

THOMAS PAINE'S TO BEGIN THE WORLD OVER AGAIN

Screening Kit

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ABOUT THOMAS PAINE

Talking Points

The themes highlighted in the *To Begin the World Over Again* range from voting and writing, to war and the First Amendment. Explore some of Paine’s stances to gain a complex understanding of the time period and how it connects to today.



The Right to Vote

When the Founding Fathers were debating the shape and structure of the new American government, the question of the right to vote was not a straightforward matter. There was a strong feeling among many Founders — who were mostly estate owners and rich merchants — that if America was going to throw off the power of a king and aristocracy, they would have to be very careful about who would replace them.

In the eyes of many Founders, only “a few of the most wise and good, the rich and well born and able” should hold political power, and therefore only educated, and of course, white men, should vote. How could the country be trusted to the mass of farmers, craftsmen and indentured servants, often illiterate? Women were considered too fragile for politics, and slaves were not even considered at all in the debate. Paine’s voice was one of the few to speak out against this way of thinking.

Thomas Paine believed:

- in one man, one vote. (Throughout his life, he increasingly wrote for women’s equality but did not quite make the jump to universal suffrage.)
- anyone who attempted to take away someone’s right to vote should lose their own.



Today there are still many groups of Americans who feel disenfranchised in terms of the right to vote, and these feelings need to be considered. For example, “Gerrymandering” means a party can win a majority of seats in the House of Representatives with a minority of votes. A California senator represents about 18 million and a Wyoming senator represents 250,000, yet they have equal power. Various states impose voter ID demands that make it more difficult for specific groups to vote, and the Electoral College ensures that the candidate who wins the majority of votes in a presidential election doesn’t automatically win. Twice in the past 16 years the candidate who won the majority of votes, the “popular” vote, lost the presidential election.

- **What are your thoughts on American elections, and what actions can citizens take to make America a more democratic nation?**

In Paine's own words

✘ *When a qualification to vote is regulated by years, it is placed on the firmest possible ground ... but when Rights are placed upon, or made dependant upon property, they are on the most precarious of all tenures. ””*

From Address to the Addressers, 1792

✘ *As every man in the nation, of the age of twenty-one years, pays taxes, either out of the property he possesses, or out of the product of his labor, which is property to him; and is amenable in his own person to every law of the land; so has every one the same equal right to vote, and no one part of the nation, nor any individual, has a right to dispute the right of another. The man who should do this ought to forfeit the exercise of his own right, for a term of years. This would render the punishment consistent with the crime. ””*

““ *A great deal has been, and will continue to be said, about disqualifications, arising from the commission of offences; but were this subject urged to its full extent, it would disqualify a great number of the present Electors, together with their Representatives; for, of all offences, none are more destructive to the morals of Society than Bribery and Corruption. ””*

From Address to the Addressers, 1792

““ *The true and only true basis of representative government is equality of Rights. Every man has a right to one vote, and no more, in the choice of representatives. The rich have no more right to exclude the poor from the right of voting, or of electing and being elected, than the poor have to exclude the rich; and wherever it is attempted, or proposed, on either side, it is a question of force and not of right. Who is he that would exclude another? That other has a right to exclude him. ””*

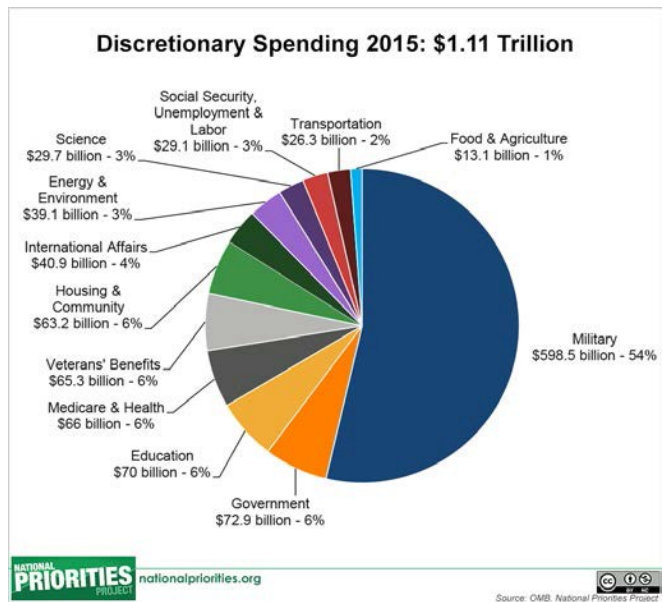
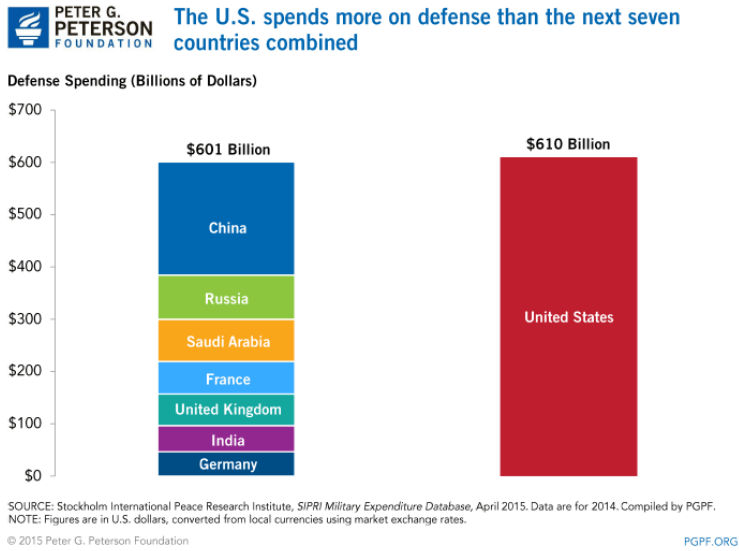
From Dissertation on First Principles of Government, 1795

