

CITIZENS GUIDE BOOK

A Paladin of Liberty



Juror's Handbook
The Constitution (with explanations)
Declaration of Independence
Bill of Rights (with explanations)
We are NOT a Democracy
Powers of Congress
Church & State?
Bring Congress Home Act
Brief Congressional History

*"Men must be governed by God
or they will be ruled by tyrants."*

—William Penn

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This booklet is designed to bring to show you the several ways our Founders provided to ensure that YOU rule this nation, (not the growing army of demagogues -politicians, judges, lawyers, and bureaucrats). The Founding Documents contain explanations & it focuses on the power YOU possess as a CITIZEN, a VOTER & a JUROR, how you got it, why you have it, and to remind you that:

YOU must constantly fight to preserve it.

What Makes the U.S. Unique?

The creation of the United States Constitution was a singularly unique event in man's quest for self-government - unique in ALL of History. Never before had an entire society created a form of government through reason, debate and the application of ideas, rather than the application of force.

We-The-American-People were telling the government, of our own creation, what its powers were to be, not being told by the government what liberties it would allow us.

It was the FIRST and ONLY government based upon Liberty as its foundation & goal. It was a Representative Republic, not a Democracy, with The-People being the basis of power, formed to protect Nature's Law, the Life, Liberty, Property & Pursuit of Happiness, the Rights & Individual Sovereignty of All, recognizing that we are all created equal before GOD, all with equal Rights & Opportunities, and all our Natural Rights were GOD-given and Inalienable (they can't be taken away by anybody or anything).

It was the first Representative Republic of its kind, that would run under the Rule of Law with a Constitution as the Supreme Law of the land. Its system of laws was based on Judeo-Christian values & the Ten Commandments. It had a Bill of Rights that spelled out the most basic of The People's Rights, so nobody could ever forget them, and declared that it also protected ALL the Natural Rights of Man not therein listed. Inherent in this was the important principle that our Constitution protected the rights of all Minorities from the 'variable whims' of the Majority.

The States formed a Federal Government, that was a "compact" formed by the 13 Free, Independent, Sovereign States (each a separate Country) for their mutual protection and welfare, with Specifically Limited Powers ONLY, which were spelled out in the Constitution. It also specifically listed powers prohibited to the Federal Government as well as those prohibited to the individual States. Importantly, it decreed that all powers not enumerated belonged to the Sovereign States and *The-People*.

Truly Miraculous

"If we stuck to the Constitution

as written, we would have: no federal meddling in our schools; no Federal Reserve; no U. S. membership in the U.N.; no gun control; and no foreign aid. We would have no welfare for big corporations, or the "poor"; No American troops in 100 foreign countries; no NAFTA, GATT, or "fast-track"; no arrogant federal judges usurping States Rights; no attacks on private property; and no income tax. We would get rid of most of the cabinet departments, most of the agencies, and most of the budget. The government would be small, frugal, and limited." Sen. RON PAUL

And, we would have FREEDOM!

Congress is Broken - Can we FIX it?

The BRING CONGRESS HOME Act

What's the Biggest Contributor to the Corruption in our Congress & Government? **Washington DC** - it's the most Ruthless, Powerful City-State & the biggest cesspool of Corruption in the World.

What enabled Congress (our SERVANT) to become Unaccountable & Ignore *We-The-People*, -their MASTERS?

They ENDED Reapportionment!

The Constitution COMMANDS Congress to elect one House-Rep for no more than every 30,000 souls after every census. during the Constitutional Convention George Washington's ONLY

proposal was to ensure this number was Never exceeded, because one man could NEVER get close enough to the pulse of any more people than that.

But, by 1920 there was a new problem, The House was FULL! At 435 members, there was NO ROOM for more, and the census showed that many 'Reps' would be "shifted" out of their Districts. There was little desire to reapportion and rebuild the house for 483 members, so they DIDN'T.

They knew if they stayed with 435 members, as the country grew they could keep their seats and represent more people, which meant "More GRAFT & Less ACCOUNTABILITY.

So, they passed the Reapportionment Act of 1929 to limit the total to 435 - no matter how big the country grew.

It had a big advantage for THEM and HORRIBLE disadvantage for States: It allowed many States to elect "At-Large Reps" - that had NO particular defined area (the Entire State), which gave them even MORE opportunities for GRAFT and made them even LESS Accountable to The-People.

Now, nearly 100 years later, our population would require about 6,400 House Reps, 15 times more!

(Imagine how big that building would have to be!)

Today there's a Better-than-Ever-Before solution, that will eliminate virtually ALL the D.C. Corruption at the same time:

Finish Ratifying the ORIGINAL 1st Amendment - Fix the House!

It called for a Maximum of 50,000 people per House-Rep. It is still pending, it was never fully ratified, it would only take 27 more States to ratify it and MAKE IT LAW!

Then, we Elect all 6,400 of them, each with 50,000 Voters, instead of the present 750,000.

We give each of them a leased office within their hometown; a desktop computer with an Internet Connection, a website (to publish their Votes), and Telepresence Technology (this ENDS the need to be in DC); a small staff of 2; and cut their pay in half!

This would cost LESS than ever before, give EVERYBODY easy access to their 'Rep', make them accountable to us, their Bosses, and END the Corrupting Influence of D.C.

(There are 100,000 Lobbyists in DC, ONLY 10% are Legally Registered - What would they do?)

House Fixed!

Then, while we're at it, we do the same for the 100 Senators: move them to their State Capitol City, allow a staff of 6, give them Telepresence Technology and cut their pay in half.

(Senate ½ Fixed)

REPEAL the 17th Amendment - Fix the Senate,

So Senators are again chosen by their State Legislatures

- State Sovereignty would be RESTORED -

For the 1st time in 100 years we'd have accountable Senators, that actually Vote FOR their States (if they don't, their State Legislature "down-the-street" will IMMEDIATELY know it and

REPLACE THEM!) - **Senate FULLY Fixed!**

Problem Solved!

(as a Bonus, we would gut D.C. - END its Corruption)

(This whole idea is the brainchild of TacticalCivics.com)

Follow It or Change it

There are many not happy with our Constitution, that would like to change it. The biggest problem, or complaint, is that **our present Government is NOT following the Constitution faithfully** - they want to add more "checks & balances" to ensure it is followed EXACTLY in the future. Many are calling for an Article-V Convention, one of the LEGAL ways defined in the Constitution to change it - usually through Amendments. Most of these people have not thought this problem through carefully or "informedly".

There are TWO Major Problems with this idea.

1st: Once called, an Art-V Convention can do whatever it wants. It is under NO Obligation to follow ANY orders it may get from the States. So, it might add all sorts of UNDESIRABLE things to the agenda and there is NOTHING we could do about it.

2nd: How can we be assured that they will do EXACTLY *what "We-The-People" want?* **WE CAN'T!** If our present Officials and the THOUSANDS of bureaucrats are not following the Constitution NOW, what could possibly make them follow it in the future?

Think about it

WHO would be chosen to attend such a Convention and HOW would they Vote? Most likely, it would be members of our State Legislatures and Congress. Would they choose somebody else for this most important job? - NOT LIKELY!

Who could we Trust?

Who, among the 535 members of Congress, Would YOU Trust - to do what is best for YOU & ME - the citizens of the USA, rather than what is best for THEMSELVES?

Can you think of even FIVE?

that YOU would trust with YOUR Life, YOUR Liberty, your FAMILY's Future and our Entire COUNTRY's future? NO!

Do we have ANY Diplomats?

That would Vote SELFLESSLY for our Country?

How many would it take? How many will be appointed? They'd ALL be fighting to get appointed and we'd end up with hundreds of Delegates.

For this to be successful,
we will need HUNDREDS of Trusted Delegates
and we can't name even FIVE!

A point of FACT... Some of our Elected Officials took a quiz on our Government, by Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI.org).

Their scores were LOWER (**74% FAILED**)
than the General Public (71% Failed)

And, 79% didn't even know that the Constitution PROHIBITS the establishment of an Official Religion in the U.S.!

Be Careful What You Wish For!!!

The problem is they're not following it.
Let's simply follow it, and change it - by Amendments
Only where actually needed.

28th Amendment (proposed) End Special Privileges

Most Americans today feel that Congress is more concerned with "special privileges" & acquiring **Political Power** (and the Wealth that comes with it) than working for "We-The-People".

Here are a few things people feel would help:

1st: Terms Limits - Congressmen Limited to 2 terms TOTAL in Congress (a MAX of 4 years for the House; 12 years for Senate; or 8 years, if 1 term in both.

2nd: Congress shall make no law that applies to the citizens of the United States that does not apply equally to the Senators and Representatives; and Congress shall make no law that applies to Senators or Representatives that does not apply equally to the Citizens of the United States.

Separation of Church & State?

Did you know that **God or "the divine"** is mentioned at least once in each of the 50 State Constitutions & nearly 200 times overall?

"God" is explicitly mentioned at least once in 46 State Constitutions, while the constitutions in Colorado, Iowa and Washington refer to a **"Supreme Being"** or **"Supreme Ruler of the Universe"**, and Hawaii's constitution says the people of Hawaii are **"grateful for Divine Guidance"**. Along with and 14 mentions of **"a Supreme or Sovereign Being"**, and the **116 mentions of "God"**, there even seven mentions of the word **"Christian"**.

Did you know that the Legislature Building was used as a Church for 70 years?

Church services were held weekly and **virtually every one of our Founding Fathers attended this church** for many years.

The government gave all religions opportunity there, with various preachers invited, often in different rooms on the same day.

There is **NO place in the Constitution, or ANY of our Founding Documents, that calls for "Separation of Church & State"!**

The 1st Amendment says:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

What does this mean? Congress is PROHIBITED from passing any law that Establishes a National Religion or favors one religion over another. and, Congress CANNOT prohibit the free exercise of any religion. Separation of Church & State, ONLY means:

There can be no 'Official Religion' IN our government, no way that any religion can CONTROL any part of our government..

The Founding Fathers were well aware that

National religions ALWAYS turned into TYRANNY...

Either you believed the National Religion or you paid the price - **often DEATH!** Our early history shows many groups coming to America for that very reason - to escape Religious Persecution.

BUT, this does NOT mean that ANY religious practice is OK!

Why? **Nothing is OK if it infringes on our Individual Rights.**

ALL our Rights are Protected under the Constitution: the Laws of Nature, our Natural, GOD-given RIGHTS, as recognized by Common Law, the 10 Commandments, the Bible & our entire Judeo-Christian system of Law.

This does NOT mean that our Government cannot be involved in, **encourage or even assist in religion** - only that it cannot give Favor, or Preference, to one religion over another. In fact, many of our Founding Documents, like **"The Northwest Ordinance of 1787"**, specifically state that:

Government should ENCOURAGE Religion & Education.

(NOTE - it does NOT give the Federal Government ANY authority to EDUCATE - only to **Encourage** Education. Our entire Dept. of Education is Illegal - UNCONSTITUTIONAL!)

