

FROM PAMPHLET TO POETRY: AWAKENING THE PEOPLE IN THOMAS PAINE AND CHOLPON

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Аннотация: В исследовании анализируется, как политический памфлет Томаса Пейна "Common Sense" и поэзия Абдулхамида Чолпона пробуждали национальное самосознание в своих исторических контекстах. Пейн через доступную прозу критиковал монархию и стимулировал американскую революционную мысль, тогда как Чолпон в своей поэзии формировал узбекскую культурную идентичность и противостояние угнетению. Оба текста мобилизовали широкую аудиторию, демонстрируя силу литературы в общественном пробуждении. Методология включает сравнительный текстуальный и контекстуальный анализ.

Introduction

Thomas Paine was an influential English-born political writer whose pamphlet "Common Sense" became a pivotal voice for American independence in 1776, rallying colonists against British rule and clarifying revolutionary goals in accessible language. "Common Sense" systematically challenged monarchical governance and argued for self-government, resonating widely because of its rhetorical clarity and direct appeal to "common sense" notions of justice and liberty. He tried hard to achieve independence. Thomas Paine put forward the idea of unification of the army: "Liberty is not achieved in numbers, but in unity" - said in "Common Sense".

Paine's pamphlet did not invent revolutionary ideology, but it disseminated ideas that were already circulating among colonial elites and the general populace, contributing significantly to the formation of American national consciousness. Moreover, the pamphlet's widespread circulation demonstrates the power of print culture in shaping political awareness during the late eighteenth century. By addressing ordinary people rather than political elites, Paine transformed political debate into a matter of public participation and moral responsibility. His use of persuasive rhetoric, biblical allusions, and rational argumentation enabled readers to view independence as both inevitable and ethically justified. According to historical accounts, "Common Sense" sold tens of thousands of copies within a few months, an unprecedented figure for the period, which underscores its social impact. As a result, Paine's work stands as a foundational example of how accessible political writing can accelerate national awakening and collective action.

Abdulhamid Cholpon (1897–1938), a foundational figure in modern Uzbek literature, emerged in the early twentieth century as a poet, playwright, translator, and public intellectual. Cholpon published influential collections such as "Uyg'onish" (Awakening, 1922) and "Buloqlar" (Springs, 1924), works that expressed cultural renewal and articulation of Uzbek identity during the turbulent years of Russian and Soviet influence. His straightforward language and embrace of modern poetic forms broke with older literary traditions and appealed to a broad audience, making literature a vehicle for emotional and cultural awakening, closely tied to ideas of freedom and national self-assertion.

While Paine wrote in the context of eighteenth-century Enlightenment ideals and revolutionary politics, Cholpon worked within early twentieth-century Jadid and modernist movements aimed at cultural reform, education, and national self-awareness. Both writers demonstrated how different genres — Pamphlet in political discourse and poetry in aesthetic expression — could influence collective thought. This research examines how "Common Sense" and Cholpon's poetry functioned as mediums of awakening, exploring their textual strategies, contextual effectiveness, and enduring impact.

Methodology

This study employs a comparative literary and contextual analysis. Primary texts — "Common Sense" and selected poems of Cholpon — were examined for rhetorical strategies, language simplicity, and themes of liberty, identity, and resistance. Secondary scholarly sources from literary criticism and historical accounts were used to situate each author within their socio-political milieu. The research included:

Textual Analysis: Close reading of Paine's pamphlet to identify rhetorical devices, didactic tone, and persuasive appeals to common readers. Cholpon's lyric poetry was analyzed for symbolic imagery, thematic unity around national awakening, and emotional resonance with readers.

Historical Contextualization: Situating each author within political and cultural movements — American Revolution for Paine; Jadid movement and early Soviet period for Cho'lpon — to assess impact.

Comparative Framework: Identify convergences and divergences in textual approaches to awakening public consciousness and mobilizing readers toward social change.

Additionally, this approach allows for identifying how genre differences influence the mode of social engagement and audience reception. The comparative method highlights how pamphleteering and lyric poetry function as complementary yet distinct tools of ideological dissemination. While Paine's argumentative prose appeals primarily to reason and political logic, Cho'lpon's poetic discourse engages emotional and cultural sensibilities. Scholars note that comparative literary analysis is particularly effective in revealing how texts from different traditions contribute to similar processes of national awakening. Thus, the methodology ensures both textual depth and historical accuracy in interpreting the transformative role of literature.

