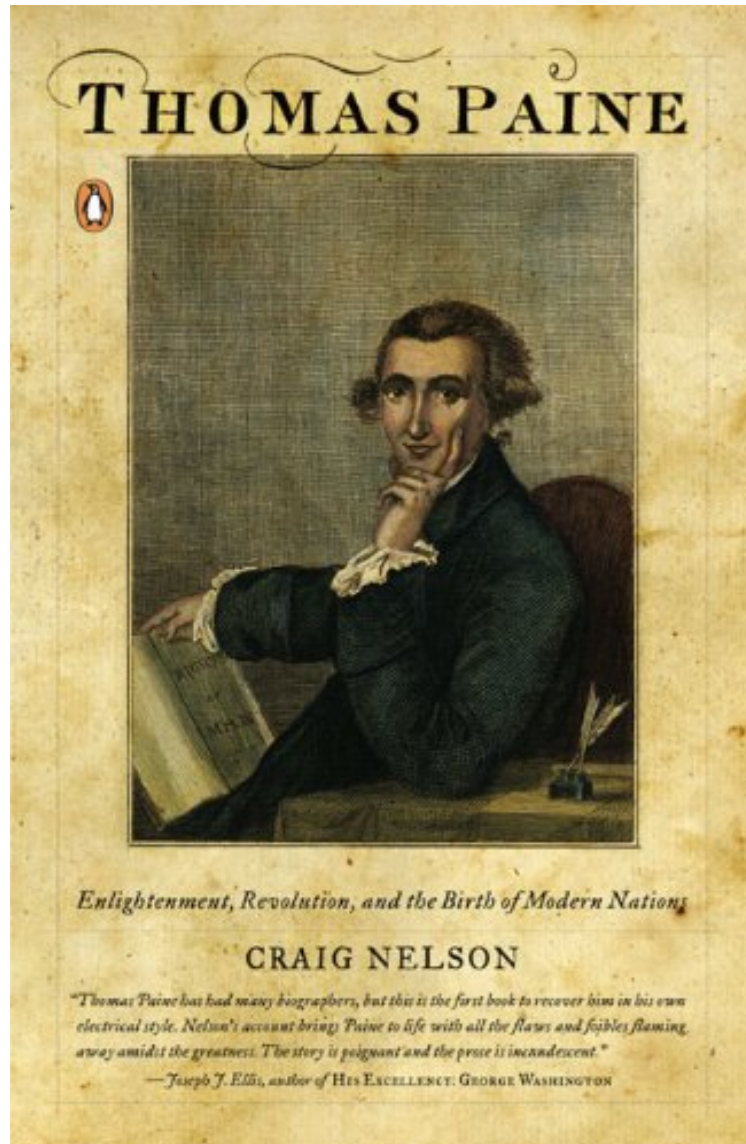


## Thomas Paine: Enlightenment, Revolution, and the Birth of Modern Nations

Craig Nelson

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#447396 in Books Nelson, Craig 2007-09-04 2007-09-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .90 x 5.60l, .87 #File Name: 0143112384396 pages | File size: 26.Mb

**Craig Nelson : Thomas Paine: Enlightenment, Revolution, and the Birth of Modern Nations** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thomas Paine: Enlightenment, Revolution, and the Birth of Modern Nations:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The world could use a bit more Paine.By DCYou honestly can't go