It is certainly proper that our government expound the 10-Commandments, the Foundation of our entire Legal System, that was fully recognized for about 200 years, until a very few Demagogues - DECEIVERS - somehow convinced the Public this was not true.

God Shed His Grace on Thee

(by David Barton) America is not only one of the greatest nations in the history of the world, it has also become its longest ongoing constitutional republic. Its original government has now endured well over two centuries. However, America's longevity is only as stable and secure as its foundation, so

What was the foundation of American government?

We now know that the greatest single source of political inspiration for our founding fathers was the Bible.

It was cited in 34% of founding era writings (1760-1805).

This discovery would have come as no surprise to the founders.

It was **John Adams** who explained:

"The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were....the general principles of Christianity."



Founding Father **Noah Webster** echoed the same message:

"The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His Apostles...This is genuine Christianity and to this we owe our free constitutions of government."

Founder after Founder declared the same belief:

Contrary to what is often asserted today, the Founders never intended that God's Word or His principles be separated from public life. They knew these principles were vital to the success of our new government.

James Madison explained:

"Before any man can be considered as a member of civil society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe. And to the same Divine Author of every good and perfect gift [James 1:17] we are indebted for all those privileges and advantages, religious as well as civil, which are so richly enjoyed in this favored land."



"Whether this [new government] will prove a blessing or a curse will depend upon the use our people make of the blessings which a gracious God hath bestowed on us. If they are wise, they will be great and happy. If they are of a contrary character, they will be miserable. Righteousness alone can exalt them as a nation [Proverbs 14:34]. Reader! Whoever thou art remember this, and in thy sphere practice virtue thyself and encourage it in others."

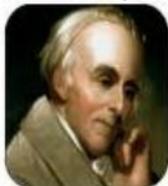
– Patrick Henry

"Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever. – Thomas Jefferson



Furthermore, the founders saw the Bible as inseparable from public education.

1 **Benjamin Rush**, the first founder to call for free national public schools, explained: *"Let the children...be carefully instructed in the principles and obligations of the Christian religion. This is the most essential part of education. The great enemy of the salvation of man, in my opinion, never invented a more effectual means of extirpating [removing] Christianity from the world than by persuading mankind that it was improper to read the Bible at schools."*



"I believe no man was ever early instructed in the truths of the Bible without having been made wiser or better by the early operation of these impressions upon his mind."

"We profess to be republicans, and yet we neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government; that is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by means of the Bible; for this divine book, above all others, favors that equality among mankind, that respect for just laws, and all those sober and frugal virtues which constitute the soul of republicanism.

--Benjamin. Rush

The founders even viewed the principles of the Bible as inseparable from civil law.

James Wilson, a signer of the Constitution & original Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, explained:

"Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is divine...Far from being rivals or enemies, religion and law are twin sisters, friends, and mutual assistants. Indeed, these two sciences run into each other."



These statements, despite the prominence of those who made them, are virtually unknown today.

Instead, for four decades we have been taught that our founders were irreligious, desiring a complete separation of religious principles and public policy.

[However, the facts dispute that contention.](#)

First, consider their actions. The overwhelming majority of these men were so firmly committed to the principles of God's Word that they went to great lengths to propagate those principles.

For example, many founders helped organize and lead several of the Christian societies which today still spread the gospel?

Those men helped found the American Tract Society; the American Sunday School Union; over one hundred city, county, and state Bible societies, including the American Bible Society; the American Board of Foreign Missions; the Christian Constitutional Society; the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; the

American Society for Educating pious youth for the Gospel Ministry; and many more groups.

Are such organizations likely to be started by “irreligious” men who wanted God’s principles separated from society?

Second, consider their words—or their lack thereof,

“Separation of Church and State”

appears NOWHERE in the Constitution.

NOT ONCE in all those months of long discussions by the 90 Founding Fathers, from June 7 to Sept 25, 1787, did even one of the founders ever mention that phrase. If they had intended today’s doctrine of “separation of church and state”, wouldn’t at least one of them have mentioned it?

We no longer learn about what our founders *did* say in the Constitution; **Instead, we learn what they *didn’t* say!**

The Bible reminds us it is time to remember our foundations, and to listen again to the words of our Founders, that made this country the world’s most powerful & most respected nation.

George Washington reminded us:

“No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more... than the people of the United States... We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious [favorable] smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation which disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself ordained.”

We were Founded a Christian Country - PERIOD!

For America’s continuing survival and world leadership, we must recapture the Founders’ vision of the importance of God’s Word and His gospel for this nation.

What about Catholics, Jews & Muslims?

There were THREE Catholic Founding Fathers. Charles Carroll, Daniel Carroll & Thomas Fitzsimmons were heavily involved, signers variously of the Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence & the Constitution. The Catholic population in 1787 was only 30,000 (about 1% - out of over 3 million).

None of the Founding Fathers were Jewish. At that time there were only about 2,000 Jews living in America. However, there was one Jewish Hero **Haym Salomon**, a sympathizer with the Patriot cause. Salomon’s fundraising and personal lending (\$200,000 - many millions then) helped provide truly critical financing to save George Washington’s war effort. He requested below market interest rates, and never asked for repayment. He was never repaid and died bankrupt at the age of 44.

Muslims had NO role in any part of the Revolution. There were no Muslims at all living in America (except, possibly, a few converted slaves). However, the Barbary Pirates were basically Terrorists - constantly attacking any American ships that ventured their way (and any others of non-Muslim nature), and America had been paying a sizable “Ransom” to reduce or avoid this.

When Thomas Jefferson became President in 1801 we still didn’t have a significant Navy but, he tried to end it by sending a few ships to attack them, that met with limited success. Later, after the War of 1812 had greatly improved our Navy, he sent ships to defeat them soundly and ended the “Extortion” once and for all.

Education

Nowhere in the Constitution is the Federal Govt empowered to Educate. Several of the Founding Documents say “*because Education is NECESSARY to understand, promote & guard our*

FREEDOMS, the Government should ENCOURAGE Education."

However, our Government has ILLEGALLY TAKEN this Power- and it misuses it DAILY. Many of the Courts have been complicit in this TRAVESTY and in some States it has even been illegal to Home-School. But, GOOD NEWS: The Supreme Court recognized the parental right *"to control the education of one's children"* thus voiding State & Federal laws mandating all students attend public schools. A fundamental part of Liberty excludes any State the power to *"Standardize the Children"* by forcing them to accept instructions from public teachers only.

The Family

The breaking down of the family is a great concern because the family is our Future. It's the basic social unit of Society and the nucleus of Civilization. For some years now, our Government has been trying to REMOVE God from our lives.

The Family is a masterpiece of God's Creation. He created Man, then Woman, He blessed them and told them, *"Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish [fill] the earth"* ([Genesis 1:28](#)).

He created marriage that they be One.

It's the first, best & original *"Department of Health, Education & Welfare"*, where the father & the mother together inculcate Virtue, teaching their children Moral Values, Ordered Freedom and to Honor God, so they will mature and pass on these values to future generations. Children need to know it's the ONLY safe & happy place where they can experience God's love (through their parents) and learn how to love other people. Authority & stability in the family constitute the foundations for Freedom, Security, and Fraternity within society. Without the family, the community cannot perpetuate.

Every society in the World is structured the same. A man & a woman marry and form a family. This process repeated multiple times forms villages, regions, and countries. Our Moral Values come from God. It cannot be done without God!

Even Christ was born within a family. *"God in the flesh"* submitted to an earthly mom & dad to model what it means to honor parents and to benefit from their loving direction.

Marriage is between one man & one woman, any other marital relationship is harmful & dangerous. Abortion takes innocent lives, and in God's eyes each person is of infinite worth. We need to re-instate God into our lives and into the Values of our Government.

Teach our children about God, the Truth of His Word, the Truth of creation & the Lies of evolution, now so pervasive in our society.

Only then can families become strong again and our Society re-dedicated to **traditional-family-values**. With stronger families come stronger schools, stronger churches, and stronger communities, with less poverty and less crime.

If we allow families to disappear, so will go civilization.

A presidential candidate said: *"If you are serious about having smaller, more effective government, then you had better work at getting stronger families."*

A Brief Congressional History

Were we One Country with 13 States? **NO!**

We were 13 Separate "Countries" bound together in a Compact that formed the united States of America.

('united' was not capitalized - States meant Sovereign Countries)

How many people know this today?

1 in a 1000?

Oct 26, 1774, The 1st Continental Congress was a meeting of delegates from 12 of the 13 Colonies who met on Sept 5th at Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia, early in the American Revolution. It was called in response to the Intolerable Acts passed by the British Parliament, which prompted the Boston Tea Party. They petitioned King George III for redress of those grievances. Their appeal had no effect, so the 2nd Continental Congress convened the following year to organize the defense of the colonies at the onset of the American Revolutionary War. The delegates also urged each colony to set up and train its own militia.

May 10, 1775, The Second Continental Congress managed the Colonial war effort and moved incrementally towards independence. The Congress acted as the *de facto* Federal Government of what became the United States by raising armies, directing strategy, appointing diplomats, and making formal treaties. Many of the 56 delegates who attended the first meeting were in attendance at the Second. Notable new arrivals included Benjamin Franklin of PA and John Hancock of MA.

June 7, 1776, The Lee Resolution (by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia) was introduced in the Second Continental Congress proposing independence for the American colonies.

Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.

June 28, 1776, Thomas Jefferson, was selected to be the primary author of the Declaration of Independence. The Founders knew that we would need help against England. It had the most powerful Army on Earth and perhaps France would help. They fully realized that separately, none of the Colonies could possibly fight England, but together they had a chance. So, they called for a '*Plan of Confederation*' - a **Compact** between 13 Colonies to join forces and act as one.

July 2nd, 1776, The Lee Resolution for independence from Great Britain was formally adopted by the 2nd Continental Congress in Philadelphia. After much discussion & concern, the vote was unanimous, with only New York abstaining.

The 13 Colonies each declared themselves

Free, Independent, Sovereign States

(States meant COUNTRIES in 1776)

THEY only temporarily joined forces to defeat the British. Once victorious, they planned to go their separate ways. Each of the Colonies, now States, were very "*jealous*" of their independence. The triumph of the American Revolution was neither ideological nor a political guarantee that the colonies would relinquish their independence and accept the creation of a federal government - with power over their autonomy as Independent & Sovereign States - the plan for making treaties wasn't approved until Sept 1776; the Confederation Plan delayed until Nov, 1777.

July 4, 1776, "The Unanimous Declaration (of Independence) of the Thirteen United States of America" was signed. John

Adams wrote that July 2 would be celebrated as the most memorable epoch in the history of America. Instead, the day has been largely forgotten in favor of July 4, when Jefferson's edited Declaration of Independence was adopted. Of course, there were thousands of people that remained loyal to England and the King. They were labeled as "**Tories**" - eventually many of them went to England and many remained as "**spies**" for the King.

