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THOMAS PAINE AND THE ISSUE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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ABSTRACT

The Eighteenth Century was one of the centuries that profoundly affected the development of human thought, as it witnessed the emergence of many revolutions, which played a role in reversing the traditional balance of power, aiming to establish new concepts of human rights, equality and religious tolerance, the first of these revolutions was the American Revolution, The basis of its establishment is attributed to a group of men of various class origins, but the goal of their thinking was one, as they described the pioneers of the age of enlightenment, they were able to convince people of the need to defend their natural rights regardless of ethnic origin or social status, and among these figures was the hero of our study This is Thomas Paine, an Englishman who participated in the struggles of the colonies, after he found that his strength lies in his pen, not by his sword. His pen vowed to defend the cause of America and its struggle against the arrogance of the tyrannical British monarchy, by publishing several articles that began with the demand for the abolition of slavery, and ended with the publication of the Common Sense pamphlet, which explicitly demanded the complete separation from the metropolis (the motherland), and Thomas Paine's name emerged as the first public advocate of the cause of independence.

INTRODUCTION

Thomas Paine's arrival in Philadelphia and his work in journalism:

Thomas Paine traveled on board the ship (London Bucket) heading from Britain to his unknown future, as the ship arrived at its dock on November 30, 1774, in Philadelphia. A few days later, Paine got a job as a magazine editor, when a local publisher and bookseller who was a friend of Mr. Buck named Robert Atiken offered him editor-in-chief of a periodical, called the Pennsylvania Magazine or American Monthly Museum. The first issue of which appeared in January 1775 [1]. After he headed the editor of the magazine, he began to participate in publishing many articles,

songs and poetry pieces, most of those articles were good and won the admiration of many, because they are usually distinguished by intellectual boldness and strange beauty. In spelling [2], the most prominent of those articles in which he addressed the issue of slavery and slavery was titled "African Slavery in America" [3], which was published by Thomas in the "Pennsylvania Journal" on March 8, 1775 [4], and it was met with many from the welcome and praise of different groups in society, and from its results that Philadelphia was born on the fourteenth of April of the same year, Creating the first association in America to fight slavery [5], and Thomas Paine became a member of it [6]. This article is one of the important documents on the issue of combating slavery in the American colonies, as Paine condemned in this article the slave trade, describing it as no less important than theft, murder, or use of force [7]. The other article was an article entitled (A serious thought) published on the 18th of October 1775, and it is an example of the hatred among the Negro slavery, and called for the creation of a legislative law that guarantees their rights [8]. And Paine published it in the Pennsylvania Journal, under the pseudonym "human." Tom denounced the atrocities carried out by Britain in the East Indies, as well as its continued use of the slave trade, and blamed it for bringing slaves to America [9].

Paine wrote these essays that took on a political nature, coinciding with the severity of the deterioration of the relationship between the colonies and Britain. Among his articles, he tried to address several social issues, in addition to indicating the need to take a political position that expresses the character of the colonial population. After Britain found that force was the only solution to control the colonies, which responded with resistance, and on April 19, 1775, the first military confrontations occurred between the Americans and Britain [10]. Although the colonialists found it necessary to fight the British, the purpose of this resistance was to obtain their rights as loyal citizens of the British crown, and not to form an independent nation. Jefferson wrote, "I have never heard whispers of separation from the motherland." Drunk or sober, think of something called independence "[11].

On May 2, 1775, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, and it was clear that peaceful methods no longer had a way to find a solution to the issue. On June 5, 1775, a step was taken in this regard, when George Washington was appointed commander of the Continental Army, and the resistance was organized in Boston [12]. After the conference became a center for defending the rights of the colonialists, and as an attempt to calm the situation and find a solution with the British government, and to stop the bloodshed on the one hand, and the intensification of the disagreement between the radicals and conservatives [13] on the other hand, it was agreed to write a petition to be submitted to King George III, known as a list. The Olive Branch Petition, and it was sent on the sixth of July 1775 [14], during which they clarified the reasons and justifications for the necessity of carrying weapons to obtain their legitimate rights [15]. After waiting for five months, fill in the positive response from King George III, the latter's decision to declare the colonies in a state of rebellion, and this means sending thousands of additional British soldiers to quell the rebels [16].