Perpetual War

Thomas Paine states in *Rights of Man, Part the First*:

“ War is the common harvest of all those who participate in the division and expenditure of public money. In despotic governments wars are the effect of pride; but in those governments in which they become the means of taxation, they acquire a more permanent habitualness. Taxes are not raised to carry on wars, but rather wars are raised to carry on taxes. War is the art of conquering at home. ”

- **Has this really changed?**
- **Consider the two charts below. Does this expenditure seem necessary to our safety, and who stands to benefit the most and lose the most from it?**



The Use of Reason

The Age of Enlightenment was an 18th-century movement and a time of great scientific advancement, often identified as beginning with the late 17th-century work of Isaac Newton. As scientists were challenging many of the beliefs based on church teachings from the Middle Ages, including our place in the universe, new philosophical ideas about our relationship with creation emerged. In his *Age of Reason, Parts First and Second*, Paine was one of the most outspoken critics of organized religion, as well as one of the most outspoken supporters of religious freedom.

As our understanding of the human psyche has grown in the last 100 years, it has become clear that we live much of our lives and create many of our belief systems based not on reason, but on emotions and mindsets we are often unaware of. Paine would want us to look closely at how we choose a new president, a new car or a new friend, and encourage us to use not only our dreams, hopes and passions, but also our reason. This could create more healthy debates between people who disagree but still consider each other's positions.

- **What is a decision you make every day based on emotion? Would that decision change if you used reason?**



Paine the Propagandist

prop·a·gan·dist: a person who promotes or publicizes a particular organization or cause
synonyms: promoter, champion, supporter, proponent, advocate, campaigner, crusader, publicist, evangelist, apostle

Propaganda has a generally bad reputation today, but in earlier centuries it was seen as a great and powerful skill, to be able to move people to action through words.

Paine is considered one of the greatest propagandists in the history of the English language. His use of simple, direct language in his writings — language that was easily understood by the masses — made him a potentially dangerous figure to the status quo. There were many great philosophers writing about reason and Enlightenment, but they were usually writing back and forth to each other, carrying on lofty debates with sentences that could fill a page. Paine's ability to use simple language meant everyone understood exactly what he was saying. Everyone wanted to read it if they could, or hear it read out loud if not.

Different Voices of the Enlightenment

“Let us begin, in a word, by gathering ourselves together in order that, as we seek to know ourselves, everything that constitutes us may present itself to us at the same time. As for me, I think that the one who knows best of what the human self consists is the nearest to wisdom; and that just as the first outline of a drawing is made up of the lines which complete it, man’s first idea is to separate himself from all that is not himself.”

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

“But in so far as this or that individual who acts as part of the machine also considers himself as a member of a complete commonwealth or even of cosmopolitan society, and thence as a man of learning who may through his writings address a public in the truest sense of the word, he may indeed argue without harming the affairs in which he is employed for some of the time in a passive capacity.”

Immanuel Kant

“But what did I enjoy when I was alone? Myself, the whole universe, all that is, all that can be, the entire beauty of the world of sense, the whole imaginable content of the intellectual world: I gathered around me everything that could flatter my heart; my desires were the measure of my pleasures.”

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

“Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us.”

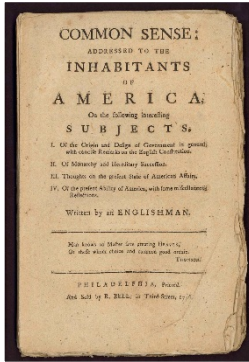
Thomas Paine

“In America the law is King, with tyrants, the King is law.”

Thomas Paine

“Moderation in temper is always a virtue; but moderation in principle is always a vice.”

Thomas Paine



Common Sense sold the equivalent of about 70 million copies today and sparked the American Revolution. If Paine were alive today, he would be writing and blogging every day, as well as perched in the library stacks, devouring books.

- **What are some images that stick out in your mind with the word “propagandist”?**
- **If Paine were alive today, are there any documents or books you think he would have trouble understanding?**



The First Amendment

Paine was passionate about the place of religion. He states in *Age of Reason, Part First*, “Let us bring the subject of the adulterous connection of church and state fairly and openly before the world” and “I believe in the equality of man, and I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavoring to make our fellow-creatures happy.” Paine had great respect for everyone’s freedom to worship as they chose to, or chose not to. From *Common Sense*: “and above all things free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience.”

- **Paine, along with most of the Founding Fathers, was a Deist¹²³. What did Deists believe about God and religious freedom?**

Suggested reading

Nature’s God by Matthew Stewart

A fascinating look at the men who influenced the thinking and spirituality of America’s founders, with Thomas Paine as an important figure in the story.

435 pages plus extensive notes.



Government

Paine was also passionate about government serving the people. He states in *Rights of Man, Part First*, “Governments must be formed through the explicit consent of the people. Governments have no rights, only duty to their citizens.” In the play he declares, “Citizens must always be able to peer into the heart of their government but governments often wish to hide what heart they have.”

- **Do you feel that you have enough understanding of and insight into your government today?**

¹ Piland, Tiffany E., "[The Influence and Legacy of Deism in Eighteenth Century America](#)" (2011). Masters of Liberal Studies Theses. Paper 8.

² Breig, James. "[Deism: One Nation Under A Clockwork God?](#)" *The Colonial Williamsburg Journal* Spring (2009): n. pag. *Colonial Williamsburg*. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 2009.

