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The Age of Reason

A major actor in the American Revolution, the English intellectual Thomas Paine (1737–1809) is best remembered for his pamphlet *Common Sense* (1776), which advocated American independence from Britain. Although accorded honorary French citizenship in 1792 for his republican *Rights of Man*, Paine was later imprisoned and narrowly escaped the guillotine. It was around this time that he started to write *The Age of Reason*, originally published in two parts between 1794 and 1795. In Part 1, Paine outlines his personal religious views and attacks institutional faith as a human invention, while Part 2 analyses the Bible and highlights its contradictions. The work was met with great hostility in Britain and denounced as espousing atheism, while in America it led to a short-lived revival of deism but was also much reviled. This reissue includes both parts and affords valuable insight into radical freethinking during the age of revolutions.

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The Age of Reason

*Being an Investigation
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TRUE AND FABULOUS THEOLOGY.

BY THOMAS PAINE,
SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO CONGRESS
IN THE AMERICAN WAR,
AND AUTHOR OF THE WORKS ENTITLED,
COMMON SENSE, AND RIGHTS OF MAN, &c.

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