In addition to the fact that Parliament approved the issuance of the Prohibitory Act, according to which foreign trade with the colonies was stopped, so the conference took place on November 29, 1775, to form a committee [17]. To correspond with any country that has an interest in standing against Britain, and the conference announced the withdrawal of its allegiance from the British Crown, and this meant that the colonies were on the verge of an actual war against the British government with modest military and political capabilities, and the colonial leaders realized that the majority of the colonial population was not prepared for this confrontation, or They lack the morale that would make them capable of confrontation, as most of the inhabitants in the colonies believe in the idea that the American colonies take their prosperity and development from their association with the British government, and that they are citizens like the British citizen, so the issue of permanently severing relations with Britain means the destruction of the colonies in all economic terms Political and social [18].

Common Sense and the American Declaration of Independence:

As mentioned earlier, the independence doctrine among the colonists was immature, or rather amorphous, and its defenders were few, and they could not disclose it to the people, and in general the population in America was at a crossroads and divided into two parties, the first believed that he was a British citizen, and the other team They demanded to stand against Britain, but the claim did not reach the point of independence [19].The turning point in Paine's life was when he worked as an editor for the magazine, when he got close to the radical faction in Philadelphia, and he began to develop that loyalty to the colonies [20].Especially since their thinking was somewhat consistent with Paine's beliefs, his belief in the natural good of man, and the desire to eliminate evil [21].

One of the prominent personalities who knew and was influenced by Thomas Paine, and he was credited with writing (common sense) Dr. Benjamin Rush, and the first meeting between Dr. Rush and Paine is unknown, but it occurs between the twenty-fourth of April and before August In 1775, when Tom was working as an editor for the Pennsylvania Magazine, Rush was impressed by the style between the writer, so he decided to approach him in writing a pamphlet in which he put forward the issue of independence, and he found a warm welcome from among the people who believed that the colonies could not have satisfactory conditions, nor guarantee justice in life. Independent political and economic, except through complete separation [22]. Therefore, his mission was focused on convincing the Americans that reconciliation with Britain was not impossible, but that it would lead to the same negative results and cause them fatigue, so he also had to dispel the fears of the colonialists, who believed that they could not to survive without Britain, in other words, Paine needs an argument or proof of a realistic experience, in order to lead to the transformation of public opinion [23].

With Paine's firm belief that writing was the best way to reveal the truth, he gathered among his legions of thought to communicate his idea to people [24]. However, the writing and the words did not come to Tom easily, as he wrote slowly, searched for each word carefully, and arranged every sentence to express what was in his mind clearly, and after he believed that the issue of the American colonies was a case of defending freedom and restoring rights, he made every effort to serve them, especially After he made a commitment to defend the oppressed everywhere, not just in America, he recalls that Franklin once told him, "Where is freedom, is my country?" And he replied to him, saying, "Where there is no freedom, there is my country." His opportunity to publish his pamphlet came when the opposition leaders became frustrated and ready to make concessions on any reasonable terms [25]. And at this critical moment, the pamphlet of the unknown author was published, whose number did not exceed forty-seven pages [26]. He carried the title "Common Sense", and in other translations it defines common sense or intuitions, on January 9, 1776.

It was directed to the inhabitants of the American colonies, on four main axes or topics: the first on the origin and design of the government in general, with brief notes on the English constitution, the second on property and inheritance "succession", the third on ideas about the current state of American affairs, and the fourth on the current capacity of America with some diverse ideas [27]. The publication was sold at a speed that no one could imagine, to the point that the first edition was executed on the twentieth of the same month, and the price of the booklet was set at one shilling [28]. And at least nineteen issues of Common Sense were printed in Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and about 400,000 copies were sold, which is an amazing achievement, given that the population did not exceed 2.3 million people, and newspapers throughout the colonies published extracts In addition to the fact that the publication almost reached most European countries, it was not limited to the American continent, as it was translated into a number of languages, and reprinted in England, Scotland, Holland, France and other countries [29].

As the anonymous author presented simple original ideas, he did not write to the highly educated, but was directed at all ordinary and simple people, educated people from various lower and upper classes, and was an excellent propaganda for those who believe in the beliefs of independence [30].

The origin and design of the government, whose interpretation depended on the theory of natural law, in addition to the notes on the English constitution, opened between his article in an attempt to distinguish between government and society and to clarify the concept of each [31]. "Some writers have confused society and the government, so that it did not leave a difference between them; but they are not only different, but each of them has an origin that differs from the other. Through the unification of our feelings and tendencies, as for the second, it creates distinction and difference.