³ Staloff, Darren. "[Deism and the Founding of the United States](#)." *Divining America*, TeacherServe©. National Humanities Center.

Timeline



George Smith

1737: Thomas Paine is born in Thetford, a small country town in Norfolk, England.



1744 – 1749: He attends Thetford Grammar School, but does not study any Greek or Latin at the insistence of his Quaker father.



James Gillray

1750: He becomes an assistant to his father as a stay-maker, a corset maker. He hates it.



Unknown

1756: He enlists as a privateer on the “King of Prussia” in the Seven Years War. They capture the treasures of 9 ships.



Thomas Rowlandson

1756: He “retires” to London with his bounty from privateering and begins to frequent debating clubs.



1759 – 1760: He marries his first love, Mary Lambert, a waiting-woman. Mary and babe Sarah both die in childbirth. Paine is distraught



1762: He studies for, and becomes, an Excise Inspector, a collector of taxes and agent against smuggling, a very unpopular public position.



1762 – 1767: He works as an Excise Inspector, a stay-maker, a teacher, an ordained Minister...a jack-of-all-trades.



1768: He is posted to Lewis, Sussex as an Excise Inspector. He is a frequent patron of The Headstrong Club at the White Hart Hotel, where he often wins the debating prize.



David Martin

1772: Paine writes the *Case of the Excise Officers*, an appeal for better pay for Excise Inspectors. He takes it to London and petitions Parliament, which is appalled by the idea, but while there he meets Benjamin Franklin.

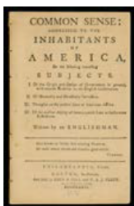


Thomas Birch

1774: He is fired as an Excise Inspector, files for bankruptcy and he and his second wife Elizabeth separate. He returns to London, Franklin writes letters of recommendation for him, and he sails for the Colonies.



1775: Living in Philadelphia, Paine becomes editor of the *Pennsylvania Magazine* and begins writing “traitorous” articles attacking the British Monarchy.



1776: Paine writes *Common Sense*, inspiring the idea of independence. Everyone reads it or has it read to them. The *Declaration of Independence* is written; Paine enlists in the Continental Army, as a Major Paine! As the army faces repeated defeats, he writes *American Crises One* to inspire the troops, which it does. *American Crises Two to Thirteen* are published between 1777 and 1783.



1777 – 1778: Paine is appointed Secretary to the Committee for Foreign Affairs. The “Silas Deane Affair”, in which Paine “leaks” diplomatic information, forces him to resign, the end of his political career.



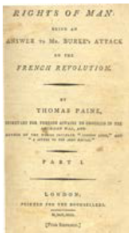
1778 – 1783: Paine clerks for the Pennsylvania Assembly, travels to France to raise money for the war and is employed to write on behalf of the central government.



1784: New York State gives Paine a farmhouse in New Rochelle, and Pennsylvania State and Congress reward him for his services.



1785 – 1787: Paine, disappointed with many of the political changes in America, resolves to put down his pen and, instead, work on his mechanical ideas, most importantly his single-span wrought iron bridge. Franklin writes a letter of recommendation to the French Academy of Science, and Paine sails for France with a model of his bridge.



1787 – 1791: Paine travels between France and England. His bridge is not built, and he feels increasingly pulled to the French Revolution. In America, The *Federalist Papers* are published, the *Constitution* and the *Bill of Rights* are ratified and Washington is elected President. Benjamin Franklin dies in Paris. In London, Paine publishes *Rights of Man: Part First*. It sells 50,000 copies in 3 months. Paine gives away all publishing rights, as usual.



1792 – 1794: *Rights of Man: Part Second* is published and Paine is accused of sedition by the British government. He flees to France, is found guilty in his absence and sentenced to be hanged. He will never see England again.



In France he is elected to the French Assembly, helps draft a new French Constitution and pleads for the life of Louis XVI. The King is beheaded and Paine is a marked man. *Age of Reason, Part First* is published, a strong criticism of all organized religion.



The Reign of Terror reaches its height, and Paine is arrested and sent to Luxembourg Prison, Paris. Robespierre is beheaded, and Reign of Terror ends, and Paine, having barely escaped a beheading himself, is released after 10 months and 9 days in prison.

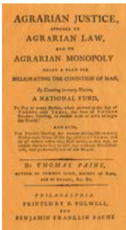


1795: *Age of Reason, Part Second*, begun in prison, is completed and published. Together these two texts will cost him many friends and much public support.



Gilbert Stuart

1796: Paine writes his angry *Letter to Washington*, denouncing him for not intervening to free him from his 10 months in prison. Was Washington unaware of Paine's imprisonment or was he playing a political game as he negotiated better relations with Britain? Either way Washington was regarded as above criticism and the letter was not well received.



1797 – 1801: Paine lives in Paris with his French publisher Nicholas De Bonneville and his family, fearful of leaving the country and being captured by the British navy. Napoleon visits and praises Paine, and he writes his last great and most radical piece, *Agrarian Justice*. Jefferson is elected President.



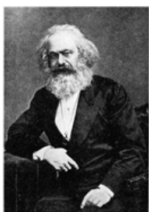
1802: Paine returns to America "*the country of my heart and the place of my political and literary birth*", welcomed at Jefferson's mansion, but not into his government. He is honored at Working Men's Associations but is a pariah to many others. He works on *Age of Reason: Part Third*. Jefferson advises against publication. It is published in 1807.



1809: Paine dies in New York and is buried at his farm, Quakers having refused to accept his bones for burial. Six people attend his funeral. The New York Citizen's obituary says "*He had lived long, did some good and much harm*".



