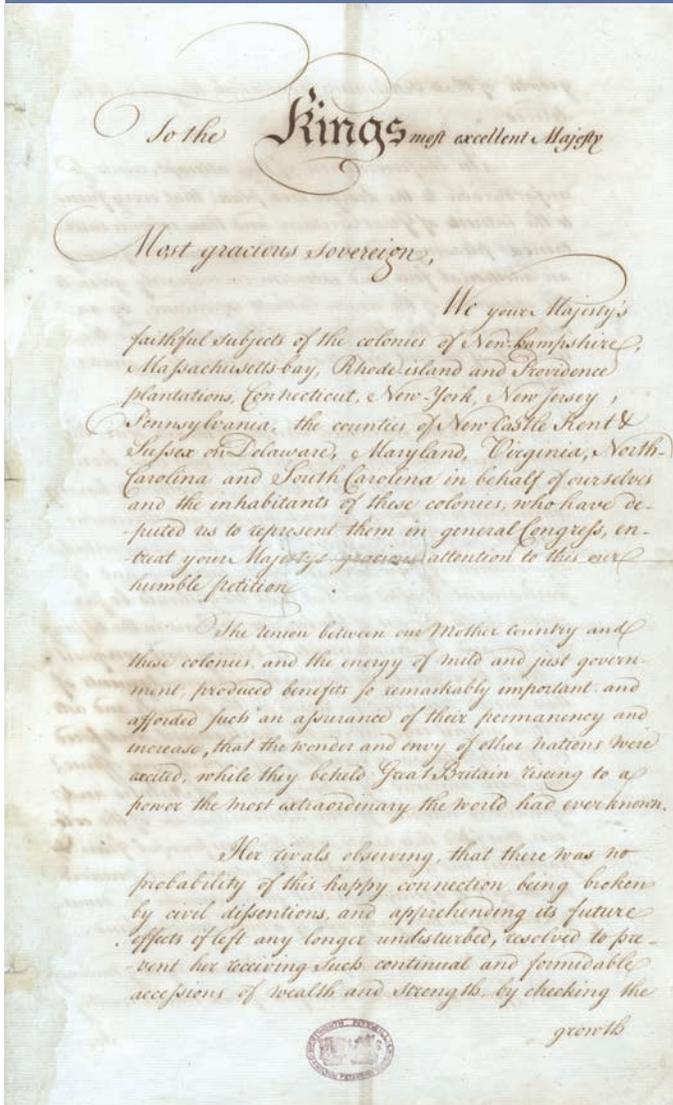


Olive Branch Petition

Olive Branch Petition



Olive Branch Petition: New York Public Library

Written by the members of the Second Continental Congress in July of 1775.