Paine was able to briefly provide a definition of both society and government, and it contained a controversial power in phrases. The main distinction in this performance was the massive accumulation of ideas, and they were presented in a few words, where the author's feelings appeared within the reader, and he was able to communicate the idea to him in two short paragraphs [32]. Tom used the simplicity of natural law to clarify the desired form of government and put forward his idea of it, stating that the simpler the thing, the less likely it will be disturbed, and the possibility of reforming it is possible and easier. And in his attack on the British government, he described it as complicated [33]. In the second section of the book, Paine spoke about property and the hereditary system, in which he described that the property system does not only violate the law of nature, but rather violates the law of God, so it must be antagonized. It can be said that Paine used religious imagery to prove the realities of British politics using the texts of the Bible [34].

He convinced the religious people familiar with the history of the Jews that God Almighty considered the royal institution wrong and unlawful, and that it was an extension of the pagan regimes, and it was against the system of God). Paine wrote: "The Jews asked Gideon, after they were rejoicing in this victory that they attributed to his good leadership, that he be king over them, saying to him, " You and your son and your son's son will rule over us "(Judges 22-8) ..., but Gideon has what he has. Out of a pious spirit, he answered them, "I do not have authority over you,

And my son does not have authority over you. The Lord rules over you. "[35]. Through this story, Paine made it clear that Gideon did not reject this honor, but rather hated and denounced it as violating the authority of God." As for the third section of the booklet, he argued with several ideas about the current state of American affairs [meaning the conditions of America in 1775-1776 [36]. In the fourth section, he talked about America's current ability [in 1775] and other reflections. In this regard, he explained to the colonists that their fears of not being able to confront the British army have no meaning, because the American colonies have the ability to form a strong army and navy of their own, [37].

The major contribution made by Paine was to propose the principle of independence, and to show the incentives for the formation of a new and just system of government, in which the rights of all people are preserved and the common good is protected [38]. This boy of modest origins was not expected to come a day and rebel with a number of famous men of his contemporaries, and affect the opinions of a people of more than 2.5 million people, who was helped in this by the genius of his mind, which made him a political author. The most influential in that period, despite the issuance of a large number of books that defended the American cause, but Paine's pamphlet was the most profound and moving threads of struggle, and the reason for this is due to his writing style, as it reached the largest number of readers in a striking way [39]. Regardless of Paine's personal motives, he deserves the gratitude of every American, because he shed light on the truth of British politics, and the effects of national maturity, thus increasing people's hope for freedom, so this booklet became the favorite of soldiers and statesmen, in addition to the general public in that The critical period [40]. In fact, the 4th of July 1776 would not have witnessed the declaration of independence had it not been for the emergence of common sense in time, which provided the reasons for the members of the Continental Congress to write this declaration [41]. The impact of Thomas Paine's book can only be estimated by tracking the events that followed its publication. After proposing the idea of independence, he encouraged many states to take decisive steps at the beginning of the spring of 1776 [42]. After the idea of independence was entrenched in the minds of

the majority of the colonial population, and they found it the only solution to this crisis, the colonies began to actually bypass, as the colony of Rhode Island declared on the fourth of March 1776 its independence and severed its relationship with Britain [43]. North Carolina followed suit, where it mandated its delegate during the General Conference on April 12th 1776 to vote for independence, and on May 15th 1776 it was Virginia's turn to assign its representatives also to present the decision to declare independence not only for the colony, but for all colonies [44]. At this time, a committee was formed. To prepare the independence draft, it relied on the social contract theory, as Paine did in his book Common Sense, as the Independence Document was a reflection of Paine's views that he put forward in his book [45]. On July 4, 1776, Congress formally passed the Bill of Independence.[46] Despite of Thomas Paine's personal motives, he deserves the gratitude of every American, because he shed light on the reality of British politics, and the effects of national maturity and thus increased people's hope for freedom, so this pamphlet became the favorite of soldiers and statesmen, in addition to the general public at that Critical period.[47]