1819 and on: William Cobbett, a reformed Paine hater, digs up his bones and takes them to England to raise money for a giant bronze statue. No money is raised and the bones disappear. But the New York Working Men's Party and the Paineites Working Men's Movement continued to honor him, and his writings influence everyone from Abraham Lincoln to Karl Marx.



Take'em all in all we ne'er shall look on his like again.

A Republican Editor's Obituary, 1809

Thomas Paine wrote approximately 60 books, pamphlets, letters and declarations in his life.

PROMOTION

Spread the Word!

Capture the media’s attention and promote your Paine screening and programs with these publicizing ideas.

1. Contact your local PBS station to let them know how you personally feel about this story and that you’d like to have them to air the 59-minute version. Note: stations do NOT like receiving online petitions; in other words, please do NOT organize any kind of petition or signature drive.
2. Ignite a dialogue on social media about the screening and some of Paine’s most “rebellious” thoughts using **#LifeofThomasPaine**. Here are some examples:



Twitter

- “War is the art of conquering at home.” Learn other tidbits of wisdom from Paine at our screening of #LifeofThomasPaine on Jan. 23 at 2 p.m.
- “Reason obeys itself; and ignorance submits to whatever is dictated to it.” Use your reason to join us for the #LifeofThomasPaine screening.
- Explore the past of the most controversial man in our history at the library’s screening of #LifeofThomasPaine — Jan. 3 at 1 p.m.



Facebook

- “To argue with a person who has renounced the use of reason is like administering medicine to the dead.” Use your reason to join us at the screening of “Thomas Paine’s To Begin the World Over Again,” an extraordinary one-man play about the most controversial man in history. See you on Feb. 20 at 4 p.m.!
 - The library will host a screening of “Thomas Paine’s To Begin the World Over Again” on Oct. 3 at 3:30 p.m. Watch the trailer for the critically acclaimed, one-man play: [youtube.com/watch?v=2Pz3WIFPAWQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Pz3WIFPAWQ)
3. Use our free downloadable banners, fliers and poster for social media platforms and bookmarks. They can be found in *To Begin the World Over Again* screening kit folder.
 4. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Explain how Paine’s ideas relate to the social and political climate of today.
 5. Customize and distribute the press release template found in the *To Begin the World Over Again* screening kit folder. Include it in newsletters and library blogs.
 6. Learn more about the history of the production and its raving feedback from critics from the [general press release](#).

Program Ideas

In addition to hosting a Paine screening party, spark interest in Paine's history through thoughtful and creative programs for all ages.

- Debate: Paine was a skilled debater and often won prizes for his rhetoric skills. Host a debate in which patrons attempt to convince audience members of a certain subject, whether it be playful (a debate on the participants' favorite books) or more serious (should America have fought in the Revolutionary War?).
- Colonial Cookbook: Take your patrons back to the 1800s with these delicious, authentic recipes, found on page 14.
- Dress up: Encourage patrons and staff members to dress up in colonial garb. Aprons, uniforms and loose fitting white blouses transforms the library into a historic colony of readers.
- Thomas Paine display: Besides Paine's writing, the below biographies present riveting perspectives on the controversial figure. These books could also be an option for book clubs.
 - *Tom Paine and Revolutionary America* by Eric Foner, 1976.
 - *Thomas Paine and the Promise of America* by Harvey J. Kaye, 2005
 - *Thomas Paine, Enlightenment, Revolution, and the Birth of Modern Nations* by Craig Nelson, 2006
- Paine scholars panel or speaker: Delve into Paine's history by inviting local historians or scholars to discuss the compelling aspects of his life.
- Book a performer: Invite *To Begin the World Over Again* actor Ian Ruskin to visit your library! Contact info@thelifeofthomaspaine.org for more information.



Colonial Cookbook Recipes

BRUNCH

SWEET POTATO MUFFINS

TOTAL TIME 40 MIN

PREP 15 MINS

COOK 25 MINS

SERVINGS 24

2 EGGS

1 CUP MILK

½ CUP BUTTER

1 ¼ CUPS

SUGAR

1 ½ CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR

¼ TEASPOON SALT

½ CUP CHOPPED RAISINS

1 ¼ CUPS SWEET POTATOES, MASHED (CANNED OR FRESH)

2 TEASPOONS BAKING POWDER

1 TEASPOON CINNAMON

¼ TEASPOON NUTMEG

¼ CUP CHOPPED PECANS OR / CUP WALNUTS

DIRECTIONS

1. Have all ingredients at room temperature.
2. Cream butter, sugar and sweet potatoes until smooth.
3. Add eggs.
4. Blend all four ingredients well.
5. Sift flour, baking powder and spices and add alternately with milk to egg batter.
6. DO NOT OVER MIX.
7. Fold in nuts and raisins last.
8. Sprinkle a little cinnamon-sugar on top before baking.
9. Bake in greased muffin tins at 400° for 25 minute or until done.

WASHINGTON HOE CAKES WITH BLUBERRY PEAR SYRUP

TOTAL TIME: 40 MIN.

