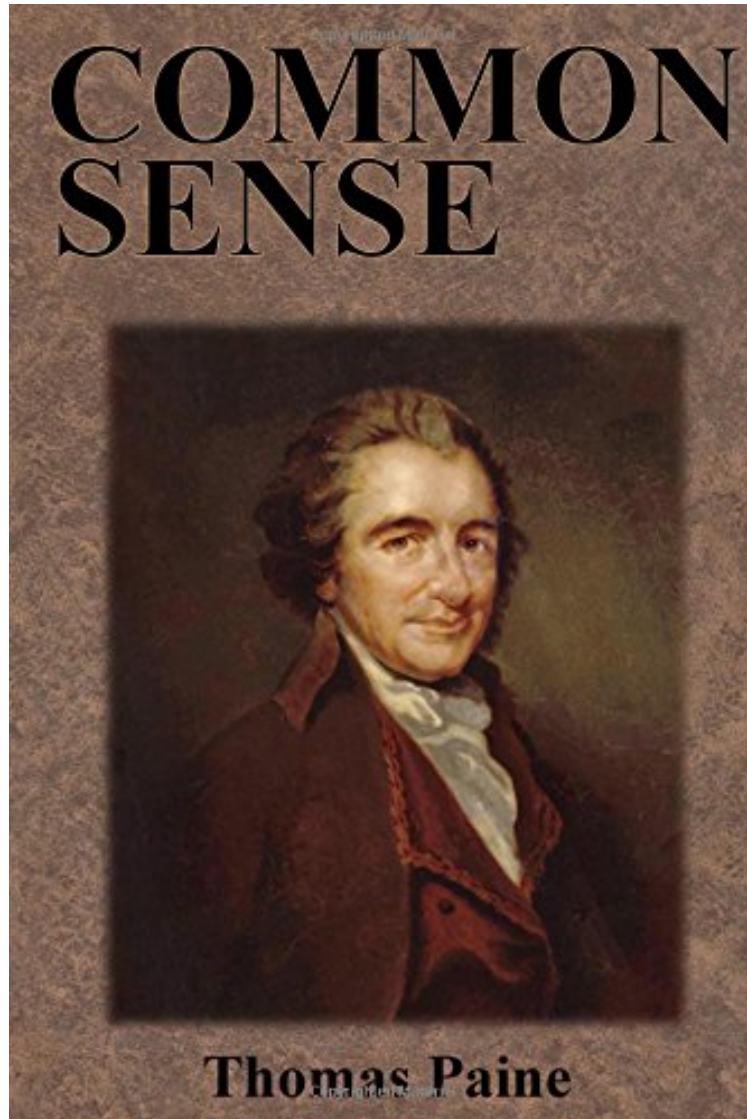


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Common Sense

Thomas Paine

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.com "These are the times that try men's souls," begins Thomas Paine's first Crisis paper, the impassioned pamphlet that helped ignite the American Revolution. Published in Philadelphia in January of 1776, *Common Sense* sold 150,000 copies almost immediately. A powerful piece of propaganda, it attacked the idea of a hereditary monarchy, dismissed the chance for reconciliation with England, and outlined the economic benefits of independence while espousing equality of rights among citizens. Paine fanned a flame that was already burning, but many historians argue that his work unified dissenting voices and persuaded patriots that the American Revolution was not only necessary, but an epochal step in world history. From Library Journal
Paine is one of those who proved the pen is mightier than the sword. Included here are several of the writings that forged the spirit of our nation, including *Common Sense*, *The Crisis*, *The Rights of Man*, *The Age of Reason*, and *Other Pamphlets, Articles, and Letters*. Note that two new Paine biographies have been recently published (LJ 11/15/94 and LJ 1/95). Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. "No writer has exceeded Paine in ease and familiarity of style, in perspicuity of expression, happiness of elucidation, and in simple and unassuming language." -Thomas Jefferson