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## The Age of Reason

*Thomas Paine*

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Thomas Paine was a devout deist. That is, he believed in God, not because of faith, but rather because of the rational empirical evidence that the natural world provides. *The Age of Reason* was Paine's treatise on religion. At the time of its publication it caused such a furor that Paine had to move to France to escape it. The book was a indictment of organized religion and its practices. Furthermore, he pointed out that the Bible was full of inconsistencies and therefore not something to be relied on. Reason should be our guide before even the Bible or other religious dogma. Included in this edition is the Third Part of the essay, which most editions fail to include.

From the PublisherCOSIMO CLASSICS offers distinctive titles by the great authors and thinkers who have inspired, informed and engaged readers throughout the ages.From the AuthorTHOMAS PAINE (1737-1809) was an Anglo-American political theorist and writer born in Norfolk, England. In 1774, Paine emigrated to America, bearing letters of introduction from Benjamin Franklin. Soon thereafter, he became involved in the clashes between England and the American colonies and published the enormously successful pamphlet *Common Sense* in 1776, which was widely distributed and contributed to the patriot cause throughout the American Revolution.About the AuthorEnglish-born Thomas Paine left behind hearth and home for adventures on the high seas at nineteen. Upon returning to shore, he became a tax officer, and it was this job that inspired him to write *The Case of the Officers of Excise* in 1772. Paine then immigrated to Philadelphia, and in 1776 he published *Common Sense*, a defense of American independence from England. After returning to Europe, Paine wrote his famous *Rights of Man* as a response to criticism of the French Revolution. He was subsequently labeled as an outlaw, leading him to flee to France where he joined the National Convention. However, in 1793 Paine was imprisoned, and during this time he wrote the first part of *The Age of Reason*, an anti-church text which would go on to be his most famous work. After his release, Paine returned to America where he passed away in 1809.