FOR THE PANCAKES

¾ CUP CORN MEAL

1 CUP BOILING WATER

2 EGGS

1 ½ CUPS BUTTERMILK (OR 1 ½ CUPS MILK PLUS A 1 ½ TEASPOONS LEMON JUICE SET ASIDE FOR 5 MINUTES)

1 CUP ALL PURPOSE FLOUR

2 TEASPOONS BAKING POWDER

½ TEASPOON BAKING SODA

¼ SALT

FOR THE SYRUP

1 ½ CUPS FROZEN BLUEBERRIES

1 PEAR, CORED, PEELED, AND CHOPPED

¼ CUP MAPLE SYRUP

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine the fruit in a medium saucepan and cook over medium-high heat. The fruit will turn watery, and the vigorously bubble and start to thicken. Stir frequently and cook for 15 minutes. The sauce can easily burn, so turn down heat if needed.
2. Once the sauce has thickened, add the maple syrup, cook briefly, and remove from heat to cool.
3. While the syrup is cooling, combine the cornmeal and boiling water, stir, and set aside. In a medium bowl, lightly beat the eggs and stir in the buttermilk or milk and lemon mixture. Next, add the all purpose flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Finally, whisk in the cornmeal until smooth.
4. Heat your skillet over medium heat. Use a pat of butter for each round of cakes. Cook each side for about 3 minutes, until golden. Place a platter in a warm oven to warm the cooked cakes.
5. Serve cakes stacked with a pat of butter, and a few spoonfuls of blueberry syrup.

DINNER**CHILLED CREAM OF ASPARAGUS SOUP**

TOTAL TIME 1 HR 30 MIN PLUS CHILLING TIME

2 CUPS CHICKEN STOCK OR CANNED CHICKEN BROTH

1 15-OUNCE CAN ASPARAGUS SPEARS, DRAINED

1 SMALL ONION, CHOPPED

½ SMALL BAY LEAF

3 TABLESPOONS BUTTER

3 TABLESPOONS FLOUR

1 CUP MILK

SALT AND WHITE PEPPER

¼ CUP WHIPPING CREAM

DIRECTIONS

1. Bring chicken stock to boil. Add drained asparagus, onion and bay leaf. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer, covered, for 30 minutes. Discard bay leaf.
2. Melt butter in a saucepan. Stir in flour and cook over medium heat for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Do not let the mixture brown. Heat milk and add it to the butter and flour mixture, whisking until the mixture is smooth and thick.
3. Purée the asparagus-chicken stock mixture in food processor or blender. Strain through a sieve into the milk mixture, pressing down hard on the solids with the back of a wooden spoon.
4. Cook over medium heat, whisking constantly, until the mixture is slightly thickened. Add salt and white pepper to taste.
5. Chill thoroughly. Taste for seasoning after the soup is chilled. Stir in cream just before serving.

STEAK AND KIDNEY PUDDING**FOR THE FILLING**

2 TABLESPOONS PLAIN FLOUR

½ TEASPOON ENGLISH MUSTARD POWDER

2 CUPS STEWING STEAK (CUT INTO 2CM / ¾ INCH PIECES)

1 CUP LAMBS' KIDNEYS (CUT INTO CHUNKS)
 1.5 TABLESPOONS BUTTER
 2 TABLESPOONS OLIVE OIL
 1 MEDIUM ONION (CHOPPED)
 2/3 CUP FLAT MUSHROOMS (PEELED AND ROUGHLY CHUNKED)
 2/3 CUP BEEF STOCK
 2/3 CUP STOUT
 1 SCANT TABLESPOON OYSTER SAUCE

FOR THE SUET CRUST

1 ½ CUPS SELF-RAISING FLOUR
 ½ TEASPOON SALT
 ¾ CUPS GRAMS SUET
 ½ TEASPOON ENGLISH MUSTARD POWDER

DIRECTIONS

1. You will need a 3 liter / 3 quart plastic pudding basin with lid, both well buttered.
2. The 2 hours of steaming — which involves little activity on your part — seems less of a consideration when separated from the pudding's preparation. So, preheat the oven to 140°, season the 2 tablespoons of flour with salt, pepper and the mustard powder, and put it into a plastic bag along with the steak and kidney. Seal it, and toss everything about to get an even coating of flour.
3. Warm the butter and oil in a casserole and brown the meat (including the kidney) in batches, removing each to a dish. Fry the onion in the pan, then add the mushrooms and fry them briefly, adding more oil if you need it. Put all the meat back into the casserole and over a medium heat add the stock, stout and oyster sauce. Bring it to the boil, scraping any floury bits off the bottom. Cover with a lid and cook in the preheated oven for 1½ hours. When it's cooked, check the seasoning and put aside to cool.
4. About 2½ - 3 hours before you want to eat, fill a large saucepan with water and bring to the boil. When it begins to boil, start making the pastry, and not before. Mix the flour, salt, suet and mustard powder in a large bowl; then, stirring with a wooden spoon, add enough cold water to make a firm dough.
5. Roll out on a floured surface into a large circle, approximately 5 mm thick, and cut away a quarter segment from the circle to use later as the lid. Ease the three-quarter circle of pastry into your buttered pudding basin; there should be about 3 cm. - 1 inch of overhang. Spoon the cold filling in, not letting it come up higher than about 2 cm. - 1 inch below the rim. Roll out the quarter segment into a small circle to fit the top and seal it with the overhanging edges. Clip on the basin's buttered lid, immerse it in water or place it in a steamer over water and leave it there for 2 hours, remembering to check water levels occasionally.

