

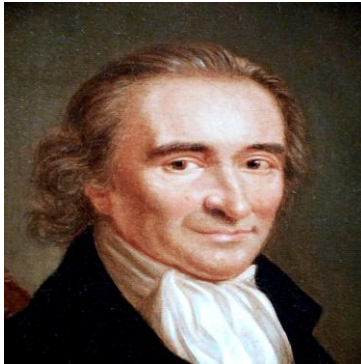


Revisiting Common Sense

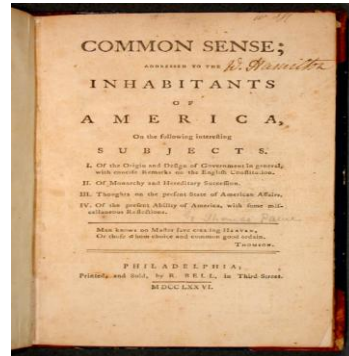
By: Mindy Rader



As we celebrate the 250th year of our country, I am reminded that in 1776 Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet called Common Sense. The purpose of that pamphlet was to convince the future Americans as to why they should support the patriot cause rather than the Monarchy. Today, we need a new form of common sense to understand events in our country and heal.



Thomas Paine



It takes common sense to realize that extremes are destroying the fabric of American life. Our children are taught in school to hate our country because it has blemishes in its past. The question is, whether those blemishes are merely pimples that go away with age or whether they are a cancer that is slowly rotting the body and soul of our nation. I say, they are pimples.

Social Media, television, and the internet have made us believe that gratification must be instantaneous. Crimes are solved within an hour and always have a positive outcome. We demand instantaneous information which leaves the information that we have to be often incorrect. This leads to posts and videos which are plainly false. We are left with the question, who and what do we believe? Therefore, rather than wait for justice results we get mob mentality on the internet judging things right or wrong.

Seth Rogan had a show on tv called The Orville. One episode of that show made my skin crawl because it was so realistic as to what could be happening if the internet continues in its current form. They landed on a planet where peoples guilt or innocence was not based on fact but on how they voted on social media. This led to people who were perhaps innocent being doomed. Sound familiar? Here it's called cancel culture. We boycott what we don't like and we only believe what the media feeds us. And then we vote by way of likes on twitter, reddit or fb and that becomes societies view and belief.

Nothing in this world is perfect. We tend now to judge the past by our current standards. If we continue doing that then even the goods of today will someday be treated harshly in the future. We teach people to believe in nothing, not God and not country and that will lead us eventually to not believe in ourselves. If we have no beliefs in our system then we have no justice or belief at all, just like in the Orville, mob mentality rules. We see this with the rise in antisemitism, where mobs surround synagogues. We see this on the streets when our police are attacked and we see this when we attack groups of individuals because they look different or talk different and have different beliefs. Let's spread that word on the internet and those prejudices will become reality and the new normal for society.

So finally, I have to say that I do believe in common sense because common sense will tell you not to believe what you read on the internet but rather explore with your own eyes primary sources and take what everybody says with a grain of salt and use your own thoughts and common sense. Does it make sense to you what's being said? Does it make sense to assassinate a health care executive and then treat him as a hero as some people are doing? Does it make sense that this country has not improved in 250 years? Does it make sense to you that only European settlers made war and the rest of the world was perfect? Does it make sense if you don't work and just tax people until you eventually run out of money? Does it appeal to your common sense that criminals should run free? This happens in no civilized society. We have to work for what we want and to reap the benefits no matter how big or small, without guilt. That is common sense. And we need a new Tom Paine to show why we have to be patriots once again. Not to have a revolution against the British crown but to have a revolution against those with no common sense.