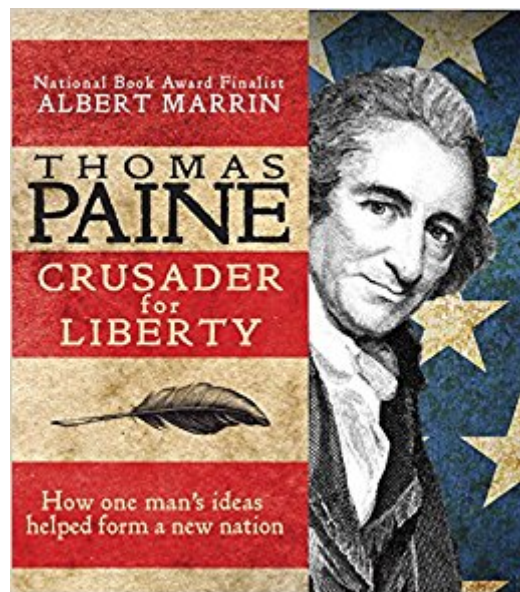




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# Thomas Paine: Crusader For Liberty: How One Man's Ideas Helped Form A New Nation



## Synopsis

From National Book Award finalist Albert Marrin comes a compelling look at the life and impact of Thomas Paine and the profound power of ideas. Uneducated as a boy, Thomas Paine grew up to become one of the most influential writers of the 18th century. He brought the world *Common Sense*, *Rights of Man*, and *The Age of Reason*; simply written, verbal battles against political, civil, and religious ignorance. Dubbed 'The Father of the American Revolution', Paine began his written reign by fervently proposing the idea of American independence from Great Britain, where he lived before emigrating to the United States in his thirties. As one historical event led to another, Paine continued to divulge his ideas to the public, risking his reputation and even his life. Award-winning author Albert Marrin illustrates the hardships and significance of a man's beliefs and its affects on our nation in a way that all ages can comprehend.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up—Paine penned words more than 200 years ago that still resonate today, and acclaimed author Marrin documents this Founding Father's life and influence, using images, excerpts from primary source materials, and other resources. Within five hefty chapters, Marrin also introduces readers to class conflict, the Enlightenment, the American and French Revolutions, and

slavery. Marrin's writing is uneven at times. He engages readers with the discussion of the Reign of Terror and what happened to Paine's body after his death. Elsewhere, the writing is textbooklike, and some statements, such as his comments about American exceptionalism and the Vietnam War, add little to his discussion of Paine. Each image is captioned and given a date, but at least one contains incorrect information. For instance, the caption for a poster that features a picture of Eugene Debs claims that it was used for Debs's campaign. The poster, which is partially cut off, was in fact created in the 1970s, decades after Debs's death in 1926. The author includes an extensive notes section, without image credits, and a suggested reading list of adult titles. Though Marrin is a well-regarded author and historian, this is not his best work. — Hilary Writt, Sullivan University, Lexington, KY

ALBERT MARRIN is the author of numerous highly regarded nonfiction books for young readers, including the National Book Award Finalist *Flesh and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy*, *A Volcano Beneath the Snow: John Brown's War on Slavery*, and *Black Gold: The Story of Oil in Our Lives*. His many honors include the Washington Children's Book Guild and Washington Post Non-Fiction Award for an "outstanding lifetime contribution that has enriched the field of children's literature," and the James Madison Book Award for lifetime achievement.

Well written and illustrated, a great introductory to the character and life of Thomas Paine. Well suited for the reader the Author had in mind. Gave me enough info to want to dig deeper into Thomas Paine's life. His later years are a bit troubling though, I must dig into what caused that. This book certainly and pleasantly served its purpose. I highly recommend it!

"Thomas Paine: Crusader for Liberty" is a wonderful book on the life and influences of Thomas Paine. The book begins with an overview of Paine's early life, education and family. In addition the book details the part of Thomas Paine's life most Americans know most about history classes. It goes into detail the contexts and significances of "Common Sense" and the "American Crisis" pamphlets that helped to shape American history. Finally, the book details Paine's role in the French Revolution, The Age of Reason, and finally his lasting legacy.

I recently purchased this for my nephew to use in writing a report for his 8th grade U.S. History Class. I purchased it through his account, so this review will not show up as "Verified Purchase". Anyway, we bought it for his Kindle Fire, and both he and I are very impressed. He is not an avid

reader, but he does enjoy history. He probably read about half so far. It is very well written for his age group and well organized. It has a great assortment of pictures as well as easy to understand writing. We were pleasantly surprised after receiving it to learn it came with audio book track for free. He loves audio books! We commend Mr. Marrin on great writing, and for doing such a great job formatting it for Kindle.

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