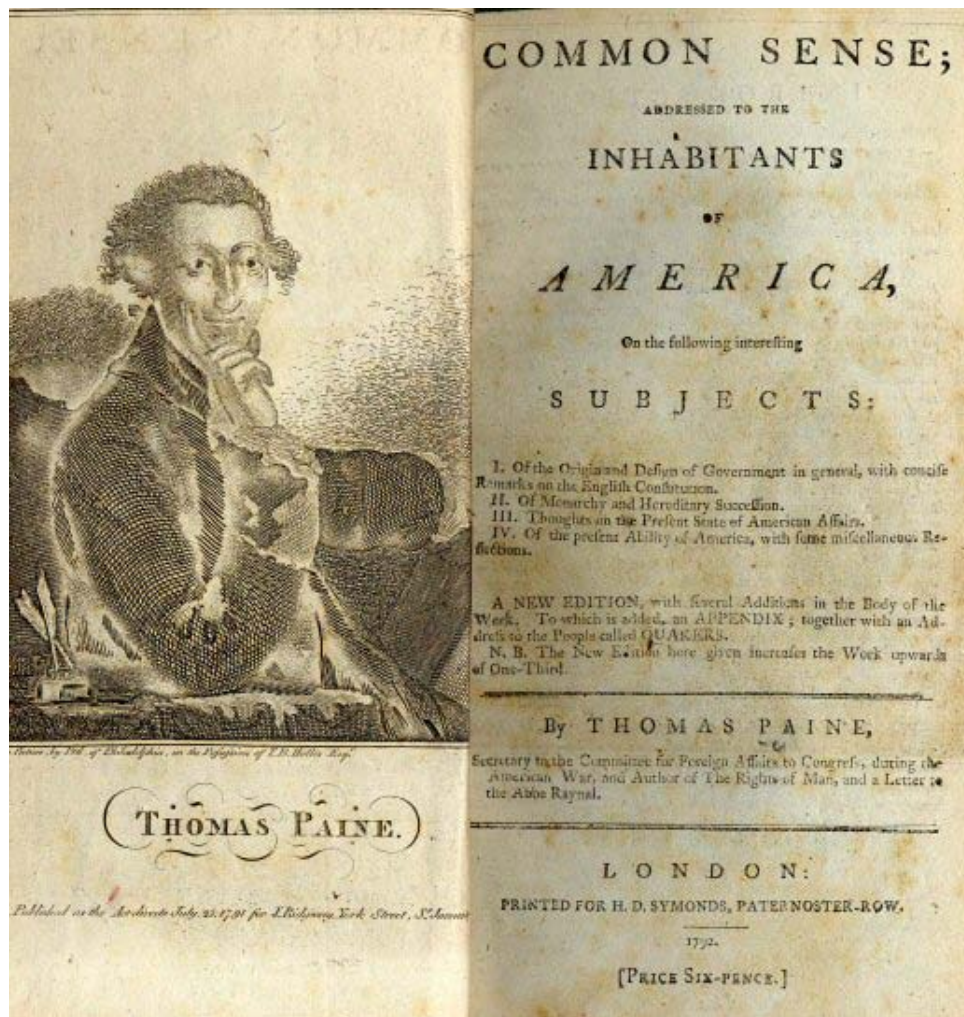


RS#03: Selected Paragraphs from *Common Sense*
Written by Thomas Paine and Published on January 10, 1776



Of Monarchy and Hereditary Succession

In the early ages of the world, according to the *Bible* there were no kings; the consequence of which was, there were no wars; it is the pride of kings which throws mankind into confusion. Holland, without a king hath enjoyed more peace for this last century than any of the monarchical governments in Europe...

Government by kings was first introduced into the world by the *people who didn't know God*. It was the most prosperous invention the devil ever set on foot for the promotion of *worshipping kings rather than God*...How *disrespectful* is the title of

sacred majesty applied to a worm, who in the midst of his splendor is crumbling into dust!

Another evil which attends succession is that the throne *can* be *held* by a minor at any age...The same national misfortune happens when a king worn out with age and *frailty* enters the last stage of human weakness. In both these cases the public becomes a prey to every *villain* who can *interfere* successfully with the *aged* or *youthful king/queen*.

In short, monarchy and succession have laid but the world in blood and ashes. *It is* a form of government which God *is* against, and blood will *result*.

Thoughts on the Present State of American Affairs

But Britain is the parent country, say some. Then the more shame upon her conduct. Even *beasts* do not devour their young, nor *bloodthirsty people* make war upon their families...Europe, and not England, is the parent country of America. This new World provided protection for the *punished* lovers of liberty from EVERY PART of Europe. They fled, not from the tender embraces of the mother, but from the cruelty of the monster...

I challenge the warmest *supporter of peace with Great Britain* to show a single advantage that this continent can reap by being connected with Great Britain...Our corn will fetch its price in any market in Europe, and our imported goods must be paid for...

A government of our own is our natural right.

Glossary

monarchy – a government in which the power is held by the king/queen

succession – the process where one relative replaces another for the throne