Nov 15, 1777 The **Articles of Confederation** were signed July 9, 1778 and Ratified on March 1, 1781. **With this COMPACT they created a SERVANT**, a Confederacy named the "*united States of America*". All 13 States agreed to Delegate **ONLY** those Sovereign Powers necessary to the Confederacy for it to carry out its job:

To DEFEND the States against any Foreign Invader (several European countries were considering this). They were confident that united, they could defeat ANY invader. However, after their long and bloody struggle for Liberty, **each of the States had NO INTENTIONS of giving up their SOVEREIGNTY**. The Confederacy was NOT Sovereign, except pursuant to the VERY Limited Powers it was given. It had several serious defects, insufficient powers to wage war and deal effectively with Foreign Countries. By 1787, it was unraveling.

Sept 14, 1786, To save the young nation, delegates from 12 states called for a Convention to revise the Articles of Confederation (later known as the Constitutional Convention) that met in Philadelphia for 5 months and, with George Washington presiding, created a new form of government.

May 14 to Sep 17, 1787, The **Constitutional Convention** created our Constitution.

Mar 4, 1789, The **Bill of Rights** was proposed - (of 12 Amendments)

Dec 15, 1791, The **Bill of Rights** was ratified, but the 1st & 2nd were never fully ratified. The 1st 10th became our Bill of Rights.

Our Constitution - The Miracle

is that 55 men came together to create the most important document ever created for the Freedom & Happiness of mankind.

Our Founders sought to institute a NEW and UNIQUE form of Republican government that would keep history from repeating itself, a form that would ensure our unalienable rights are protected forever.

Most of them were True Statesmen (we would be hard pressed to produce even a few today). They were very well educated, particularly in the History of Civilizations, they knew about all the Civilizations, their governments and why they ALL had failed.

This body of opinionated, brilliant, exceptionally well educated and principled men, from so many different States and areas, also different from each other in their manners, circumstances, and prejudices, had argued strongly for all of their personal beliefs, desires and inclinations. Finally, after 4 or 5 weeks, the disagreements and arguments had mounted to an impossible height, they had come to a standstill - they had failed.

Then, the eldest delegate, Benjamin Franklin, surprised the room. The man history often remembers, along with Jefferson, as among the more secular of the Founders actually gave a speech to the assembly in which **he implored them to turn to God**. It is startling that Franklin was the one to beseech the assembly to turn to God in prayer for an answer to their problems and it reminds us how seriously all the Founders took God.

Their prayers were answered. All impasses were broken,

compromises on all issues struck, and solutions were found. When it came time to decide each important issue, a spirit of selflessness came over each of them, they cast aside their personal biases and voted for what each knew was Right - for the good of Mankind - for everybody - for all the Citizens of this soon to become "The Greatest Country Ever".

This had NEVER happened before & it has never happened since.
truly a Miracle!

George Washington wrote about it in a letter to his friend, the Marquis de Lafayette:

It appears to me, then, little short of a miracle, that the Delegates from so many different States (which States you know are also different from each other in their manners, circumstances, and prejudices) would unite in forming a system of national Government, so little liable to well founded objections.

James Madison was even more amazed:

The real wonder is that so many difficulties should have been surmounted, and surmounted with unanimity almost as unprecedented as it must have been unexpected. It is impossible for any man of candor to reflect on this circumstance without partaking of the astonishment. It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it a finger of that Almighty hand which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical stages of the revolution.

There were "Two Sides"

The Federalists believed in a 'All-Powerful' Federal Government with the Ultimate Power in most matters. Included were George Washington & future Supreme Court Chief Justices, John Marshall and John Jay. To support the new Constitution, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay wrote a series of essays for the newspaper published under the title "The Federalist."

The Anti-Federalists believed the States & 'The-People' should have the Ultimate Power. with the Federal Government having ONLY extremely LIMITED Powers -ONLY over things that concerned the entire "Nation" - ALL the States. They included such patriots as Patrick Henry, Sam Adams, George Mason, and Richard Henry Lee. They argued that the states would be absorbed into an all-too-powerful national government.

The Founding Fathers believed the Constitution dealt with these issues more or less in favor of the Anti-Federalists - most of them were strongly against Big Government - the Federal Government was to have Limited Powers - ONLY those "loaned to it by The-People" and specifically enumerated in the Constitution. When it came down to the ending arguments they were concerned that our GOD-given Rights could be taken away by a powerful Federal Government. particularly over a period of time - by Demagogues and others seeking personal power.

So. they insisted that we have a Bill of Rights. an enumeration of them. so they could NEVER be lost or forgotten through deception, demagoguery or any other means.

Did the Federal Government Supersede the State Governments?

NO... The States formed a Federal Government, that was a "compact", formed by the 13 Free, Independent, Sovereign States

(each a separate Country), for their mutual protection and welfare, with **ONLY Limited Powers**, which were specifically spelled out in the Constitution. It also listed powers specifically prohibited to the Federal Government as well as those prohibited to the individual States. Importantly, it decreed: ALL powers not enumerated belonged to the Sovereign States and The-People.

Our Constitution truly gives us LIBERTY
But LIBERTY = FREEDOM + RESPONSIBILITY

(We have the Freedom to do whatever we feel is right for ourselves & our loved ones, **PLUS** the Responsibility to Not Infringe on the Rights of any others.)

And, **Freedom is not FREE** -

We paid a high price for it and we must forever guard it.

But, then **something BAD happened**,
what the Founders feared from the beginning -
Federal Power GREW -
- at the Expense of the States

Since then, Demagogues have done all possible to see the Citizens forget the details of the Founding, the Constitution and its Values

to Greatly Increase the POWER of the Federal Government
& MINIMIZE the Power of the State Governments

so **THEY can CONTROL**

virtually EVERY part of our Personal LIVES

The SERVANT illegally STOLE these Powers from its CREATOR -
its MASTER. **Who Works for Who?**

The most egregious demagoguery going on today is the FACT that Very few Citizens were taught that each of the States are Free, Independent, Sovereign **COUNTRIES**.

Wake Up! The Federal Government is **NOT** all-powerful.

It's sickening to realize that the States have ALLOWED the Federal Government **to ROB them** of their Sovereignty.

"Most people prefer to believe their leaders are just and fair even in the face of evidence to the contrary,

because once a citizen acknowledges that the government under which they live is lying and corrupt, the citizen has to choose what he or she will do about it.

To take action in the face of a corrupt government entails risks of harm to life and loved ones. To choose to do nothing is to surrender one's self-image of standing for principles.

Most people do not have the courage to face that choice.

Hence, most propaganda is not designed to fool the critical thinker but only to give moral cowards an excuse not to think at all." -- Michael Rivero

What did they Ask of Us?

Our Founders, after pledging their lives, fortunes and sacred honors to each other in the Declaration of Independence, set

about the business of gaining their independence from the most powerful and oppressive force in the world: England and its King.

Against all odds and with an incalculable loss of blood and treasure, they secured their freedom with an unwavering commitment to one overriding principle:

that Life, Liberty, Property & the Pursuit of Happiness were

unalienable rights granted by their Creator to all men, and living under a tyrannical King, who sought to constantly suppress and limit these rights, was no life at all.

Through this sacred commitment **Freedom was won**, and The United STATES of America was born.

Thus, they ensured the greater governance within the United States of America remained as close to The-People as possible: the States through *consent of the governed*, "*We-The-People*".

We know this as **the 10th Amendment**:

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

In order for this greatest experiment in long term freedom to endure, our Founders asked just one thing of us. It was nothing compared to the significance of their collective sacrifice or the measure of their pledge. No, the single responsibility they asked of us is much simpler and considerably easier than their struggle.

They asked us to PARTICIPATE.

They asked that, with the Constitution as the Supreme Law of our Land, we participate in the process periodically by *giving our consent to be governed.*

They asked that we VOTE!

Why don't We Do It?

Yet, WE have abdicated this singular responsibility and allowed the National "*mechanism*" to operate virtually unchecked over the last 40 years, covering 10 Presidential election cycles,

only 1-in-2 US Citizens (only 53%)
has felt a responsibility to VOTE!

Even worse, in the last four Presidential cycle primaries, where change can be most affected,

Most States have averaged less than 20% Participation

In the elections that really support our Federalism model of checks & balances to Federal authority, where people can truly impact their State and Local entities without the burden of a national ballot-- the "non-Presidential" cycle

-only 1-in-3 Citizens (37%)

has felt the responsibility to PARTICIPATE.

Whatever the reason, this lack of participation in honoring our singular responsibility, is what has allowed the balance of power to shift so dramatically.

The politicians discovered that we weren't paying attention!
They can do whatever they want - they are NOT responsible to us

So, they passed law after law
that was GOOD for THEM!

WE allowed this bloated, irresponsible, & largely Unconstitutional Federal government to happen. **WE** allowed our States to become secondary entities and largely inept. **SO:**

If we're to save this great experiment in self-governance,..

If we are to return to the more perfect union our Founders sacrificed everything to establish,..

If we hope to pass on to future generations these unalienable rights as endowed by Our Creator,..

One thing is absolutely certain:

Our government will only respect *We-The-People* when we consistently and Constitutionally vote in large numbers.

When the government fears *The-People*, there is LIBERTY.

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.

--Plato -- 2,400 years ago

Our Freedoms Can No Longer Be A Spectator Sport!

Citizen Legislators

Our Founding Fathers designed a system of government that was to be of *The-People*, for *The-People*, and by *The-People*. It was designed around the concept of Legislation from its Citizenry, that as long as *We-The-People* were involved and participating in the process, things would consistently work out for the greater good and Liberty would therefore be protected.

Unfortunately,

they were BLIND-SIDED on one, single issue!

This concept did not allow for the "***Political Parties***" that were to come (there were over 20 Parties then - the largest had only 7% of the Population). They thought their "*checks & balances*" would prevent the "***Career Politicians***" that pervade Washington and now, even our State Legislatures. The vision was for *The-People* to elect their Representatives, who would:

Go off for short periods of time to protect the citizens, their property, their rights and to do the country's business. After that, they would return to the farms, businesses and occupations that they were protecting while they were governing. Then someone else would go and repeat the cycle.

There has NEVER been a lack of qualified representatives.

But, the *Political Parties*, because of their LUST for **POWER & WEALTH**, have succeeded in preventing this from happening.

What we have today is an out of control and amoral Federal entity, and a largely inept and neutered State Government.

Political Parties

***George Washington WARNED us
of Political Parties & Career politicians***

who spend their complete lives in the halls of Congress have no relationship with *The-People*, no perspective on what is really needed, and because we have not held them accountable, they show no respect for *The-People*, the Constitution or Rule of Law. They have one singular mission: to stay in power and get wealthy, ALWAYS at OUR expense - both monetarily and in a reduction of our Personal Liberty.

They have this power only because we have allowed it to happen.

He said: Every government has recognized political parties as an enemy and has sought to repress them because of their tendency to seek more power than other groups and to take revenge on political opponents.