wrong reading this one. Craig blends everything so smoothly, you forget you're reading history. Thomas Paine is a fantastic character and learning how he came to be himself is such an enjoyable journey. Aside from being at the pinnacle of PR and Propaganda for early America and colonies, the guy goes off and writes about important issues which still affect us to this day. Ever wonder about religion and whether Christianity was or should have been the foundation of this country? Read this book and Paine's Age of Reason which in my opinion is a healthy basis for viewing all religions. Paine makes very clear arguments and one could argue is responsible for the right to free speech and a free press. In this glum world today where partisan antics and fights rule the day and dialogue is shouted down, we need a bit of Paine.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you like Thomas Paine, buy it  
By bixI really loved this book, but I am a Thomas Paine fan. It was well written, especially for someone who sit around reading Thomas Payne. Very glad I bought this book.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Truth Be Told.  
By LucyNonfiction Steve gave a wonderful review. However, I disagree that it is not for a first-time reader of Thomas Paine. Reading this book, would only encourage a first-time reader to study Thomas Paine's writings. I have only recently skimmed through his major works: Common Sense the Age of Reason. This book was extremely valuable in helping me understand the works of Thomas Paine. More importantly, it gave me a history lesson I never received in school. I understand the American Revolution so much better, not only from the American perspective, but also from a global perspective. I cannot say much more than has already been said in the other 5 Star ratings. This book will give the reader a better understanding of the man Thomas Paine, and the time period. Unbelievable how one man could shape our history so greatly!! More time should be spent in Primary/Secondary school on Thomas Paine, along with the other "Founders of our Country". I do not know how we can study Thomas Jefferson George Washington without studying Thomas Paine, as well. I can only thank the author for writing such a brilliant biography, and giving credit to such a neglected but highly important figure of the American Revolution.

A fresh new look at the Enlightenment intellectual who became the most controversial of America's founding fathers. Despite his being a founder of both the United States and the French Republic, the creator of the phrase "United States of America," and the author of Common Sense, Thomas Paine is the least well known of America's founding fathers. This edifying biography by Craig Nelson traces Paine's path from his years as a London mechanic, through his emergence as the voice of revolutionary fervor on two continents, to his final days in the throes of dementia. By acquainting us as never before with this complex and combative genius, Nelson rescues a giant from obscurity-and gives us a fascinating work of history.

From Publishers Weekly Enlightenment thinker Thomas Paine would be pleased with this brisk, intellectually sophisticated study of his life. Nelson (The First Heroes) breezes through Paine's first 37 years, his attention tuned to 1774, when Paine moved from England to Philadelphia, bearing glowing letters of introduction from Benjamin Franklin. It was there that "his real life story would begin" with the writing of the hugely influential Common Sense, which attacked the divine right of kings and advocated American independence. Nelson follows Paine as he heads to Europe in 1787, and charts Paine's ambiguous relationship with the French Revolution. During the Reign of Terror, Paine got to work on The Age of Reason, and Nelson insists that, though his subject has been called an atheist, this work advocated 18th-century deism and was right in step with "mainstream Anglo-American religious discourse" of the era. Nelson concludes with a brief, intriguing discussion of Paine's legacy in the United States. The descriptions of Paine birthday galas in New York and Philadelphia 20 years after his 1809 death are fascinating in fact, an entire chapter could have been devoted to Paine's influence in the Jacksonian era. This volume won't replace Eric Foner's classic Tom Paine and Revolutionary America, but it's a welcome addition. (Sept. 25) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist Shortly after arriving in the American colonies in 1774, Thomas Paine wrote the pamphlet "Common Sense," which was instrumental in pushing the colonies to declare independence. After independence was declared, his "16 Crisis" papers helped keep up the morale of American soldiers. Yet Paine is rarely accorded the adulation or even respect given to those deemed our Founding Fathers. To a degree, that is a result of Federalist politicians; frightened by his devotion to democratic principles and his support for revolution in France, they took every opportunity to disparage him as a rabble-rousing atheist. Nelson admirably restores Paine and his ideas to a deserved place of prominence. Above all else, Paine was a man of the Enlightenment. He went to France in 1787, defended the revolution in its early stages, but strongly opposed the descent into bloody extremism. He barely escaped execution during the Terror and died in obscurity in New York in 1809. However, his ideas stressing the virtues of democratic republicanism and his optimism for the future of America remained influential. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved.

"Craig Nelson's lovely new biography provides cogent reasons why the man who wrote Common Sense has often been neglected by the cheerleaders for the American Revolution." -Los Angeles Times Book "A rewarding new biography . . . as much a primer on the Enlightenment as it is the story of the stay-maker from Thetford-and all the better for it." -The New Yorker