6. Turn the pudding out onto a plate with a good lip, or some sort of shallow bowl: there is a wonderful moment when, like a bulldozed building, your pudding begins to crack and crumple and then cascades downwards; you need to make sure every thick oozy bit of stout, beefy liquid is safely contained

DESSERT

SWEET POTATO PUDDING

TOTAL TIME 1 HR 15 MIN

1 SWEET POTATO WEIGHING SLIGHTLY MORE THAN A POUND

5 LARGE EGGS

$\frac{3}{4}$ POUND OF SUGAR + 2 TSPS. FOR THE TOP

$\frac{3}{4}$ POUND (OR SLIGHTLY LESS) BUTTER

1 TSP. GRATED NUTMEG

1 TSP. FRESH GRATED LEMON PEEL

2 TO 4 OZ. (ACCORDING TO YOUR TASTE) FRENCH BRANDY

$\frac{1}{4}$ TO $\frac{1}{2}$ CUP OF CANDIED CITRON BITS

1 SHEET PUFF PASTRY OR REGULAR PIE CRUST (STORE BOUGHT OR HOME MADE)

DIRECTIONS

1. Peel and boil sweet potato until soft. Drain it and let it cool slightly.
2. In a medium-mixing bowl, mash the sweet potato with your hand so that there are little or no lumps.
3. In a small bowl, melt the butter or make sure it is extremely soft.
4. In another medium mixing bowl, beat the eggs thoroughly.
5. Add the sugar, butter, nutmeg, lemon peel, and brandy to the eggs, mixing very well.
6. Blend this into the mashed sweet potato thoroughly.
7. Line your pie plate with the puff paste edging it with the design you like.
8. Fill the pie to within a half-inch of the top edge of the puff paste.
9. Bake in a 375° oven for 30-40 minutes. DO NOT let the top get dark brown

but make sure your puff paste is baked enough.

10. Strew the 2 tbsp. sugar over the top after it comes from the oven and garnish the edge with the citron. Let it cool before you cut and eat it.

APPLE CRANBERRY CRUMBLE PIE

TOTAL TIME 2-3 HRS

FOR THE CRUST

2 ½ CUP ALL PURPOSE FLOUR

2 TABLESPOONS GRANULATED SUGAR

¾ TEASPOON SALT

1 CUP UNSALTED BUTTER, COLD, CUT INTO CUBES

½ CUP COLD BUTTERMILK PLUS 2 TO 3 TABLESPOONS MADE IF YOUR DOUGH IS DRY

FOR THE FILLING

ABOUT 2 LBS APPLES, PEELED, CORED, AND SLICED ¼ INCH THICK. I USED A COMBINATION OF GRANNY SMITH AND HONEY CRISP (ABOUT 5 APPLES)

1 HEAPING CUP FRESH CRANBERRIES

1 TABLESPOON FRESHLY SQUEEZED LEMON JUICE

¼ CUP LIGHT BROWN SUGAR, PACKED

¼ CUP GRANULATED SUGER

½ - 1 ½ TEASPOONS GROUND CINNAMON

¼ TEASPOON NUTMEG, PREFERABLY GRESH GRATED

¼ TEASPOON SALT

2 TABLESPOONS UNSALTED BUTTER

1 TABLESPOON PLUS 1 TEASPOON CORNSTARCH

FOR THE CRUMBLE

½ CUP ALL PURPOSE FLOUR

½ CUP PACKED LIGHT BROWN SUGAR

1/3 CUP OLD FASHIONED OATS

½ TEASPOON GROUND CINNAMON

¼ TEASPOON FRESHLY GRATED NUTMEG

¼ TEASPOON GROUND GINGER

¼ TEASPOON SALT

4 TABLESPOONS COLD UNSALTED BUTTER, CUT INTO CUBES

¼ CUP COARSELY CHOPPED SALTED PISTACHIOS

1. This pie crust recipe makes a top and bottom crust, but we'll only need one bottom crust. Just wrap and freeze the other disk of dough for future use!
2. To make the crust: In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, and salt. Add cold, cubed butter and, using your fingers, work the butter into the flour mixture. Quickly break the butter down into the flour mixture, some butter pieces will be the size of oat flakes, some will be the size of peas.
3. Create a well in the butter and flour mixture and pour in the cold buttermilk. Use a fork to bring dough together. Try to moisten all of the flour bits. On a lightly floured work surface, dump out the dough mixture. It will be moist and shaggy. That's perfect. Divide the dough in two and gently knead into two disks. Wrap each disk in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour. We'll only need one disk of dough for this recipe. The other can be wrapped well and frozen.
4. To assemble the pie, remove one of the pie dough disks from the fridge. On a lightly floured surface, roll dough out into about a 13-inch round. Roll the dough a few strokes, then use your fingers to move the emerging circle around the floured surface. This ensures that the dough isn't sticking to the work surface. The circle won't be perfect, and that's OK.
5. Try not to get any tears in the rolled out dough, but if you do, they can be patched together with extra dough. When you roll the dough and you can see it start springing back, that means that the butter is warming and the crust shouldn't be rolled out anymore. Gently lift the 13-inch round from the floured surface and center in a deep 9-inch round pie dish. Place in the fridge to chill while you prepare the filling.
6. To make the filling: In a large bowl, combine the apples, lemon juice, sugars, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt and toss to mix. Place the apples in a fine mesh strainer set over the large bowl. Allow the apples to macerate at room temperature for a minimum of 30 minutes and a maximum of 3 hours.
7. The mixture will release at least 1/2 cup of liquid.
8. In a small saucepan over medium high heat, boil down this liquid, with the butter, to about 1/3 cup (a little more if you started with more than 1/2 cup of liquid), or until syrupy and lightly caramelized. Meanwhile, transfer the apples and cranberries to a bowl and toss them with the cornstarch until all traces of it have disappeared.
9. Pour the syrup over the apples, tossing gently (Do not be concerned if the liquid hardens on contact with the apples and cranberries; it will dissolve during baking.)
10. Transfer the apple and cranberry mixture to the pie shell.
11. To make the crumble: In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, oats, spices, and salt. Add the butter and toss the mixture together with your hands. Break the butter up into the flour mixture until the butter is the size of small pebbles and oat flakes. This takes about 4 minutes. Toss in the pistachios.
12. Sprinkle the crumble over the apple and cranberry mixture. Try to cover the apples

completely or they can burn in the oven. Place in the refrigerator to chill while the oven preheats.