Results

The analysis revealed that Paine's Common Sense used clear, accessible language, breaking from elite political discourse of the time to speak directly to a broad audience. Paine's rhetorical strategy involved:

Direct critique of monarchy and arguments for independence;

Use of common language to make complex political ideas understandable;

Addressing economic, moral, and psychological perspectives to appeal to readers' emotions and logic.

These strategies resulted in unprecedented circulation (estimated up to 500,000 copies by some accounts) and contributed to shifting colonial sentiment toward decisive action against Britain.

In contrast, Cholpon's poetry did not directly propose political action but employed lyric imagery and emotional symbolism that resonated with Uzbek cultural identity and collective aspirations. Collections such as Uyg'onish and "Buloqlar" embodied themes of renewal, identity, and inner freedom, and his departure from classical mysticism toward straightforward language made his works widely relatable. Cholpon's poetry became influential during a period of cultural

transformation, providing emotional frameworks for national self-understanding and forging a symbolic space where cultural and political meaning intersect.

Both authors deployed language accessibility and made ideas reachable to broader audiences, albeit through different genres — rhetorical prose for Paine, lyrical poetry for Cholpon. The results suggest that while *Common Sense* directly influenced political direction, Cholpon's poetry contributed to cultural and emotional awakening that underpinned later movements for identity and autonomy.

Discussion

The findings indicate that the key to both Paine's and Cholpon's influence lies in audience accessibility and alignment with contemporaneous ideological currents.

Paine wrote "*Common Sense*" at a moment when colonial dissatisfaction was ripe but lacked a unifying narrative. Paine's pamphlet articulated a clear vision of political freedom that transcended abstract theory, using everyday language and logical assertions to transform political inertia into urgent collective sentiment. The pamphlet's success demonstrates that persuasive prose can reshape public consciousness when it speaks to prevailing frustrations and aspirations.

Cholpon's role, while less overtly political, reveals how poetry functions as cultural rhetoric. His language, metaphors of awakening, and emotionally charged imagery reinforced ideas of self-worth, dignity, and desire for autonomy among readers influenced by Jadid reformist thought. Poetry's indirect route to awakening — through symbolic representation of shared experiences — complements political pamphleteering by shaping cultural habitus and emotional orientations toward independence. Cholpon's appeal to national experience and suffering resonates with readers' inner worlds, transforming poetry into a collective mirror of identity and aspiration.

Comparatively, Paine's pamphlet mobilized overt political action, while Cholpon's poetry cultivated the cultural underpinnings that make political transformation meaningful and sustainable. Both demonstrate that texts become catalysts of awakening when they engage with readers on levels of logic, emotion, and cultural resonance.

Conclusion

The comparative study of Thomas Paine's "*Common Sense*" and Abdulhamid Cholpon's poetry reveals that texts from different genres can function as powerful instruments of public awakening. Paine's pamphlet instigated political mobilization by democratizing political discourse and presenting a compelling case for American independence. His use of accessible prose broadened the reach of revolutionary ideology, helping unify colonists around the concept of self-government.

Cholpon's poetry, emerging in a context of cultural reform and colonial pressure, did not call directly for political revolt but instead carved out space for emotional and cultural awakening. His clear language and symbolic imagery spoke to the hearts of readers, fostering a sense of shared identity and aspirations toward freedom. In this sense, literature became a vehicle for internal liberation and collective self-understanding.

Both writers illustrate that awakening is not solely a political act but a cultural and psychological process influenced by how ideas are articulated, communicated, and received. While "*Common Sense*" provided pragmatic direction and justification for political action, Cholpon's poetry served as a cultural foundation that nourished identity and pride, underpinning later movements for autonomy and reform.

Understanding these roles underscores the diversity of literary influence — from political pamphleteering to lyrical art — and reaffirms that literature, when aligned with historical currents and audience sensibilities, has the capacity to transform societies. Future research can expand upon

these findings by exploring other comparative pairs across cultures to deepen our understanding of literature's role in awakening collective consciousness.

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