

# *Common Sense*



A guide to the beginning of  
American Independence

## List of Events Leading to the American Revolution

- **French & Indian War - fought between Britain and France over land in the Ohio River Valley; both sides wanted the resources**
- **Treaty of Paris 1763**
- **Proclamation of 1763**

**Series of taxes on various goods**

**Smuggling**

**Sons of Liberty -- coordinated action against the British**

## List of Events Leading to the American Revolution

- **Sugar Act (1764)**. This British law charged duties on sugar & molasses imported by the colonies. Several other products were also taxed.
- **Currency Act (1751 and 1764)**. Several Acts which regulated the issuing of money by the American colonist.
- **Stamp Act (1765)**. This British law required certain printed materials including newspapers in America be on paper produced in Britain and stamped with a revenue stamp.
- **Quartering Act (1765)**. This act forced the colonist to provide food and shelter for British soldiers when needed.
- **Townshend Acts (1767)**. A series of acts passed By Britain beginning in 1767 that taxed the colonies.
- **Boston Massacre (1770)**. An angry mob of colonist confronts British soldiers in Boston. Five colonists are killed.
- **Tea Act (1773)**. This act basically gave the British East India Company a monopoly on tea trade in the Americas.
- **Boston Tea Party (1773)**. In response to the Tea Act patriots dressed as American Indians dump British tea into Boston Harbor.
- **Intolerable Acts (1774)**. A series of laws also called the Coercive Acts passed by Britain in response to the Boston Tea Party.

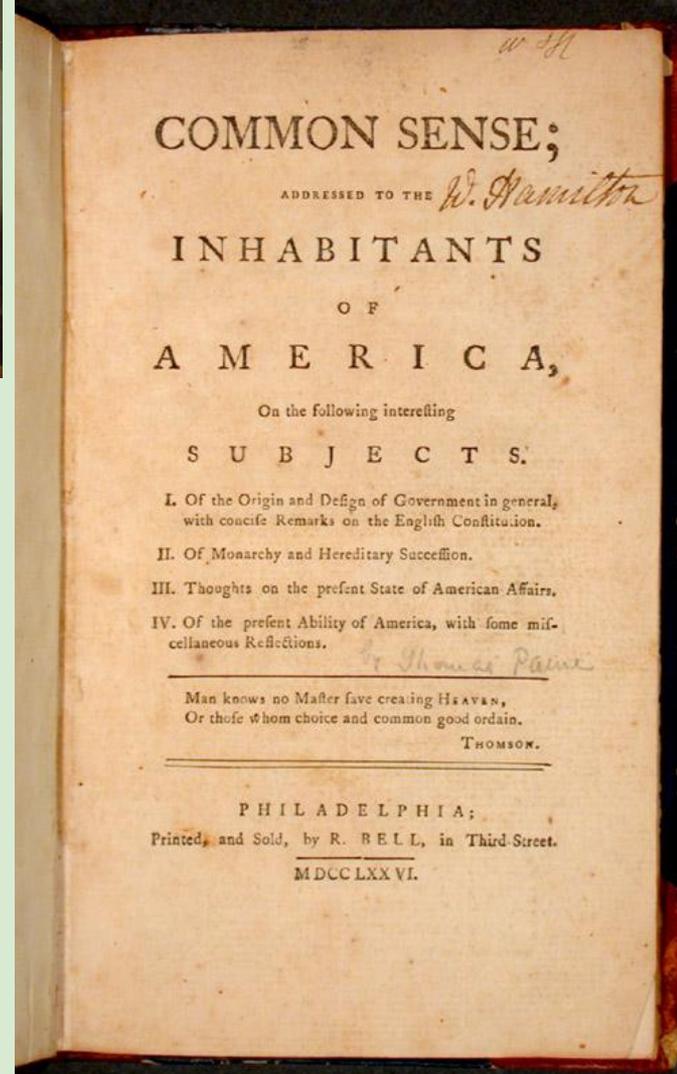


# Patriots vs. Loyalists

1. **Patriot** - (called Whigs) Americans who believed the colonies had the right to govern themselves; willing to fight Britain
2. **Loyalist** - (called Tories) colonists who felt a deep loyalty to Britain & King; horrified by the idea of taking up arms against Britain
3. **Neutralist** - had yet to support either side; by the time the revolution began, many had changed their minds and joined one side

## Common Sense by Thomas Paine

- Englishmen; self educated; penniless
- Caught attention of Ben Franklin
- Pamphlet published in 1775-1776
- Woke America up
- Reasons for Colonists to rebel against Britain
- Treasonous work because it contained a radical idea that the Colonists should declare independence
- Sold 120,000 copies in first 3 months
- 5 months after it was published, the 2nd Continental Congress met



## Common Sense by Thomas Paine



- “Yo, you are an island:” An idea that an island nation in Europe can drive policy for a continent is crazy.
- We aren’t British anymore. We are now diversified. We are Americans now and we have begun to build a sense of identity. This is the first example American defining literature.
- “Yo, mama:” what kind of “mother” is Great Britain? Mother country is not doing its motherly duties. She raises you and then violates your natural rights (and no representation).

## Common Sense by Thomas Paine

- “Bang bang:” getting caught up in European alliances; he argues to not sit at the drama table
- Distance - Britain is thousands of miles away; communication is a problem; time gap create pragmatic problems
- Idea of Puritan Heritage: we were to be a refuge from Europe and Catholic Church/Church of England; separate self from drama; leads us to idea to separate officially
- Best Interest: Colonialism never will have our best interest; London’s interests > Boston’s interests; need to rule ourselves; we need our own representation