

Thomas Paine and Common Sense

As we have noted elsewhere on our website, one of the most important decisions that will be made during the upcoming 2016 presidential election is whether our country will continue to move towards socialism and an ever-expanding federal government, or whether We The People will exercise Common Sense and begin to return to the principles that were put forward by our country's Founders.

In 1776, Thomas Paine published a pamphlet entitled *Common Sense*. The following is an extract from some of the opening paragraphs -

Some writers have so confounded society with government, as to leave little or no distinction between them; whereas they are not only different, but have different origins. Society is produced by our want, and government by our wickedness; the former promotes our happiness POSITIVELY by uniting our affections, the latter NEGATIVELY by restraining our vices.

Society in every state is a blessing, but Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state an intolerable one.... Wherefore, security being the true design and end of government, it unanswerably follows that whatever form thereof appears most likely to ensure it to us, with the least expense and greatest benefit, is preferable to all others....

In the following pages I offer nothing more than simple facts, plain arguments, and common sense....

(Setting aside his use of the King's English) Mr. Paine was simply saying that there is a fundamental difference between civil society (the individual and families and "communities") and society's need to establish a government to provide security and protect the country's citizens (with the least amount of expense).

This is one of those self-evident truths that hasn't changed over the years. We just need to remember that there is a fundamental difference between civil society and government (and then go exercise some Common Sense).