



# Introducing the *Thomas Paine* *Belgian Golden Strong Ale*

**A pale but beautifully built Belgian strong ale with fruity and hoppy notes. We brew this ale with pilsner malt, mosaic, and liberty hops to bring out the perfect balance in flavor for you to enjoy. This high abv brew is very enjoyable for any occasion.**

“These are the times that try men’s souls.” This simple quotation from Founding Father Thomas Paine’s *The American Crisis* not only describes the beginnings of the American Revolution, but also the life of Paine himself. Throughout most of his life, his writings inspired passion, but also brought him great criticism. He communicated the ideas of the Revolution to common farmers as easily as to intellectuals, creating prose that stirred the hearts of the fledgling United States. He had a grand vision for society: he was staunchly anti-slavery, and he was one of the first to advocate a world peace organization and social security for the poor and elderly.

On January 29, 1737, Thomas Paine was born in Thetford, England. His father, a corseter, had grand visions for his son. At age 19, Paine went to sea. This adventure didn’t last long, and by 1768 he found himself as an excise (tax) officer in England. Thomas didn’t exactly excel at the role, getting discharged from his post twice in four years, but as an inkling of what was to come, he published *The Case of the Officers of Excise* (1772), arguing

for a pay raise for officers. In 1774 he met Benjamin Franklin in London, who helped him emigrate to Philadelphia.

His career turned to journalism while in Philadelphia, and suddenly, Thomas Paine became very important. In 1776, he published “*Common Sense*,” a strong defense of American Independence from England. He traveled with the Continental Army and produced “*The American Crisis*” (1776-83), which helped inspire the Army. This pamphlet was so popular that as a percentage of the population, it was read by or read to more people than today watch the Super Bowl.

He returned to Europe and in 1791-92, he wrote “*The Rights of Man*” in response to criticism of the French Revolution. This work caused Paine to be labeled an outlaw in England for his anti-monarchist views.

By 1793, he was imprisoned in France for not endorsing the execution of Louis XVI. During his imprisonment, he wrote and distributed the first part of what was to become his most famous work at the time, the anti-church text, “*The Age of Reason*” (1794-96). He was freed in 1794 and remained in France until 1802 when he returned to America. Derided by the public and abandoned by his friends, he died on June 8, 1809 at the age of 72 in New York City.