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Thomas Paine, the influential thinker and revolutionary figure of the 18th century, often drew inspiration from ancient civilizations, particularly Classical Greece. His writings reflect a profound admiration for the principles and ideals that characterized Greek society, especially as they pertain to democracy, philosophy, and civic virtue. In examining Paine's work and his philosophical outlook, it becomes evident that he was most likely referring to a specific characteristic of Classical Greek civilization: the development and practice of democratic governance, especially as exemplified by Athens. This article explores how Paine's ideas align with Greek democratic ideals, the context of Greek political philosophy, and the significance of this characteristic in shaping his revolutionary thought.
