, 1791](#)

[To the Abbé Sieyès, July 8, 1791](#)

[Reasons for Wishing to Preserve the Life of Louis Capet, January 15, 1793](#)

[Shall Louis XVI. Have Respite? January 19, 1793](#)

[To Danton, May 6, 1793](#)

[Agrarian Justice, Spring 1797](#)

[To Samuel Adams, January 1, 1803](#)

[The Construction of Iron Bridges, June 13, 1803](#)

[Of the Term "Liberty of the Press," October 20, 1806](#)

Common Sense

*Addressed to the
Inhabitants of America*

Man knows no Master save creating HEAVEN, Or those whom Choice
and common Good ordain.

THOMSON.

February 14, 1776

INTRODUCTION.

PERHAPS the sentiments contained in the following pages, are not *yet* sufficiently fashionable to procure them general favor; 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 defence of custom. But the tumult soon subsides. Time makes more converts than reason.

As a long and violent abuse of power, is generally the Means of calling the right of it in question (and in Matters too which might never have been thought of, had not the Sufferers been aggravated into the inquiry) and as the King of England hath undertaken in his *own Right*, to support the Parliament in what he calls *Theirs*, and as the good people of this country are grievously oppressed by the combination, they have an undoubted privilege to inquire into the pretensions of both, and equally to reject the usurpation of either.