CONCLUSION

- Thomas Paine learned to benefit from his mistakes in Britain, and put them before him on his new start in America. He realized through these experiences that if he wanted to communicate a certain idea or raise an issue, he must raise it to the public opinion, not directly to the authority, and that he must obtain many supporters to support him, who would press the authority to make their voice heard and force it to change or listen to them. He was also acquainted with the characteristics and style of the royal authority and parliament more than other colonists, and this point he benefited from when he began writing in America against the royal authority.
- The personality of Benjamin Franklin had a great impact in changing the course of Thomas Paine's life, for he who predicted his talent, and knew that he would be an influential factor in the colonies, and would serve their cause. Therefore, Paine did not forget this gratitude, and considered it the source of a new life for him, and he always mentioned this merit and felt grateful for it, and this was clearly evident in his writings and messages to him from time to time, and he always considered him his godfather, and the evidence is that Paine whenever he faces his problem or tries Making decisions he raises in his first consultation.
- Paine emigrated at the time of his service in a very large way, finding the appropriate soil for his ideas, as the conflict was most intense between the colonies and Britain.
- The city of Philadelphia has a role in providing the appropriate environment for the emergence of the personality of Thomas Paine, as the presence of Quakers, radicals, and a number of liberal-minded people who have somewhat the same ideas, and share the same principles, discovered between that there are more commonalities with his new citizens than he had expected, So Paine found a good environment that helped him spread his ideas and opinions and helped him promote his writing. After trying several unsuccessful works in Britain, he found between himself and his writing character, which opened a new world for him and horizons he had never dreamed of. It never occurred to his mind that he would work as an editor and publish articles that would help address society's issues. After discovering that his talent was in his Paine, he decided to vow to write for the sake of freedom.
- Thomas Paine's humble origin, being from the poor class, had a great role in the popularity of his writings, as his style made him close to the minds of the common people before the educated, so he was able to speak out what they think and make their voices heard in Congress.
- The first case that Paine defended was the issue of slavery, after seeing the harsh life that these people live, he wrote several articles hoping to put an end to their plight, but he had no trick, and no actual steps were taken to reduce it, and the reason for that was that he was a new person in This country is not from its old citizens, and he did not have extensive knowledge that he could rely on their help, and the weak financial situation of Paine did not

enable him to reflect on this issue, so he could not influence society as a whole, but rather on a certain group that was calling for the same ideas, so he was satisfied with the defense About them with his pen only.

- Why was Thomas Paine, despite being a British citizen, critical of the British government? Because he was a British citizen from the poor classes, who suffered from royal power, parliament and the aristocracy, and Paine had lived and witnessed that injustice from his childhood until his emigration, more than most of the colonialists. His father's affiliation with the Quaker group doubled this injustice, especially as it is one of the groups that suffered most from persecution. Also.
- As for the reason for the success of common sense, its tremendous influence on people and its unparalleled popularity, despite the presence of many other articles, books and enthusiastic publications? It can be said that when he recorded his information in common sense, he wrote it with high accuracy and confidence, and knew how to strike a sensitive chord, which is religion, through which he was able to change people's perception of the royal authority and the king in all their joints as being holy beings representing their spiritual father, and he was able with intelligence and acumen to He planted a spirit of prejudice on that institution, as it is the main cause of their suffering. Paine relied on religious evidence to prove the reality of the monarchy, and to influence more people's minds, so religion used a powerful weapon to prove his arguments.
- Thomas Paine's hostility was not primarily against the person of the king, but rather against the monarchy as a whole, as he considered it a system against nature, restricting the natural rights of human beings that God had placed for them. Through this it can be said that Paine was influenced by natural philosophers defending human rights in the eighteenth century.
- Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson were accused of excessive and marked prejudice against the British authority, so some described them as extremists and not moderate in their hatred and opposition, but this was not true, rather the two men were more revolutionary than others, and this is what distinguished the radical trend in the colonies.
- During the war, Paine was known more as a writer than as a soldier. He decided to continue supporting the American cause through articles, so he wrote Sixteen Crisis. Despite all of them, he was not of the same effect, but on the other hand he tried to help put forward ideas to solve the issues that appeared in the society at that time, and he tried to express an opinion on them to help reach the best solution. His focus in most of his crisis papers was on raising the morale and using it as a weapon to push men into battle, and raise their spirits, which fluctuated between pride and frustration.
- Thomas Paine was accused of being a hired writer. Money was paid to him in order to persuade people to enter a losing war against the mother country. If this was true, he would be satisfied with explaining America's cause, the compliments he got because of it, and resting for the rest of his life ,but he didn't, and continue his struggle against tyranny in England and France.

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