Disagreements between political parties weaken government

"The alternate domination of one party over another and coinciding efforts to exact revenge upon their opponents have led to horrible atrocities, and is itself a frightful despotism."

-- George Washington

Political parties must be restrained in a popularly elected government because of they tend to distract the govt. from their duties, create jealousies among groups & regions, raise false alarms among the people, promote riots and insurrection...

He felt Religion strongly: *"religious principles promote protection of property, reputation, and life, the foundations of justice."*

He went on to say: *"Since morality is necessary in popularly elected*

elected governments, religious principle is vital in maintaining (our) popularly elected government."

Then he asked: *"Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation deserts the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice?"*

and Declared: *"Reason & experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."*

Rights Come From GOD,

NOT from the STATE!

"You have rights antecedent to all earthly governments; rights that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws; rights derived from the Great Legislator of the Universe"

-- John Adams, 2nd Pres. of the USA

"[I] felt more than anxiety over the ever increasing scope given the 14th Amendment in cutting down the Constitutional Rights of the States Justice Oliver Wendall Holmes Jr., 1930

The Right of Self-Defense

The Right of Self-Defense is the 1st Law of Nature. All living things are given by God the instincts of self-defense & self-preservation. They will do whatever they are capable of, to protect or preserve themselves, and in most cases, their family or loved ones. Most living things are also given by God a means of self-defense - some special thing they can do to ward off predators or other things that might harm them. Rarely do any living things use these special self-defense mechanisms indiscriminately - simply to do harm to some other form of life without being actually attacked or perceived as under attack.

It follows then, that God is not opposed to harm or death to any life form if it was caused by the act of self-preservation. In fact, this is an essential part of his overall plan. And, God is opposed to harm or death for any reason other than self-preservation.

God values ALL life. Importantly, only MAN is given the gift of Reason and a Moral Code, which he uses to decide when & where he will do good, or harm, to any life form, whether it be right or wrong. All other life forms abide by their God-given instincts at all times - they're not capable of not following them.

Only Despots take away Man's GOD-given Right to Self-Defense.

States Rights

The States have LOST most of their Sovereignty & most of their Powers.

When our guard was down we allowed TWO major Travesties:

1st: We DIDN'T increase the House-Reps in proportion to the population.

The founding Fathers discussed this at length. They decided, unanimously, that 50,000 souls was the most a Rep could keep in touch with - to feel *'the pulse of The-People'* & understand their needs (they preferred 25,000). Today it's 750,000, way too many!

WE don't know WHO they are or WHAT they're doing.

Our Reps became Totally UNACCOUNTABLE. The Political Parties LOVE IT - they do everything they can to ensure this continues.

We-The-People lost CONTROL of the House.

2nd: We allowed the 17th Amendment.

The State Legislatures originally chose our Senators.

They had "tight Control" over them - the moment they were not

acting for their State's 'good', they REPLACED them!

We were Deceived into thinking that 'Popular Vote' was our Right. It took 125 years until we forgot WHY!

The Founding Fathers knew each State Legislature would "jealously guard" their State's Rights - they would constantly monitor & control their "Emissaries" to the Senate.

Under the new plan, the Senators were far away and unreachable - they answered to NO-ONE!

We-The-People lost CONTROL of the Senate.

We let the Demagogues & Deceivers "talk us into" CHANGING" the Constitution - Two of the BEST Checks & Balances crafted by the Founding Fathers are now GONE!

In both cases, they took away POWER from the States, the power to maintain States Rights as well as the Sovereignty of The States & The-People. The Federal Govt. now has ALL the POWER -

States are basically HELPLESS against it.

Now, all they do is fight over Monetary Favors from the Federal Govt. When they have to "approve" the President's appointments of Supreme Court Judges, they take HIS "Favors" and approve his HENCHMEN.

How can the States regain Sovereignty?

1st: Ratify the ORIGINAL 1st Amendment - Make every House-Rep answer to NO MORE than 50,000 people.

2nd: Repeat the 17th Amendment - Make each Senator directly answer to the Legislature of his State.

We should also consider:

3rd: TERM LIMITS on Senators & Reps. This will bring *Citizen Legislators*, not *Career Politicians* & reduce corruption.

4th: Congress thinks they're "*Special!*" Forbid them to make any law that does not apply equally to the citizens as to them.

Judiciary: Congress ALONE can STOP Judicial Abuses.

Once FORCED to CARE about the Rights, Liberties, Lives & Property of *The-People*, They'll stop it & choose FINE Judges!

Morals & Religion

The Founding Fathers believed they are Inseparable.

Each is the Foundation of the other.

Our moral values come from GOD - Not from men.

This doesn't mean Atheists cannot have values - they can. But, there is NOTHING there to hold them - without GOD they can just as easily embrace anything that suits their mood, or makes them feel good, on any given day.

There is no Final Judgement.

Interpreting the Constitution

ORIGINAL INTENT is the ONLY way to properly, and LEGALLY, interpret Laws and documents of all types - particularly our Founding Documents. Over time some words change in meaning so it is very important to understand the Meaning of Words as used at the time of our Founding - Original Intent is what counts.

INTERPRETATION IN FAVOR OF THE-PEOPLE

"Any constitutional provision intended to confer a benefit should be liberally construed in favor in the clearly intended and expressly designated beneficiary.

Then a constitution should receive a literal interpretation in favor of the Citizen, is especially true, with respect to those

provisions which were designed to safeguard the liberty and security of the Citizen in regard to person and property."
16Am Jur2d:16Am Jur2d., Sec97; Bary v.US-273US 128]

Unfortunately, there are Demagogues that take advantage of changes in word meanings for their personal benefit. When The People FORGET the original meanings it is easy to mislead them.

[A LIE repeated often enough becomes the TRUTH!](#)

Nullification & Interposition

Unconstitutional overreach is epidemic and it appears the whole of govt. is largely ignoring the Constitution.. Nullification is when a State, or States, decides a Federal Law or Power is Unconstitutional and therefore Null & Void. Interposition is bringing attention to it but not actually Voiding it. Virtually all issues, now or in the past, that led to talk of Nullification were caused by Federal Laws or actions that ILLEGALLY reduced States Rights. How can we determine if a law, before or after being passed, is Constitutional? Can we know if a Power exercised by the Federal Govt. is even Constitutional? Congress has been left "on its own" here and the Supreme Court has been making ILLEGAL decisions for about 200 years!

The Constitution says the Supreme Court can ONLY make decisions in cases it TRIES, and each ruling applies ONLY to that particular case & the people within that case.

If it rules some power or law Unconstitutional, it has NO Power to Declare it unconstitutional to the Country or to other Courts.

[It has NO Power to MAKE Law - only to Judge it!](#)

This Power is called Judicial Review, and No such Power exists in the Constitution. The Supreme Court has ILLEGALLY given ITSELF the Power to JUDGE ITSELF!

[These actions leave The States & The People HELPLESS.](#)

If the Supreme Court ever ERRS in its decisions, they have NO Means of enforcing, their LEGAL, Constitutional Powers.

[In other words, the "Federal Fox" is, by "its own" LAW, the ONLY one that can guard the "States' Hen-Houses".](#)

Nullification of federal Laws was fully understood to be a Power of the Sovereign States when the Constitution was created.

Thomas Jefferson & James Madison argued both for Nullification & for Interposition (as well as John Calhoun, John Taylor and even Alexander Hamilton). They believed the States didn't have to accept unconstitutional laws, but at times varied over if the States had the right to ignore such Laws or secede from the Union.

Nobody can be trusted to Judge THEMSELVES, because of personal bias. However, in 1830 the Supreme Court, a part of the Federal Govt., DECLARED that the States did NOT have the Power of Nullification and it has REJECTED all cases of this nature since. This has caused never ending discussion & disagreement over whether the States have this Right or not.

The States CREATED the Federal Govt. as a SERVANT of the States, who are its MASTERS. The States did NOT give up their Sovereign Powers, but LOANED a few to the Federal Servant, **ONLY the Powers SPECIFICALLY ENUMERATED in the Constitution**, and they retained the Right to TAKE BACK those Powers if the Federal Govt. ever abuses them.

[If you send your servant grocery shopping, can the servant decide the shopping money is his, that you have NO Right to it or the food, and that he is no longer your servant?](#)

[How can the Servant tell its Master what to do?](#)

How can we provide an UNBIASED means of determining the Constitutionality of Federal Powers or Federal Laws?

The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments represent God's Government over Man!

GOD commands us for our own good to give up wrongs and not Rights! HIS system always results in Liberty & Freedom!

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are built on this foundation, which provides for punitive justice. It is not until one damages another person's property that he can be punished. The Marxist system leads to Bondage and GOD's system leads to LIBERTY!

Read very carefully:

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath to keep it Holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not murder.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.
10. Thou shalt not covet.

Directly above the Chief Justice's chair is a tablet signifying the TEN COMMANDMENTS. When the Speaker of the House in the U.S. Congress looks up, his eyes look into the face of Moses.

"The Bible is the Book upon which this Republic rests."

-- Andrew Jackson

"The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts of the Bible."

-- Noah Webster

The Communist Manifesto

The Communist Manifesto represents a misguided philosophy, which teaches the citizens to give up their RIGHTS for the sake of the "common good," but it always ends in a police state. This is called preventive justice. Control is the key concept.

1. **Abolition of private property.**
2. **Heavy progressive income tax.**
3. Abolition of all rights on inheritance.
4. **Confiscation of property of all emigrants and rebels.**
5. Central bank.
6. Government control of Communications & Transportation.
7. Government ownership of factories and agriculture.
8. Government control of labor.
9. Corporate farms, regional planning.
10. Government control of education.

Did you know that many of the planks of the "Communist Manifesto" are now represented by law in the U.S.?

No Socialist Government has EVER succeeded for long, and ALL brought great suffering to their People.

How is it possible for Americans to denounce communism and practice it simultaneously?

On the other hand, the teachings of GOD, and the Bible, have brought Happiness to all that believe. We DO have choices.

Democracy vs. Republic

Democracies:

People often associate democracy with freedom. Yet, the Founding Fathers did not want a Democracy. Why? Our Founding Fathers deemed this an important distinction to make and discussed the matter extensively. Every Democracy in all of history had died short & violent Deaths. In a Democracy, all people have equal power - the people themselves gather to vote on their laws - **Majority RULES.**

There are no Representatives and no Constitutions.
The laws change from day to day - depending on the whims of the leaders and each day's outlook of the "mob".
What is Legal Today is Illegal Tomorrow & vice-versa.
There are NO permanent Rights -

The easiest way to describe Democracy is:

Envision 5 wolves & 4 Sheep, VOTING on what's for dinner.
They **WILL** have Lamb Chops!

There are NO Protections for Minorities - NONE.

Oppression of the Minority by the Majority.

(Thought: Does a 5-4 Supreme Court Decision protect our Rights?)

The most well known of Democracies were in ancient Athens & Rome - constantly the victims of Tyrants, Demagogues, Wars & Revolts - they all failed - Horribly.