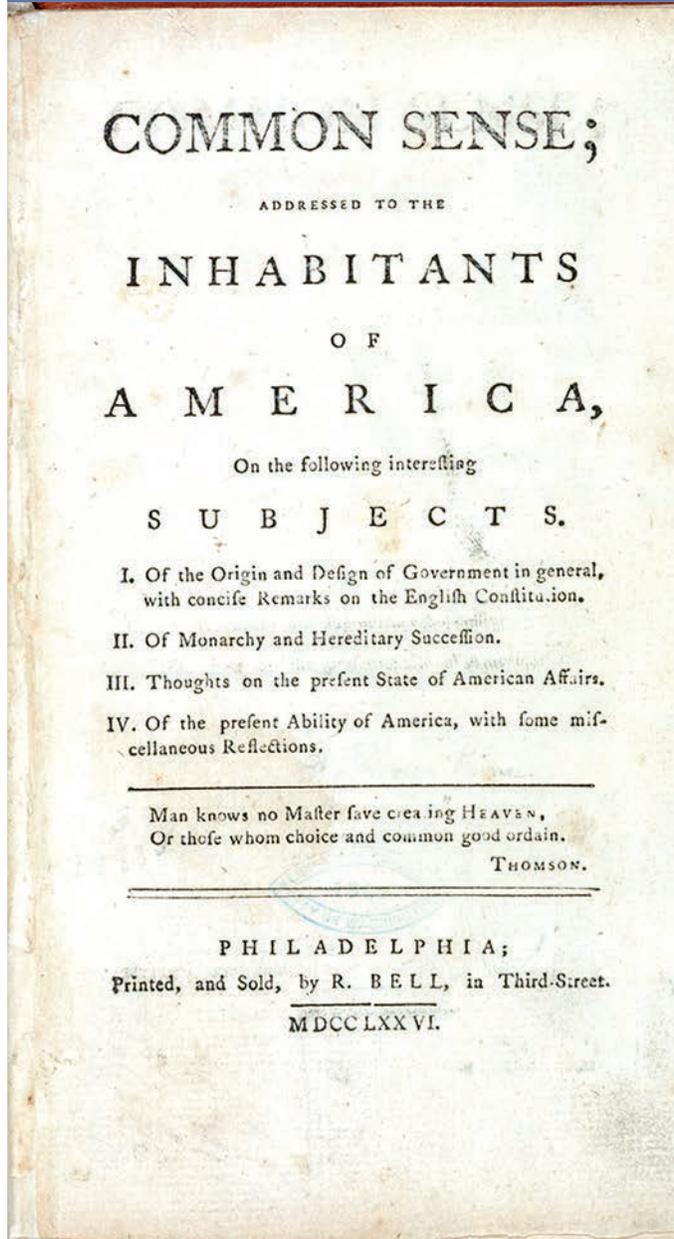
It was an attempt to avoid full-scale war with England following the events of Lexington and Concord.

John Adams described the petition as an effort, “to keep open the door of reconciliation, to hold the sword in one hand and the olive branch in the other.”

King George III ignored it and wrote *A Proclamation by the King for Suppressing Rebellion and Sedition*, proclaiming that the colonies were in open rebellion against the King and therefore traitors.

Common Sense

Common Sense by Thomas Paine



Pamphlet written by Thomas Paine and published in January of 1776.

The pamphlet argued that independence was logical and necessary following the acts of the King and British Army.

The publication of the pamphlet coincided with the colonists learning of *A Proclamation by the King for Suppressing Rebellion and Sedition*.

Common Sense January 1776

Excerpt from Common Sense	Restate in your own words
<p>I have heard it asserted by some, that as America hath flourished under her former connection with Great Britain, the same connection is necessary towards her future happiness, and will always have the same effect. Nothing can be more fallacious [false or untrue] than this kind of argument.</p>	<p>People say that...</p>
<p>We have boasted the protection of Great Britain without considering that her motive was interest, not attachment; and that she did not protect us from our enemies on our account, but from her enemies on her own account ...</p>	
<p>But Britain is the parent country, say some. Then the more shame upon her conduct. Even brutes do not devour their young, nor savages make war upon their families ...</p>	
<p>There is something absurd, in supposing a continent to be perpetually governed by an island. In no instance hath nature made the satellite larger than its primary planet.</p>	

Olive Branch Petition July 8, 1775

Excerpt from the Olive Branch Petition July 8, 1775	Restate in your own words
<p>MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN: We, your Majesty's faithful subjects of the Colonies...in behalf of ourselves and the inhabitants of these Colonies, who have deputed [appointed] us to represent them in General Congress, entreat your Majesty's gracious attention to this our humble petition.</p>	
<p>The union between our Mother Country and these Colonies... produces benefits so remarkably important...that the wonder and envy of other nations were excited, while they beheld Great Britain rising to a power the most extra-ordinary the world had ever known.</p>	
<p>At the conclusion...of the late war [French and Indian War], the most glorious and advantageous that ever had been carried on by British arms, your loyal Colonists...contributed to its success...procured them the distinguished approbation [praise] of your Majesty...</p>	
<p>We therefore beseech your Majesty, that your royal authority and influence may...procure us relief from our afflicting fears and jealousies...and to settle peace through every part of our Dominions...by which...your faithful Colonists...may be improved into a happy and permanent reconciliation; and that, in the mean time, measures may be taken for preventing the further destruction of the lives of your Majesty's subjects.</p>	