

(CH. 3, SEC. 2) - The Beginnings of a Revolution

IV. PAINE'S COMMON SENSE

1. Thomas Paine wrote Common Sense in January 1776 in a 47-page pamphlet that urged the U.S. to separate from Great Britain.
2. 500,000 copies were sold as Paine wrote as a common person about freedom and military.

V. INDEPENDENCE FOR COLONIES

1. In June 1776, the 2nd Continental Congress was formed to write a document declaring independence for the colonies.

A. A NEW PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNMENT

1. Thomas Jefferson was the main author of the Declaration of Independence that formally announced the colonies' break from Britain.
2. Three main ideas were included:
 - All men possess unalienable rights ("life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness")
 - King George violated colonists rights w/ unfair taxes & British Army in colonies
 - The colonies had a right to break away from Britain because of "Social Contract"

B. CHOOSING SIDES

1. Patriots who fought for independence made up 40% - 45% of Americans.
2. Loyalists, who remained loyal to Britain, made up 20% - 30% of Americans and many fled during the Revolution.

C. OTHER REACTIONS TO THE DECLARATION

1. Women were NOT included in the Declaration -- even though many were Patriots
2. Enslaved Africans were also not included in the Declaration of Independence.