We Are NOT a "DEMOCRACY"!

(We're a Republic)

We hear this word used all the time by politicians, friends, even by some of our educators (Do they not know the difference?).

Founding Father, Elbridge Gerry said:

"The evils we experience flow from the excess of democracy."

and Thomas Jefferson said

"democracy should never be practiced outside the town limits."

Our Founders were very wary of power, no matter who had it, and thus limited it as much as possible -- this is why we have such a unique system of checks and balances.

Republics:

A State in which supreme power is held by The-People and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch.

In the decades before the American Revolution (1776), the intellectual and political leaders of the colonies studied history intently, looking for models of good government. They especially followed the development of republican ideas in England. Pocock *"The colonial intellectual and political leaders in the 1760s and 1770s closely read history to compare governments and their effectiveness of rule. The Revolutionists were especially concerned with the history of liberty in England and were primarily influenced by the 'country party' (which opposed the Court Party that held power)."*

Republicanism: a civic and patriot ideal in which the personality was founded in property, perfected in citizenship but perpetually threatened by corruption; government figuring paradoxically as the principal source of corruption and operating through such means as patronage, faction, standing armies (opposed to the ideal of the militia); established churches (opposed to the Puritan

and Deist modes of American religion); and the promotion of a monied interest – though the formulation of this last concept was slowed by the keen desire for readily available paper credit common in colonies of settlement.

American Republicanism was centered on limiting corruption and greed. Virtue was of utmost importance for citizens and representatives. A virtuous citizen was one who ignored monetary compensation and made a commitment to resist and eradicate corruption. The Republic was sacred, so, it was necessary to serve the state in a truly representative way, ignoring self-interest & individual will. Republicanism required the service of those who were willing to give up their own interests for a common good.

"The preservation of liberty rested on the ability of the people to maintain effective checks on wielders of power and hence in the last analysis rested on the vigilance and moral stamina of the people...." -- Bernard Bailyn

Virtuous citizens needed to be strong defenders of liberty and challenge the corruption and greed in government. This duty became a foundation for the American Revolution.

NATURAL & INALIENABLE RIGHTS!

Natural Rights are those Rights such as LIFE (from conception), LIBERTY, PROPERTY & the PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS e.g. Freedom of Religion, Speech, Learning, Travel, Self-Defense, etc.

Natural Rights are GOD-given, from the moment of conception.

No Person or Government has the right to take them away.

Hence laws and statutes, which violate NATURAL RIGHTS, may have the color of law, but, are not law - impostors!

The U.S. Constitution was written to protect these NATURAL RIGHTS from being tampered with by legislators. *

Further, our forefathers wisely knew that the Constitution would be worthless to restrain govt. legislators unless it was clearly understood that *The-People* had the right to compel the government to keep within the Constitutional limits.

* Lysander Spooner wrote as follows:

"Government is established for the protection of the weak against the strong. This is the principal, if not the sole motive, for the establishment of all legitimate government. When a government becomes oppressive, it is only the weaker party that loses their liberties. The stronger party, in all governments is free by virtue of their superior strength. They never oppress themselves. Legislation is the work of the stronger party; and if in addition to the sole power of legislation, they have the sole power of determining what legislation shall be enforced, they have ALL power in their hands, and the weaker party are the subjects of an absolute government (Tyranny). Unless the weaker party has a veto, they have no power whatever - No Liberties. The trial by jury is the only institution that gives the weaker party any veto upon the power of the stronger. Consequently, it is the only institution that gives them any effective voice in the government, or any guaranty against oppression.

Give up Rights for the "Common Good"?

Where people fear government you have Tyranny; where government fears the people, you have Liberty.
--

Politicians, bureaucrats and especially judges would have you believe that too much freedom will result in chaos. Therefore, we should gladly give up some of our RIGHTS for the good of the community. In other words, people acting in the name of the government, say we need more Laws and more Judges to enforce these laws—even if we have to give up some RIGHTS in the process. They believe the more laws we have, the more control, thus a better society. This theory may sound good on paper, and apparently many of our leaders think this way, as evidenced by the thousands of new laws that are added to the books each year.

But, no matter how cleverly this Marxist argument is made, the fact is:

when you give up a RIGHT, you lose a “FREE CHOICE”!

This adds another control.

Control's real name is BONDAGE!

The logical conclusion would be, if giving up some RIGHTS produces a better society, then by giving up all RIGHTS we could produce a perfect society.

Chain everybody to a tree, for lack of TRUST?

This may prevent crime, but it would destroy PRIVACY, which is the heartbeat of FREEDOM! It would also destroy TRUST which is the foundation for DIGNITY.

**Rather than giving up RIGHTS,
we should be giving up Wrongs!**

More laws do not make less criminals!

William Pitt of the British House of Commons once proclaimed,
*Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human liberty;
it is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves.*

Constitutional ABUSES

JEFFERSON'S WARNS of the Judiciary!

In 1789 Thomas Jefferson warned: The Judiciary, if given too much power, might ruin our Republic & destroy our Rights

“The new Constitution has secured these [individual rights] in the Executive and Legislative departments: but not in the Judiciary. It should have established trials by the people themselves, that is to say, by jury. The Judiciary of is the subtle corps of sappers and miners constantly working under ground to undermine the foundations of our confederated fabric.” (1820)

“The Federal Judiciary; an irresponsible body (for impeachment is scarcely a scarecrow), working like gravity by night and by day, gaining a little to-day and a little tomorrow, and advancing its noiseless step like a thief, over the field of jurisdiction, until all shall be usurped from the States, and the government of all be consolidated into one. When all government, in little as in great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the center of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided of one government on another and will become as venal and oppressive as the government from which we separated.” (1821)

“The opinion which gives to the judges the right to decide what laws are constitutional or not, not only for themselves in their own sphere of action, but for the legislative and executive also in their spheres, would make the judiciary a despotic branch.

“Judges should be withdrawn from the bench whose erroneous biases are leading us to dissolution. It may, indeed injure them in fame or fortune; but it saves the Republic”

Abuses by the SUPREME COURT **Judicial Review is Unconstitutional**

Judicial Review is the power of a court to decide whether a law or decision by the government is constitutional.

The Supreme Court GAVE ITSELF THIS POWER
in the Court case Marbury v. Madison.

There is NO PLACE in the Constitution that grants the Supreme Court such a Power.

The Supreme Court can only Try Cases - it cannot make Law.

In most cases. It's ONLY empowered to take Appeals (Re-judge a ruling by a PRIOR court) and it can ONLY decide on the Specific CASE it is trying. Its ruling ONLY involves the parties actually involved in a specific case. The Constitution is clear; any power to review laws, to see if they're constitutional, belongs to the States & to The-People.

The Supreme Court itself is acting unconstitutionally when it exercises the power of 'Judicial Review.

It has NO Constitutional Power to go beyond this and NO Power to strike down any law as unconstitutional.

It can Rule a law is unconstitutional in any case it Tries but, what it "SAYS" is irrelevant to any other case.

There is NOTHING it can do to further enforce a Ruling of UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

Only the Congress can change, or define, the law
(see Art-III, Sect-2)

Binding Precedent is Unconstitutional

Binding Precedent makes the Court use Prior Decisions to decide a case. It is neither authorized nor required by the Constitution, and indeed may not be consistent with it even being the supreme law. It is entirely for the convenience of the court and "public policy", not Law.

The Supreme Court GAVE ITSELF THIS POWER

Judges in the eighteenth century subscribed to "natural law" theory (now-considered obsolete by some. By WHOSE decision is it obsolete - GOD's?), by which law was believed to have an existence independent of what individual judges said.

They saw themselves as merely declaring the law, which had always theoretically existed - not making it! Therefore, a judge could reject another judge's opinion as simply an incorrect statement of the law, like scientists often reject each other's conclusions as incorrect statements of the laws of science.

Judges now think it's too much work to review the Facts
that MAY have been reviewed by a PRIOR Judge & Jury
No Matter - that it might have been a BAD decision.

They now use the term "Settled Law" to take ALL Prior Rulings as the final word on anything into the future.

This is a TRAVESTY!

Most Supreme Court Rulings are NOT unanimous! In fact, most of them are close decisions. Should 9 persons, all of different beliefs, decide what our FUTURE is - FOREVER - on a 5-4 decision?

Where only ONE person made the difference?...

Based on controversial rulings in the past, that probably would have been different at any other time, depending on WHO happened to be on the Supreme Court that day? NO WAY!

Supreme Court decisions shouldn't be "Fixed FOREVER".

It should NOT be a matter of "CONVENIENCE" -
to skip over reviewing ALL the Facts!

Only the Congress can change, or define, the law.

Abuses by the CONGRESS

They can't seem to agree on anything - Except they keep passing Unconstitutional Laws. Have they ever read the Constitution? (Remember? 74% FLUNKED the civics exam!) Most don't Care about it...WHY? Probably because it looks like WE Don't Care!

Almost ALL of them are getting **Politically Powerful & VERY Rich** (far beyond what their salaries would provide) by catering to Special Interests & IGNORING *We-the-People*.

They have given THEMSELVES Special Privileges, such as legalizing "Insider Trading" on Govt Information. If you or I did that we'd go Straight to PRISON!

They've created Federal Agencies (most NOT constitutional) & Enabled them to make Regulations (LAWS not made by Congress!) that affect every part of our lives.

NOWHERE in the Constitution is Congress allowed to Delegate its Responsibilities!

(This principle is the "*NON-Delegation Doctrine*". However, the Supreme Court ruled that delegation is an "*implied power*", so long as it provides an "*Intelligible Principle*" to guide whoever receives this power and the Executive branch that must enforce it. **It is being IGNORED** - most Agencies are totally out of control and regulating us to into oblivion.)

Abuses by the EXECUTIVE

There is unending contention over whether the Commander in Chief can send troops into war without the approval and/or Declaration of War by Congress. They even created U.S. Code 50, which spells out how they have agreed - **it is largely IGNORED**.

Nowhere in the Constitution is there Anything Defined that even resembles an "Executive Order".

Mostly, this is a way for the President to BYPASS Congress if it doesn't do what HE wants - he **takes THEIR power** to MAKE Laws. Several Presidents have "flaunted" their use of Executive Orders when they failed to achieve a "*Legislative Objective*". Of course, the President can make decisions related to his Constitutionally delegated Powers, but he cannot make any that infringe on the Powers Delegated to Congress or the Judiciary branches.

REFORM PROPOSAL: *"Any Executive Order that infringes on the powers or duties of Congress or the Judicial Branch or requires expenditures of Federal Funds not specifically appropriated for the purpose of this Executive Order is Advisory only and has No Force or effect."*

In March 2012, Atty General Eric Holder claimed the President (Obama) had the Ultimate Authority to assassinate (MURDER) any U.S. Citizen he considers a threat.

What do you think of that?

Can the President MURDER any Citizen he wants?

