

## I. Toward Independence

A. Second Continental Congress – formed Continental Army (G. Washington)

B. Olive Branch Petition – reconciliation; drafted by Dickinson and other moderates; (Although war had begun, American position was still ambivalent)

- King didn't accept

C. Thomas Paine – *Common Sense*  
(150,000 copies sold in weeks)

D. Prospect of alliance with France looked good, while British were negotiating w/ German mercenaries (Hessians)

E. Richard Henry Lee calls for independence; TJ and others draft D.o.I.

## **II. Influences on Declaration of Independence**

A. English traditions – Magna Carta,  
English Bill of Rights

B. Enlightenment (Locke, etc.)

- Natural rights, consent of the governed,  
etc.

C. Tom Paine