

#3. Patriots: Common Sense by Thomas Paine (Wikipedia)

Published anonymously by Thomas Paine in January of 1776, *Common Sense* was an instant best-seller, both in the colonies and in Europe. It went through several editions in Philadelphia, and was republished in all parts of United America. Because of it, Paine became internationally famous.

Paine's political pamphlet brought the rising revolutionary sentiment into sharp focus by placing blame for the suffering of the colonies directly on the reigning British monarch, George III.

The pamphlet labeled King George III as "the Royal Brute of Great Britain".

Paine's main argument against British Rule:

1. It was ridiculous for an island to rule a continent.
2. America was not a "British nation"; it was composed of influences and peoples from all of Europe.
3. Even if Britain was the "mother country" of America, that made her actions all the more horrendous, for no mother would harm her children so brutally.
4. Being a part of Britain would drag America into unnecessary European wars, and keep it from the international commerce at which America excelled.
5. The distance between the two nations made governing the colonies from England unwieldy. If some wrong were to be petitioned to Parliament, it would take a year before the colonies received a response.
6. The New World was discovered shortly after the Reformation. The Puritans believed that God wanted to give them a safe haven from the persecution of British rule.
7. Britain ruled the colonies for its own benefit, and did not consider the best interests of the colonists in governing them.