It's WORSE than Unconstitutional

JUROR'S HANDBOOK

The purpose of this booklet is to revive, as Jefferson put it, "*The Ancient Principles*" - the Ten Commandments and the Common Law, which is, in simple terms, just plain common sense and has its roots in the Ten Commandments.

It is designed to bring to your attention the several ways our nation's Founders provided to ensure that YOU, rule this nation. (not the growing army of demagogues -politicians, judges, lawyers, and bureaucrats).

It focuses on the rule of Power you possess as a CITIZEN, a VOTER & a JUROR, how you got it, why you have it, and remind you of the basis on which you must decide not only the facts placed in evidence but also the validity or applicability of every law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or instruction given by any man seated as a judge or attorney when you serve as a JUROR.

It is the duty of jurors, sheriffs, bailiffs and justices to resist all infringements upon the rights of The-People without delay.

Thomas Jefferson said: "*Whenever people are well-informed they can be trusted with their own government.*" Clearly the government cannot be in charge of deciding for themselves whether or not they should indict themselves on criminal charges. *This is precisely why we have so much corruption in our government.*"

It is the duty of The-People to stand up as the faithful and wise stewards (Luke 12:42), and bring the servants who think themselves *master* back into subjection.

COMMON LAW IS COMMON SENSE

The question each jurist must ask themselves is: "Is there an injured party?" There is a Common Law principle which states that for there to be a crime, there must first be a victim (*corpus delicti*); the state cannot be the injured party. In the absence of a victim, there can be no crime. This the grand jurist must discover.

"The constitutions of most of our states assert that all power is inherent in The-People; that they may exercise it by themselves, in all cases to which they think themselves competent, (as in electing their functionaries executive and legislative, and deciding by a jury of themselves, both fact and law, in all judiciary cases in which any fact is involved) or they may ask by representatives, freely and equally chosen; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed; to freedom of person; freedom of religion; freedom of property; and freedom of the press."

(--**Thomas Jefferson**, to John Cartwright; June 5, 1824)

In 1776 we came out of BONDAGE with Understanding, Faith, and Courage. There are few ways out of bondage. Bloodshed and war often result, but our founding fathers found a better way.

Realizing that a Creator is always above and greater than that which He creates, they established a three vote system by which an informed citizenry can control those acting in the name of the government. To be a good master you must always remember the true "pecking order" or chain of command in this nation:

1. GOD created man, who was endowed with all the GOD-given

Natural Rights & Powers.

2. Man created Government, his SERVANT, to PROTECT his

RIGHTS & Powers: Life, Liberty, Property & the Pursuit of Happiness. He did NOT give up ANY of his powers - he loaned

them - ONLY as long as government does as Man wants & expects of his Servant.

3. Man created a Constitution that defines how his Government will work and exactly what Powers he loaned to it.

The base of power was to remain in "*We-The-People*" but unfortunately, it was largely lost to those leaders acting in the name of the government, - **Demagogues** - such as politicians, judges, bureaucrats, lawyers, etc. As a result, America began to function like a Democracy instead of a REPUBLIC.

A Democracy is dangerous

because it is a one-vote system,

**There are NO Protections for Minorities
where Majority Rules.**

Our Republic has a Constitution, which defines the Rights of EVERYBODY, weak or strong, rich or poor, and it has **ONLY the LIMITED Powers necessary** to carry out its work.

Our Republic has **three votes** to check tyranny - not just one.

**HOWEVER, most American citizens have
NOT been informed of their other two votes.**

The second & third votes are the most effective means by which the common people, only of OUR nation, have in controlling those appointed to serve us in government.

Our first vote is at the polls on election-day when we pick those who are to represent us in the seats of government. But what can be done if those elected officials just don't perform as promised or expected?

Our second vote comes when we serve on a Grand Jury. Before anyone can be brought to trial for a capital or infamous crime by those acting in the name of the government, permission must be obtained from "*The-People*" - those serving on the Grand Jury!

"A Grand Jury's purpose is to protect the public from an overzealous prosecutor."

The Minneapolis Star and Tribune March 27, 1987,

The Grand Jury is Separate from the Courts,

which do not preside over its functioning. It may compel the production of documents and compel sworn testimony of witnesses to appear before it. The Grand Jury does not decide innocence or guilt - only if there is sufficient evidence to show probable cause & a trial is warranted.

The Grand Jury was the most admired jewel of the Common Law. But rather than leave it as an entity of the Common Law, subject to the whim of judges, our Founders uniquely made it a part of the statutory law in the Constitution.

Not only that, but they made it indispensable to the protection of our Constitutional Liberties by giving it oversight of the check and balance powers of the other three branches.

It is an absolutely independent entity of government, in essence a 4th branch of Government, the other three branches are subservient to their inquisitorial power, both civil and criminal.

It is the "DUTY" of the Common Law Grand Jury to expose all fraud and corruption, whether it is in the political or judicial realm, and stop it!

The Authority of the Grand Jury is found only in the Bill-of-Rights, therefore **it comes from God - not government.**

Our third vote is the most powerful vote: this is when you are acting as a Jury Member during a courtroom trial. At this point, "the buck stops" with you! It is in this setting that

**each JUROR has MORE POWER than the President,
all of Congress, and all of the judges combined!**

Congress can legislate (make law), the President or some other bureaucrat can make an order or issue regulations, and judges may instruct or make a decision, but

No JUROR can ever be punished for voting “Not Guilty!”

Any juror can, with impunity, choose to disregard the instructions of any judge or attorney in rendering his vote.

**If only one JUROR should vote “Not Guilty”
for any reason, there is no conviction
and no punishment at the end of the trial.**

Thus, those acting in the name of government must come before the common man to get permission to enforce law.

YOU ARE ABOVE THE LAW!

As a JUROR in a trial setting, when it comes to your individual vote of innocent or guilty, **you are truly answerable only to GOD ALMIGHTY.** The First Amendment to the Constitution was born out of this great concept.

However, judges of today refuse to inform JURORS of their RIGHTS. The Minneapolis Star and Tribune Nov 30, 1984

“What Judges Don’t Tell Juries” stated:

“At the time of adoption of the Constitution, the jury’s role as a defense against political oppression was unquestioned in American jurisprudence. This nation survived until the 1850’s, when prosecutions under the Fugitive Slave Act were largely unsuccessful because juries refused to convict.”

“Then judges began to erode the institution of free juries, leading to the absurd compromise that is the current state of the law. While our courts uniformly state juries have the power to return a verdict of not guilty whatever the facts, They routinely tell jurors the opposite.”

“The courts do not allow the defendants or their counsel to inform the jurors of their true power. A lawyer saying this would face professional discipline & charges of contempt of court.”

“By what logic should juries have the power to acquit a defendant but no right to know about that power?”

The court decisions, that have suppressed the notion of jury nullification, cannot resolve this paradox.”

More than logic has suffered.

As originally conceived, juries were to be made a safety valve - a way to soften the rigid bureaucracy of the judicial system by introducing **“the common sense of the community”**. If they are to function effectively as the ‘*conscience of the community*’, jurors must be told that they have the Power and the Right to say NO to a prosecution in order to achieve a greater good. Not telling jurors this undermines one of our most important institutions.”

“Perhaps the community should educate itself.

Then citizens called for jury duty could teach the judges a needed lesson in civics.”

One JUROR can stop tyranny with a **“NOT GUILTY VOTE!”**
He can nullify bad law in any case, by **“HANGING THE JURY!”**

*“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything,
but I can do something. What I can do, I should do
and, with the help of God, I will do!”* -- Everett Hale

**The only power the judge has over
the JURY is their ignorance!**

"The jury has the right to judge both the law as well as the facts in controversy."

John Jay, 1st Chief Justice U.S. supreme Court, 1789

"The law itself is on trial quite as much as the cause which is to be decided."

Harlan F. Stone, 12th Chief Justice supreme Court, 1941

"The pages of history shine on instances of the jury's exercise of its prerogative to disregard instructions of the judge..."

U.S. vs. Dougherty, 473 F 2nd 1113, 1139. (1972)

*Supreme is not capitalized in the Constitution, however Behavior is.

ESSAY on the TRIAL by Jury

In the First JURY Trial before the supreme* Court, in 1794, the Charge to the Jury illustrated the TRUE POWER OF THE JURY:

"... it is presumed, that the juries are the best judges of facts; it is, on the other hand, presumed that the courts are the best judges of law. But still both objects are within our power of decision. You have a right to take upon yourselves to judge of both, and to determine the law as well as the fact in controversy." -

(State of Georgia vs. Brailsford, et al, 3 Dall. 1)

"The JURY has an unreviewable and irreversible power . . . to acquit in disregard of the instructions on the law given by the trial judge..." U.S. vs. Dougherty, 473 112nd 1113, 1139 (1972)

Hence, JURY disregard of the limited and generally conviction-oriented evidence presented for its consideration, and JURY disregard for what the trial judge wants them to believe is the controlling law in any particular case (sometimes referred to as "JURY lawlessness")* is not something to be scrupulously avoided, but rather encouraged.

*** Jury lawlessness means willingness to nullify bad law.**

The Right of the JURY to be TOLD of its Power

Almost every JURY in the land is falsely instructed by the judge when it is told it must accept as the law that which is given to them by the court, and that the JURY can decide only the facts of the case. This is to destroy the purpose of a Common Law Jury, and to permit the imposition of tyranny upon a people.

"There is nothing more terrifying than ignorance in action."

Goethe (engraved at the Naval War College)

"It is error alone which needs the support of government. truth can stand by itself."

-- Thomas Jefferson

The JURY'S options are by no means limited to the choices presented to it in the courtroom.

"The jury gets its understanding as to the arrangements in the legal system from more than one voice. There is the formal communication from the 'judge.' There is informal communication from the total culture—literature; current comment, conversation; and, of course, history and tradition."

(Dougherty cited above, at 1135)

LAWS, FACTS AND EVIDENCE!

Without the power to decide what facts, law and evidence are applicable, JURIES cannot be a protection to the accused. Thus, if government can manipulate and control both the law and the evidence, the issue of fact becomes virtually irrelevant. In reality,

true JUSTICE would be denied leaving us with a trial by government and not a trial by JURY!

HOW DOES TYRANNY BEGIN?

Unchecked power is the foundation of tyranny.

It is the JUROR'S duty to use the JURY ROOM as a vehicle to stem the tide of oppression and tyranny: To peacefully prevent bloodshed, the JURY is the primary vehicle for peaceful restoration of LIBERTY, POWER AND HONOR to "We-The-People!"

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Your vote of NOT Guilty must be respected by all members of the JURY— **it is the RIGHT & DUTY of a Juror to Never, Never, Never yield his or her sacred vote**—for you are not there as a fool, merely to agree with the majority, but as an officer of the court and a qualified judge in your own right. Regardless of the pressures or abuse that may be heaped on you by any other members of the JURY with whom you may in good conscience disagree, you can await the reading of the verdict secure in the knowledge you have voted your own conscience and convictions—and not those of someone else.

YOU ARE NOT A RUBBER STAMP!

