

Part 1 **Introduction**

From the Author

“With Absolute Intent”

Allow me to be very clear on a few points from the very start of this unfortunately one-sided conversation. First, the concepts, proposals, and challenges presented for your consideration, are entirely this American citizen’s personal creation and responsibility.

Also, that you are reading one American citizen’s critique of our National System.

Further, that these contents were written with all due sincerity and with the professional objectivity of a career systems analyst and business problem solver — seeking to define a practical vision of America’s future, as well as discussing how we as a Democratic nation can initiate deliberate actions toward that future in the months leading up to the 2008 National Election.

**Finally and most importantly, please consider that these contents
are intended to be taken by you the reader
as seriously as a heart attack...**

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This is a National Reality Check — Consider Yourself Fairly Warned

Herein you will find practical analysis and what will in several cases ‘initially’ sound like radical approaches — aggressive solutions to difficult national problems.

Viable social and economic reform legislative leadership is offered because our currently declining National System requires nothing less if the American voyage is to be re-directed in favor of the Common Good of our citizens!

A Conversation About America

Imagine that you and I are talking with each other. It could be anywhere — at home, work, lunch, on a break, on a bus or an airplane, on vacation, at youth soccer or little league. I have just told you I am writing a book on *what is wrong with America and how to fix it* and asked if you would listen to some of my proposal ideas and give me your feedback. You have graciously accepted and we begin our conversation. Consider it as though we are sitting together having a *very* long cup of coffee. These are always interactive talks. Some people talked more than others, but everyone had comments and/or questions.

Please note that I am not a professional writer. My writing style somewhat mirrors my spoken delivery and is generally conversational and informal. I will inject a certain amount of humor and sarcastic comments at times. Some may think it inappropriate since these are such serious topics, but I feel it releases some of the tension that may arise, and it is just my style. You will feel that some passages are a bit repetitive, and for the most part it is intentional. Also, note the 4-circle notation used throughout – it is the way I like to accent a given point or to form a logical break.

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CS2 is a review of serious public topics and objective subject matter analysis thereof. The public problems addressed and the direct solutions offered to resolve them are at times very sobering subject matter, and we will need to keep our national sense of humor about us as we consider what is ahead.

In the coming months and years,

- We will deliberately call our faltering, elected national leadership to task,
- We will dictate the hard, but necessary restructuring of certain base-line national industries,
- We will challenge every American to Civil Responsibility, and
- We will define a “citizen acceptable” Vision of our national future for the Common Good.

If the day-to-day problems of regular Americans and the implementation of real solutions to those same national issues are not what you are personally interested in — or — if you are among the “shrinking well-off” minority that like the way things are today and how “those things” are likely to evolve let’s say for the next two (2) generations of your family — then I would suggest you go and find some mindless fiction to pass the time.

You may then observe from the sidelines as the rest of us go about our nation’s business and bring our national house to good order.

And to all I say, be assured that this is not business — this is as personal as it could possibly get — times 300 million American citizens!

One Acting for the Many

At key times in our nation's and world's history, it has been a solitary man or woman that has come forward freely taking the personal risks to do, to say, to write what was needed in order to focus the general public's attention and so to spark the National Change process. However, for any such change to have taken root and grown into something truly beneficial for society, it had to have the support and personal involvement of other concerned individuals. People just like you and those you know and love.

It is only logical therefore that the greater the vision and the greater the magnitude of the Change being proposed, the more people like you that are not only needed, but absolutely required to make it happen. You count!

Without any doubt whatsoever, I know — and I know that you know — that this is rapidly becoming one of those critical moments in time and in human history for that matter. Therefore, like it or not that makes this is our moment in time and We the People must determine to stand together and take action — for there is just too much at stake.

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In 1776, a regular American *colonist* Thomas Paine took the challenge upon himself and wrote *Common Sense* to provide the rationale for his anxious fellow American colonists to unite and finally confront an external force in their American Revolution, and to create their nation.

Today, a regular American *citizen* could stand idly by and watch while the fabric of our society and our desired national way of life is slowly being destroyed. Therefore, this writing has been dutifully prepared for consideration by my anxious fellow American citizens.

My very personal and patriotic desire with this writing is to provide the practical rationale for my fellow American citizens to unite and confront primarily internal forces with a Common Vision, and by Constitutional Right attend to our Second and Final American Revolution, and to preserve our nation.

What I ask and challenge you for in return is your objective consideration of these contents, which are offered for the Common Good and future sake of our families and our nation.

Therefore, I humbly and with absolute intent,
present these findings for our common understanding
which are only,

Common Sense

— A. J. Wildman

My Inspiration and Our Example

“In the Spirit of Common Sense”

Do you know or remember the name Thomas Paine from American history? Are you familiar with the revolutionary writer’s efforts on our nation’s behalf? *The Second Coming of Common Sense* will either refresh or newly bring some of his writing to your attention and appreciation. His national vision, logical reasoning for the Common Good, personal bravery, and accomplishments for America, later for France, and undoubtedly for the world in general — serve as my inspiration and are at the heart of this effort for my fellow American citizens and our great country.

Thomas Paine was born in Thetford, England, on January 29, 1737. Just thirty-seven years later in 1774, the newly re-named Paine found himself in the New World, in the city of Philadelphia in the England’s American colony of Pennsylvania. Thomas Paine came to the American colonies with letters of introduction from Benjamin Franklin, to whom he had been introduced while both were doing business in London.

The England born Thomas Paine was an experienced stay-maker (a maker of women’s corsets) by trade having been trained by his father. Paine had also been a tax collector in England and had only limited writing experience. At personal risk and of his own free will, this regular colonist made himself into a revolutionary writer. He had only been in the American colonies for eighteen months when his radical pamphlet entitled *Common Sense* was first published in mid-January of 1776.

Only a few weeks after its first release, George Washington wrote on the message of *Common Sense*, to Joseph Reed of Pennsylvania on January 31, 1776:

*“A few more of such flaming arguments,
as were exhibited at Falmouth and Norfolk,
added to the sound of doctrine and
unanswerable reasoning contained in the pamphlet Common Sense,
will not leave numbers at a loss to decide upon the propriety of a separation.”*

It was Benjamin Rush, one of the eventual signers of the Declaration of Independence representing the Pennsylvania colony that had the idea for Paine to write about the colonies breaking away from English rule. However, the writing contained in *Common Sense* was purely Paine’s creation — his practical analysis of the day-to-day state of affairs that faced the American colonists.

In *Common Sense* he stated in the plain, everyday language of colonial America, the rationale for a complete break with England. Paine focused the consideration of the American colonial population on the pure, practical logic for separation from the Mother country.

A Revolution — by the People...

It was Paine's vision of the colonies' epic struggle against the "old order of things" and the regrettable, but necessary taking up of arms against their own countrymen in order to realize their dreams. Paine wrote that the growing colonial conflict with the English monarchy of King George III required,

"a declaration of independence"

He wrote on the Vision that became our Democracy and made the Challenge that led the colonists, our national ancestors to the war that created our nation...