13. Place a rack in the middle of the oven and preheat oven to 400°.

Place pie on a rimmed baking sheet and bake for 45 minutes, until the edges bubble and the apples are cooked through.

14. Allow to cool for at least 1 hour before serving. Serve with ice cream and coffee!

TEA

PROPER TEA

1. Boil the water in the kettle. **THE WATER MUST BE BOILING!** Take your “proper” teapot (one which has several holes inside the spout) to the kettle and put a small amount of boiling water into it. Replace the lid. Empty out the hot water from the teapot. This is called “warming the pot” and is absolutely essential. You cannot make a nice cup of tea in a cold pot.

2. Return the kettle to the stovetop (or plug back in if it’s one of those new fangled jobbies). The water must be brought back to the boil. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of having the water **ABSOLUTELY BOILING** before pouring on the tea in the pot – but beware of steam burns.

3. Place the tea bags (or loose tea leaves) in the warmed pot. The number of bags or spoonfuls will depend on the size of the teapot. Rule of thumb for me is one tea bag or spoonful per cup of tea required.

4. With your tea in the pot, take the teapot to the kettle (not the other way round), and making sure the water is still boiling, fill the teapot with boiling water. Replace the lid and cover immediately with the tea cozy.



Tea cozy

5. Let the tea in the teapot stand for a few minutes for the tea to brew. The tea cozy will keep the tea warm for a long time. Take your tea cup and saucer (preferably of the finest English bone china) pour a little milk into the cup (milk in first, please!) and then fill with the clear, hot, amber liquid of life!

6. Add sugar to taste and there you are! A nice cup of tea, all ready to drink. Cheers!

Bonus: A brief history of the English elixir in England and Colonial America

WATER

The drinking of water was not encouraged. However, a liberal addition of rum or brandy, to kill off much of the bacteria, was a popular drink in taverns.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM & CENSORSHIP

Paine's "Wicked and Seditious Writings" and the Battle Against Censorship: A History

Paine's *Rights of Man, Part First* was completed and published in 1791. Despite the intimidation of printers and the commissioning of a slanderous profile of Paine by the government, it sold 50,000 copies in three months. When *Rights of Man, Part Second* was published the next year, and called for revolution across Europe, the British government took their gloves off. Paine was summoned to appear in court accused of "wicked and seditious writings" (a great help to sales).

Teachers, bookshop owners and printers were fined and imprisoned and effigies of Paine were burnt around the country. On the advice of his friend William Blake, Paine fled to France in order to avoid arrest. Three months later he was found guilty of sedition and sentenced to be hanged, if only the British government could get their hands on him. Thomas Erskine, the attorney representing Paine in his absence, became a people's hero for his defense of freedom of the press and public expression. In France, dismayed by the French Revolution's turn toward secularism and atheism, Paine composed Part I of *The Age of Reason* in 1792 and 1793.

Although Paine wrote *The Age of Reason* for the French, he dedicated it to his "Fellow Citizens of the United States of America," alluding to his bond with the American revolutionaries.

In England, *The Age of Reason* was suppressed for decades and successive publishers imprisoned for blasphemy.

Anyone who distributed, read or discussed the book faced prosecution. Some were arrested for simply displaying a portrait of the author.

“He that would make his own liberty secure must guard even his enemy from opposition; for if he violates this duty he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself.”

Thomas Paine, *Dissertations on First Principles of Government*

As stated in the production of *To Begin the World Over Again*, Paine always "spoke the truth as he saw it, no matter the consequences." He would have been contemptuous of the deference that contemporary journalists and commentators show toward authority and tradition, and of the general disinclination of our age to confront, to provoke and to question. The central thrust of all his

work was to teach the ordinary reader to question all forms of received wisdom and to demand their right to participate fully in political life.

Do you feel that the American media – newspapers, television programs and online reporting – sufficiently challenged the candidates in the 2016 presidential campaign?

Meanwhile Paine, considered too moderate by the powerful Jacobin wing of the French revolutionaries, was imprisoned for 10 months in France. He only escaped the guillotine by accident: The sign marking him out for execution was improperly placed on the inside of his cell door.

When James Monroe, the new American Minister to France, secured his release in 1794, Paine completed Part II of *The Age of Reason*, that he had begun while in prison. Part II was first published in a pirated edition by H.D. Symonds in London in October 1795. In 1796, Daniel Isaac Eaton published Parts I and II.

Eaton was later forced to flee to America after being convicted of seditious libel for publishing other radical works. Paine himself financed the shipping of 15,000 copies of his work to America. Later, Francis Place and Thomas Williams collaborated on an edition which sold about 2,000 copies. Williams also produced his own edition, but the British government indicted him and confiscated the pamphlets.

Following Thomas Williams' sentence of one year's hard labor for publishing *The Age of Reason* in 1797, no editions were sold openly in Britain until 1818 when Richard Carlile included it in an edition of Paine's complete works. The first run of 1,000 copies sold out in a month. He immediately published a second edition of 3,000 copies. Like Williams, he was prosecuted for seditious libel and blasphemous libel. The prosecutions surrounding the printing of *The Age of Reason* in Britain continued for 30 years after its initial release and encompassed numerous publishers as well as more than 100 booksellers.

In the 1802, Paine returned to the United States, where he wrote Part III of *The Age of Reason: An Examination of the Passages in the New Testament, Quoted from the Old and Called Prophecies Concerning Jesus Christ*. Fearing unpleasant and even violent reprisals, Thomas Jefferson convinced him not to publish it in 1802; five years later the material was published in a pamphlet, despite the backlash Paine knew would ensue.