By what logic do we send our youth to battle tyranny on foreign soil, while we refuse to do so in our courts?

"If we love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude better than the animating contest of freedom, go home from us in peace. We ask not your counsels or your arms. Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May your chains set lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that you were our countrymen." Samuel Adams

Let's not forget what Lysander Spooner said: *Unless the weaker party has a veto, they have no power whatever - No Liberties. The trial by jury is the only institution that gives the weaker party any veto upon the power of the stronger. Consequently, it is the only institution that gives them any effective voice in the government, or any guaranty against oppression.*

GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH!

Young Christian attorney Patrick Henry saw why a JURY of PEERS is so vital to FREEDOM! It was March 1775 when he rode into the small town of Culpeper, Va. He was totally shocked - there, in the middle of the town square was a minister tied to a whipping post, his back laid bare and bloody with the bones of his ribs showing. He had been scourged like JESUS, with whips laced with metal. Patrick Henry is quoted as saying: "I turned to someone and asked what the man had done to deserve a beating such as this."

FOR NOT BUYING A LICENSE!

The reply was that the man was a minister, one of twelve who were locked in jail, they were being SCOURGED because they refused to buy a license. A license often becomes an arbitrary control by the government that makes a crime out of what ordinarily would not be a crime.

It Turns a Right into a Privilege!

Three days later they scourged him to death. This was the incident, which sparked Christian attorney *Patrick Henry* to write the famous words which later would become the rallying cry of the Revolution:

*“What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have?
Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the
price of chains and slavery?
Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may
take, but as for me,
GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH!”*

Later he made this part of his famous speech at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Williamsburg, Va.

JURY OF PEERS

Our forefathers felt that in order to have JUSTICE, it is obvious that a JURY of “PEERS” must be people who actually know the defendant. How else would they be able to judge motive and intent? “PEERS” of the defendant, like RIGHTS of the JURY have also been severely tarnished. Originally, it meant people of

*“equals in station and rank,” (Black’s 1910),
“free-holders of a neighborhood.” (Bouvier’s 1886),
“A companion; a fellow; an associate”. (Webster’s 1828).
“Those who reside near him, his neighbors, and who are
well acquainted with his character and situation in life.”
(Patrick Henry)*

Patrick Henry knew: originally the JURY of PEERS was designed as a protection for Neighbors against outside governmental oppression. Henry States the following,

*“Why do we love this trial by jury? Because it prevents that
hand of oppression from cutting you off. This gives me
comfort—that, as long as I have existence, my neighbors will
protect me.” (Elliot, 3:545, 546).*

Mr. Holmes, from Mass., argued strenuously that

*“for JUSTICE to prevail, the case must be heard in the vicinity
where the fact was committed by a Jury of Peers, who would,
from their local situation, have an opportunity to form a
judgement of the CHARACTER of the person charged with the
crime, and also to judge of the CREDIBILITY of the witnesses.”
(Elliot, 2:110).*

MR. WILSON, a signer of “The Declaration of Independence,” stressed the importance of the JURORS knowing personally both the defendant and the witnesses.

*“Where jurors can be acquainted with the characters of the
parties and the witnesses—where the whole cause can be
brought within their knowledge and view—I know no mode of
investigation equal to that by a trial by jury: they hear every
thing that is alleged; they not only hear the words, but they
see and mark the features of the countenance; they can judge
of weight due to such testimony; and moreover, it is a cheap
and expeditious manner of distributing justice. There is
another advantage annexed to the trial by jury; the jurors
may indeed return a mistaken or ill-founded verdict’ but their
errors cannot be systematical.” (Elliot, 2:5 16)*

FREEDOM for William Penn

*“Those people who are not governed by GOD
will be ruled by tyrants.” -- William Penn*

The year was 1670, Edward Bushnell and three fellow JURORS sitting on a trial of William Penn learned this lesson well. Penn was on trial for violation of a “*Conventicle Act.*”, an elaborate Act which made the Church of England the only legal church. They refused to bow to the court. They believed in the absolute power

of the JURY, though their eight companions cowered to the court. The four JURORS spent nine weeks of torture in prison, often without food and water, soaked with urine, smeared with feces, barely able to stand, yet though he commanded an international shipping enterprise, they would not give in to the judge.

Edward Bushnell said, ***“My liberty is not for sale”***
These “bumble heads” proved the power of The-People was stronger than any of government - they emerged total victors.

**The Act was struck down by their not guilty vote.
Freedom of Religion was established
and became part of the English Bill of Rights**

and later it became the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In addition, the Right to peaceful assembly was founded, Freedom of Speech, and also habeas corpus.

The first such writ of habeas corpus ever issued by the Court of Common Pleas was issued to free Edward Bushnell.

Later this trial gave birth to the concept of *Freedom-of-the Press*. Had Bushnell and his colleagues yielded to the guilty verdict sought by the judge and prosecutor, William Penn most likely would have been executed as he clearly broke the law.

**There would have been no Liberty Bell,
no Independence Hall, no city of Philadelphia,
and no State called Pennsylvania,**

for young William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, and leader of the Quakers, was on trial for his life. His alleged crime was preaching and teaching a different view of the Bible than that of the Church of England. This appears innocent today, but then, one could be executed for such actions. He believed in freedom of religion, freedom of speech and the right to peaceful assembly.

He had broken to government’s law, but he had injured no one. The four heroic JURORS knew that only when actual injury to someone’s person or property take place is there a real crime.

No law is broken when no injury can be shown.

There can be no loss or ending of rights unless actual damage is proven. Many imposter laws were repealed as a result of this.

The trial made such an impact that every colony but one established the jury as The First Liberty to Maintain all other Liberties. It was felt that the liberties of people could never be wholly lost as long as the jury remained strong and independent, and that unjust laws and statutes could not stand when confronted by conscientious JURORS.

JURORS today face an avalanche of imposter laws.

JURORS not only still have the power and the RIGHT, but also the DUTY, to nullify bad laws by voting ***“not guilty.”***

At first glance it appears almost unfair, the power JURORS have over government, but absolutely necessary when considering the historical track record of oppression that governments have wielded over private citizens.

LAW OF THE LAND?

The general misconception is that any statute passed by legislators bearing the appearance of law constitutes the law of the land. The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land, and any statute, to be valid, must be in agreement.

**It is impossible for a law, which violates
the Constitution to be valid.**

This is succinctly stated as follows:

"All laws which are repugnant to the Constitution are null and void."

Marbury vs. Madison, 5 US (2 Cranch) 137, 174, 176, (1803)

"An unconstitutional act is not law; it confers no rights; it imposes no duties; affords no protection; it creates no office; it is in legal contemplation, as inoperative as though it had never been passed."

Norton vs. Shelby County 118 US 425 p. 442

"unconstitutionality dates from the time of its enactment, not merely from the date of the decision so branding it. No one is bound to obey an unconstitutional law and no courts are bound to enforce it."

16Am Jur 2nd, Sec 177 late 2d, Sec 256

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

You—as a juror—armed merely with the knowledge of what a COMMON LAW JURY really is and what your common law rights, powers and duties really are, can do more to re-establish **"Liberty and Justice for All"** in this State and ultimately throughout all of the United States than all our Senators and Representatives put together. HOW? Even without the concurrence of any of your fellow jurors in a criminal trial, you, with your single vote of **"NOT GUILTY"** can nullify every rule or "law" that is not in accordance with the principles of natural, God-given, Common, or Constitutional Law. It is precisely this power of nullification that makes the trial by JURY one of our most important RIGHTS. It can protect and preserve all of the citizen's other RIGHTS.

--- End Juror's Handbook ---

Our Federal Government has ONLY 18 Powers?

Did you know that?

(They're ALL defined in Article-I, Section-8)

(There are only 10, as 10-17 define the Military and 18 relates to all)**All**

Federal Powers ONLY concern the Nation.

All others - for our Daily Lives - went to the States.

Many are PROHIBITED to the Federal Govt, & many to the States
(listed in Article-I, Sections 9 & 10).

Most importantly, all powers not specifically listed in the Constitution do **NOT** belong to the Federal Government - ONLY to The States and The-People (*see 10th Amendment*).

Remember the 10th Amendment - at all times:

The Tenth Amendment states: that the Federal Government has:

"ONLY those powers delegated to it by the United States Constitution. All remaining powers are reserved for the States or The-People."

In other words - If the power is NOT listed here, the Federal Government Does NOT have it!

The **STATES are The Boss** - NOT the Federal Government
The Servant cannot command his Creator.

The 18 Enumerated Powers of the U.S. Federal Government

If a power isn't listed here, the Federal Govt. doesn't have it!

1. **The Congress shall have Power** to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
2. To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;
3. To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
4. To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;
5. To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;
6. To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;
7. To establish Post Offices and post Roads;
8. To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;
9. To constitute Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;
(Military Related:)
10. To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;
11. To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;
12. To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;
13. To provide and maintain a Navy;
14. To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval forces;
15. To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;
16. To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
17. To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; – And
(the “covers-all-the-above” power)
18. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.

The Declaration of Independence

In Congress, July 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which, the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to Which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is the ir duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the meantime exposed to all the

dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws of Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the Lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms:

Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked...

by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of

attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity.

We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare,

That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be **Free and Independent States**;

that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that **as Free and Independent States**, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

SIGNERS OF THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION

According to the Authenticated List printed by Order of Congress of January 18, 1877

New Hampshire

Matthew Thornton

James Wilson

Massachusetts-Bay

Robert Treat Paine

Delaware

Thomas M:Kean

Maryland

Thomas Stone

Rhode Island & Providence

Connecticut

William Williams

Virginia

Thomas Jefferson

Francis Lightfoot Lee

New York

Francis Lewis

North Carolina

John Penn

New Jersey

Francis Hopkins

South Carolina

Thomas Lynch, Jr.

Pennsylvania

Benjamin Franklin

Georgia

Geo. Walton

John Hancock.

Josiah Bartlett

James Smith

George Ross

Samuel Adams

Elbridge Gerry

Caesar Rodney

Samuel Chase

Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Stephen Hopkins

Roger Sherman

Oliver Wolcott

George Wythe

Benjamin Harrison

Carter Braxton

William Floyd

Lewis Morris

William Hooper

Richard Stockton

John Hart

Edward Rutledge

Arthur Middleton

Robert Morris

John Morton

Button Gwinnett

William Whipple

George Taylor

John Adams

George Read

William Paca

William Ellery

Samuel Huntington

Richard Henry Lee

Thomas Nelson, Jr.

Philip Livingston

Joseph Hewes

John Witherspoon

Abraham Clark

Thomas Heyward, Jr.

