

# Olive Branch Petition - 1775



- John Dickenson drafted in July of 1775  
(Second Continental Congress)
- Sent to King George III
- It was an attempt to assert the rights of the colonists while maintaining their loyalty to the British crown.

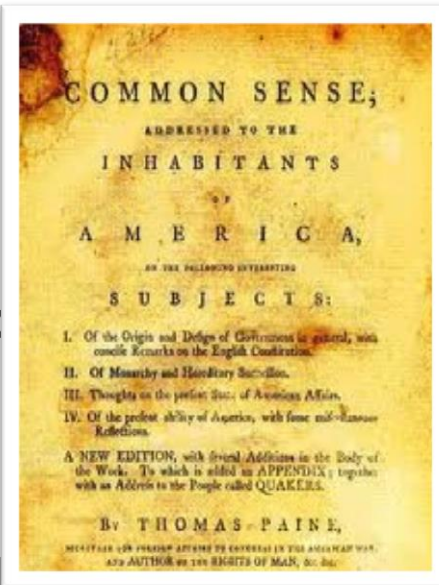
*(Colonist announced they wanted their rights recognized but also wanted to remain British)*

- Last attempt to avoid revolution.
- King George refused to read the petition.
- Patriots became very angry at his refusal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wINSdGHdfkw>

# Common Sense – 1775-76

- A pamphlet (50 pages) written by Thomas Paine (500,000 copies were sold)
- Raised support for independence
- Called the King a Royal Brute. Did not think the colonies needed a king. The law was our king.
- It said there was no advantage to being part of Britain
- Paine said our goods would fetch higher prices without English involvement.

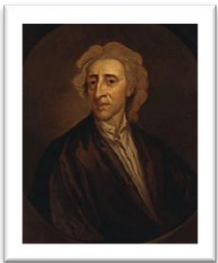


*NOTE: What is the LAW or KING in the United States?*

# Declaration of Independence



- The Continental Congress asks a committee to draw up a statement they can vote on. Jefferson is on the committee and writes the Declaration of Independence.
- Explains to other nations why America needs to break away from the British
  - Natural Rights of Man – Life, liberty, & pursuit of happiness
  - Social Compact Theory - To Secure these rights, government is create by man
  - The Right To Revolution – When government becomes destructive it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it.



"When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation"

- ✓ Natural Rights of Man are not recognized
- ✓ Citizens need to be protected
- ✓ The King is a Tyrant and his treatment unjust/unfair
- ✓ Separate from England to protect the rights of citizens of the colonies.