

## Common Sense, Thomas Paine\_January 9, 1776

### Introduction

*Perhaps* the sentiments (**ideas**) contained in the following pages, are not yet sufficiently fashionable to procure them general favor (**ready for people to agree with**); a long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial (**fake**) appearance of being right, and raises at first a formidable (**strong**) outcry in defense of custom. But tumult (**anger**) 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,---**it may never had been questioned if people didn't think something was wrong**) and as the king of England hath undertaken (**done**) in his own right, to support the parliament in what he calls theirs, and as the good people of this country are grievously oppressed (**burdened**) by the combination, they have an undoubted privilege (**right**) to inquire (**ask questions**) into the pretensions (**claims**) of both, and equally to reject the usurpations (**how they took over**) of either.

In the following sheets (**pages**), the author hath studiously avoided (**worked hard avoiding**) every thing which is personal among ourselves (**personal bias**). Compliments as well as censure (**disapproval**) to individuals make no part thereof (**in the book**). The wise and the worthy need not the triumph (**explanation**) of a pamphlet; and those whose sentiments (**feelings**) are injudicious or unfriendly, will cease of themselves, unless too much pains is bestowed (**put**) upon their conversion.

The cause of America is, in a great measure (**amount**), the cause of all mankind. Many circumstances have, and will arise, which are not local, but universal (**world-wide**), and through which the principles of all lovers of mankind (**those who care for struggling people**) are affected, and in the event of which, their affections are interested. The laying a country desolate (**in ruins**) with fire and sword, declaring war against the natural rights of all mankind, and extirpating (**eliminating**) the defenders thereof from the face of the earth, is the concern of every man to whom nature hath given the power of feeling; of which class, regardless of party censure (**disappointment**), is the AUTHOR.

**Common Sense Questions**

1-What is he saying about the overall acceptance of the topic?

2-Why do things that are wrong seem right? What's the reaction to saying they are wrong?

3-What changes people more, time or reason? Why?

4-Who has abused power?

5-Who does king and Parliament oppress?

6-What two "rights" do people have because of this oppression?

7-America's cause is also whose cause?

8-He says the problems not local, but universal. So what are every man's problems?