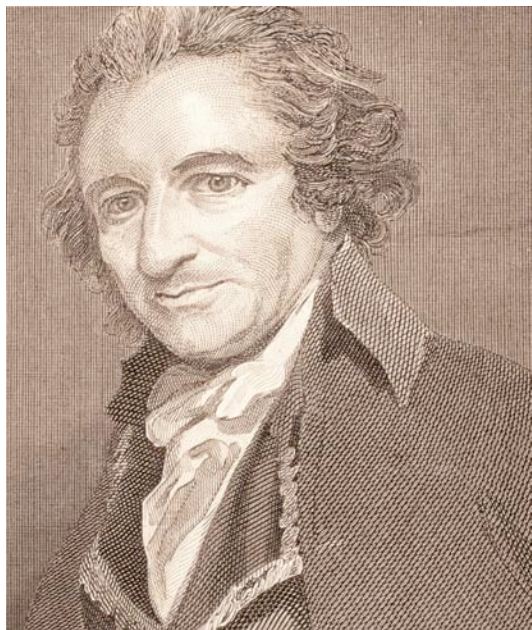


Bloomsbury is proud to present the definitive biography of Tom Paine, published to coincide with the 200th anniversary of his death

'A superb biography of an extraordinary man in extraordinary times'
Daily Telegraph



Tom Paine

A Political Life

by John Keane

Publication date: 1st June 2009, £14.99

'It is hard to imagine this magnificent biography ever being superceded... It is a stylish, splendidly erudite work... The only book so far to do full justice to this near-nigh mythical figure' Terry Eagleton, *Guardian*

'The most impressive and well-documented account ever written of this extraordinary man' *Observer*

'Not only a book of the year but a book of the decade - should finally consolidate Thomas Paine's reputation' *Evening Standard*

Reissued with a new introduction on the bicentennial of his death, *Tom Paine: A Political Life* tells the story of a man who remains a pertinent figure in the public consciousness.

'More than any other public figure of the eighteenth century, Tom Paine strikes our times like a trumpet blast from a distant world. His writings still spark disputes about matters of public importance, while his thoughts move public figures as different as Ronald Reagan and Bob Dylan, Salman Rushdie and Margaret Thatcher to quote him – as if to prove that the dead are more sometimes alive than the living.'

So begins John Keane's magnificent and award-winning biography of one of democracy's greatest champions. Among friends and enemies alike, Paine earned a reputation as a notorious pamphleteer, one of the greatest political figures of his day, and the author of three seminal books, *Common Sense*, *Rights of Man*, and *The Age of Reason*.

Setting his compelling narrative against a vivid social backdrop of pre-revolutionary America and the French Revolution, John Keane melds together the public and the shadowy private sides of Paine's life in a remarkable piece of scholarship. This is the definitive biography of a man whose life and work profoundly shaped the modern age.

About the author:

Born in Australia, John Keane is Professor of Politics at the University of Westminster and the WZB (Berlin) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Founder of the Centre for the Study of Democracy, a consultant to the United Nations and a recent member of the American-based Institutions of Democracy Commission, his books include *Global Civil Society?* (2004), *Vaclav Havel: A Political Tragedy in Six Acts* (1999) and *The Life and Death of Democracy*.

Also published this month by the same author is *The Life and Death of Democracy* (Simon and Schuster).

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