(With thanks to Gary Berton, Coordinator of the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies, Iona College).

Paine's *Rights of Man Parts I and II* and his *Agrarian Justice* were an inspiration to the early American labor movement and are considered to have had an influence on Karl Marx, but *The Age of Reason* was largely ignored after 1820, except by radical groups in Britain and freethinkers in America, among them Robert G. Ingersoll and the American abolitionist Moncure Daniel Conway, who edited Paine's works and wrote the first respected

“ But then I was issued a 41-page summons for sedition ... and the government organized 300 riots ... for instance the centerpiece of a parade in Leeds was an effigy of me on a pole, a rope around my neck, a man whipping me until we reached the market place, where I was gleefully burned. ”

Thomas Paine's To Begin the World Over Again

AFTER THE FILM

Action Plan

“What could you do to go out and make the world a better place?”

Follow-up on the extraordinary ideas expressed in the film with these resources and opportunities. Here are a few ideas on how to make the world a better place.

Go Vote

Thomas Paine had a clear vision of a more democratic country than almost anyone else in America. While the other Founding Fathers were debating as to how much white men, and, of course, only white men, would need to be worth in order to have the privilege of voting — 40 acres or £40 worth of livestock, for example — Paine called for the abolition of slavery and for all free men to vote, even as John Adams disparaged *Common Sense* as being so “democratical.” Paine wanted benefits he described in *Rights of Man* and *Agrarian Justice* to be given equally to men and women. Were he alive today Paine would be outraged that there are still attempts to restrict the right to vote, and that this debate was not settled long ago.

- [National Voter Registration Day](#): This nationwide non-partisan organization aims to help people to register to vote. They offer opportunities to volunteer to make America a truer democracy!
- [VoteRiders](#): This nonpartisan nonprofit places an emphasis on helping people get their Voter ID in the 32 states that demand it. Ensure that the most vulnerable of America’s citizens will have the ID needed to exercise their constitutional right to vote by becoming an Attorney Voter Advocates and signing the DMV pledge.

Alleviate Poverty

Paine wanted, above all things, many basic economic rights for all people. He saw poverty as a great divider in society. In *Rights of Man, Part Second* and *Agrarian Justice* he wrote much of what we now know as the New Deal, nearly 140 years before laws were passed under President Roosevelt. Not only did Paine call for Social

“*But as I neared my final chapter, I realized that the true tyranny is not kings or emperors ... It is poverty ...*”

Thomas Paine’s To Begin the World Over Again

Security, welfare, veterans' benefits, disability, free public education and graduated taxes, he also saw that the great estates, where one family owned tens of thousands of acres of land, deprived ordinary people of the ability to make their way in life. He called for a sum of money to be given to every man and woman at age 21, paid for by taxes on estates, so that they could begin to build their lives. Paine believed that if people were given that early "step up" they would not become burdens on the state. There is a (controversial) Universal Basic Income Movement growing around the world today, and its leaders often cite Paine as a part of their inspiration.

- [Feeding America](#): Feeding America is the largest domestic hunger-relief charity in the nation. Its 200 food banks aid all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Write a [letter to Congress](#) about the importance of food for all, and [volunteer](#) at a local food bank.
- [CARE](#): CARE is a nonprofit global leader dedicated to ending poverty. Its focus is on rights and equal opportunities for women and girls. CARE has executed nearly 900 lifesaving projects in countries such as Jordan and Bangladesh. Host a [CARE program](#), or give a gift that changes the world through CARE's [Gift Catalog](#).

Challenge Politicians

One of Paine's missions was to inspire citizens to participate in political life and to receive and question all forms of information. Make sure that the interests and desires of your elected officials are always the same as your own. Paine would say today that you're never going to have universal health care when Congress has it for itself; the needs of the elected should always be the same as the electors.

- Bring community members together to discuss the varying aspects of politics through book clubs, panels and research.
- Stay vigilant on "fake news" – become the go-to hub for relevant, factual information.
- Challenge any politicians whose privileges are not shared by the public.

Praise for *The Life of Thomas Paine*

“Bravo — What a great contribution to our library programs.”

Susan Hill, Director, Andover Public Library

“Brilliantly done film: emotionally stirring thought provoking, and sprinkled with genuine humor.”

“It made me keenly aware not much has changed in regards to politics among the elite.”

Andover Public Library patrons

“Bravo! I loved the Thomas Paine film and [Ruskin’s] superb performance as Paine! [Ruskin] metamorphosed into Paine—his physical character and intellect—beautifully and believably.

Terry Sanders, director, producer, writer, two-time Oscar winner

“What comes through clearly is Paine’s passion and willingness to sacrifice for his beliefs. The arc of the story is near perfect ... The timing of Paine’s message couldn’t be better.”

Thomas E. Patterson, award-winning political author

“Beautifully written and acted.”

“Fantastic! Engaging, educational, enjoyable.”

“Wonderful program! Wish everyone could see it.”

Plenary Survey, Organization of American Historians

“It is a spectacular way to introduce people to the historical struggles and the ideas of the most important revolutionary thinker of the late eighteenth century. This inspiring film shows people how ideas can matter and that political courage is worthy of our admiration.”

Elaine Bernard, Executive Director, Labor and Worklife Program, Harvard Law School

“I’ve just watched your Thomas Paine film. I rejoiced in it. It is magnificent.”

Lewis Lapham, editor of Lapham’s Quarterly and editor emeritus of Harper’s Magazine

“It’s got a lot to say about not just our history but about who we are and who we should be.”

Haskel Wexler, Academy Award-winning director and cinematographer

“It made me want to live my own life better.”

Audience member the night of filming the production