Benjamin Rush

George Clymer

Lyman Hall

Constitution of the United States

In these pages, *Comments like this: [italics in brackets]*
Superseded text like this: (underlined bold italics)

[Preamble] We the People* of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

[Originally, the Constitution had no title but simply began "We the People..."]*

[The Preamble to the Constitution has no force in law; instead, it establishes the "Why" of the Constitution. "General Welfare" means the government is to do good - for ALL the people (it does not mean 'free goodies' for anybody.). The Founders regarded Liberty as a gift of GOD and formed this government to ensure that the Blessings (the good) of Liberty fall upon us and all future generations,]

Article I *[The Legislative Branch]*

Section 1 *[The Legislature]*

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

[Congress is The House and the Senate. The President & the Judicial have ZERO legislative powers - they cannot make law.]

Section 2 *[The House]*

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature. No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

(Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned

[In proportion to the count of people (the census). Among other things, it does NOT allow for some states to pay more than others!] among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.)

[The previous sentence in parentheses was modified by the 14th Amendment, section 2.]

The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. *[This means Congress can change the rules determining how many Reps required.]*

The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse *[choose]* three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five and Georgia three. When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies. The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3 *[The Senate]*

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State,

(chosen by the Legislature thereof.) [The preceding words in parentheses superseded by 17th Amendment, section 1.]

for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year;

(and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.)

[The preceding words in parentheses were superseded by the 17th Amendment, section 2.]

No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present. Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section 4 *[Elections, Meetings]*

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Place of Chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall

(be on the first Monday in December,)

[The preceding words in parentheses were superseded by the 20th Amendment, section 2.]

unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section 5 *[Membership, Rules, Journals, Adjournment]*

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum *[enough members present]* to do Business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

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Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behavior, and, with the Concurrence of two-thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section 6 *[Compensation]*

(The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States.)

[The preceding words in parentheses were modified by the 27th Amendment. The founding Fathers expected our representatives to be patriots – to leave their “jobs” for a short time to serve their country, at all times to keep the good of The-People and their Country as the foremost consideration in their “service”, to receive little pay for this service and to return for to their normal lives & jobs afterward. The 27th Amendment said, in essence, that they couldn’t vote themselves a raise. But “career politicians” (most of them) found they could vote themselves a raise effective the next House election – a maximum of 2 years later.]

They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States which shall have been created, or the Emoluments *[pay or salary]* whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Section 7 *[Revenue Bills, Legislative Process, Veto]*

All bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved

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by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall

have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section 8 - *[Powers of Congress]*

[These are the only 18 Powers given the Federal Govt]

[1] The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties *[usually an import tax],*

Imposts *[a tax of similar compulsory payment]*

and Excises *[a tax on goods produced within the country]*

, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare *[In the 18th Century General Welfare simply meant "for the good of ALL - all the Citizens or the entire country It has come to mean, in the 21st Century, "Free Goodies from government", which this is NOT.]*

of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States [uniform means the same in all parts of the country]

[Uniform taxes means everybody, in all the States, pays the same rate - no State can have a different tax rate.];

[2] To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

[3] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes; *[In 1787 Regulate meant "make regular" or consistent - it did not mean "control, prohibit, abolish or only allow". The Federal Govt. has expanded this definition of "commerce" far beyond its original meaning, to mean anything that involves money, or even "bartering or value" between individual citizens, with the end result that they "regulate" (CONTROL) commerce in every way - with an endless array of "Regulations" (usually not even done by Congress-the Constitution does NOT give Congress the Power to delegate any of its Responsibilities - , but by Federal Agencies that are almost all unconstitutional.)]*

[4] To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States; *[Naturalization & Bankruptcy laws are Federal ONLY - made by Congress.]*

[5] To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

[There is NO provision for the "paper money" - only Gold or Silver - or for States making any money, and Congress will determine the value of our money as well as that of any foreign money.]

[6] To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

[7] To establish Post Offices and Post Roads; *[These were roads used for delivery of postage/mail, usually where it was too*

expensive for private people, local or state governments. Other types of roads certainly existed, which were of no concern to the Federal Government. Are Federal Highways & the Interstate Highway System 'post-roads'? If not, they are ILLEGAL.]

[8] To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

[patents, copyrights & trademarks]

[9] To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court
[Congress can establish courts below the Supreme Court - these are the Federal Courts.];

[10] To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, *[these crimes specifically do NOT lie in our CIVILIAN court system – it is given EXCLUSIVELY to the CONGRESS]*

and Offenses against **the Law of Nations**; *[Note that this is capitalized - because it refers to a Book by Vattel-1758, which was used heavily & depended upon by the Founders.] Vattel defines International Law; and "Natural-Born-Citizen" as a person whose Father was already a Citizen when the child was born.]*

[11] To declare War, *[11 to 17 pertain to the military.]*

[The President cannot declare war. - ONLY Congress]

grant Letters of Marque *[issued by a nation to a privateer or mercenary to act on the behalf of that nation for the purpose of retaliating against another nation for some wrong, such as a border incursion or seizure]*

and Reprisal, *[An act taken by a nation, short of war, to gain redress for an action taken against that nation. For example, seizing a ship in retaliation for a seized ship]*

and **make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water**; *[captures during any form of war do not pertain to the States or local governments - Congress alone will decide how to deal with them - NOT the Civilian Courts.]*

[12] To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than **two Years**;

[The Founders were not in favor of standing armies as they were too easy to be used to threaten Freedom or individual Rights. Yet, they knew they were necessary at least during war. So, they allowed for them to be raised but, raising the money had to be an action of Congress that could not finance them for more than 2 years at a time.]

[13] To provide and maintain a Navy; *[They did want a Permanent Navy. NOTE; that it limits money for Armies to 2 years but allows us to MAINTAIN a Navy – without limitation]*

[14] To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

[The Federal Government, through Congress, not the States, would make the rules for the Army & the Navy (and, of course, their subdivisions like the Marines & Air Force)..]

[15] To provide for calling forth the Militia *[We have Dishonored/IGNORED this part of our Constitution. The Militia, composed of "The-People", was to be our permanent means of Domestic Defense, to be used as required to enforce our Federal Laws and for domestic "uprisings" like out-of-control Protests. A militia is a group made up of people, usually citizens, who are organized to provide defense services or paramilitary forces to a cause or region, whenever they are called up to be employed in the Service of the United States, apparently by the Commander in Chief - the President - for Federal employment - and by the States for State use. Apparently this also says that Congress will provide for "calling forth the Militia", so that IMPLIES that Congress will*

make the rules on how the States can call it up for their use.) [A militia is distinct from a regular army. It can serve to supplement the armed forces, or may oppose them, such as resistance to a coup in the military.]

to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions; *[Now, some demagogues are saying the Coast Guard & National Guard are the Militia? And, if either is, it can ONLY be used for the named purposes of the*

Militia. There is NO mention of any "civilian" action except that which applies to "the Laws of the Union" – Many believe this means Federal Law ONLY as it says "UNION" not States or anything else.] (If it is NOT the Militia, then all of this is IRRELEVANT as we do NOT at this time even have a Militia, which in itself appears to be UNCONSTITUTIONAL.)

[16] To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

[The Founders wanted to be sure that the States controlled how & where the Militia was trained and that ALL Officers were furnished by the States so States Rights & concerns were always in the forefront. Clearly, ONLY the States can appoint the Officers & have the "authority" to train the Militia, with Federal money & according to the rules of "discipline" made by Congress. And, the Federal government can ONLY "govern" that Militia that it actually "employed in the Service of the United States".]

[17] To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States,

[This refers to what became Washington D.C. when the States ceded this land to the Federal Government.]

and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be *[Congress has exclusive authority for any legislation concerning this land.],*

for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; *[It is only authorized to build military installations, dockyards and any other buildings it may need for the Federal Government. Washington D.C. is owned & controlled by Congress. The Federal Government is given authority here to purchase land & buildings from any State that consents, but ONLY for Military Installations, Dockyards & other (Federal) needful buildings. It is NOT authorized to own ANY other type of land, certainly not unused land, National Parks or mineral rights. All other land & buildings belongs EXCLUSIVELY to the States. It has ILLEGALLY STOLEN almost all of its land from the States.]*

[18] And To make all Laws which shall be necessary *[for D.C.]*

and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

[This means EXACTLY what it says: The Federal Government is authorized ONLY to make whatever laws are necessary to carry out the Powers it is given here in the Constitution - it can NOT assume ANY Powers not specifically enumerated.]

Section 9 *[Limits on Congress]*

[1] The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight

hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

[This means, among other things, that Congress could NOT prohibit the importation of SLAVES before 1808. This implies that Congress could prohibit IMPORTATION of slaves after that. And, that a tax up to \$10 per person could be imposed at any time.]

[2] The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it. [A writ of habeas corpus (which literally means to "produce the body") is a court order to a person or agency holding someone in custody (such as a warden) to deliver the imprisoned individual to the court issuing the order and to show a valid reason for that person's detention. You can't be held indefinitely without being charged for a crime.]

[3] No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

[Part of English common law. Under English law, a criminal condemned for a serious crime, whether treason or felony (but not misdemeanor, which referred to less serious crimes), could be declared "attainted", meaning that his civil rights were nullified: he could no longer own property or pass property to his family by will or testament. No legislative act could single out one or more persons and impose punishment on them or the loss of all civil rights, without benefit of trial. No Ex Post facto means you can't be prosecuted for something that wasn't against the law when you did it. It prohibits any law that makes illegal an act that was legal when committed, increases the penalties for an infraction after it has been committed, or changes the rules of evidence to make conviction easier. This also means, among other things; that you cannot TAX someone for money made BEFORE the law was passed! But, ever since Marbury v. Madison, the Supreme Court has decided (it GAVE ITSELF this power!) that it is the ultimate authority on what is or isn't constitutional. They have even ILLEGALLY ruled that tax law is EXEMPT from that section of the Constitution (NOTHING is exempt from ANY part of the Constitution), so they can make Ex Post Facto (retroactive) tax laws with IMPUNITY.]

[4] (No capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.) [Section in parentheses clarified by the 16th Amendment.] [The Income Tax was illegal because it had NOTHING to do with the census, so they passed the 16th Amendment to allow it.] (Social Security & Obamacare are ILLEGAL for the same reasons, so they have BROKEN the Supreme Law and IGNORED them.)

[5] No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

[This ensures that NO Export Taxes can be levied by the Federal Govt or any State to ensure that no State can disadvantage any other and to ensure that the price of any exports from the U.S. are not inflated by taxes, which would be a disadvantage for the U.S. in international markets. All ports must be treated equally so no State will have any advantage over any other. Any ships bound between States cannot be charged any Domestic taxes for the same reasons.]

[6] No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all

public Money shall be published from time to time.

[Any money paid out by the treasury must be legally approved & provided for by Law - no payments can be arbitrary or done verbally - and an accounting of all money spent by the government must be published.]

[7] No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument *[the product (as salary or fees) of an employment - MONEY or anything of value]*, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince or foreign State. *[No Federal Official or employee can accept anything of any conceivable value from any foreign power unless Congress specifically approves it.]*

Section 10 *[Limits on the States]*

[1] No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility. *[Most of these are covered in Art-1, Sections-8 & 9. States are not allowed to make any Treaties or other 'arrangements' with any other entity - State or Government. Nor can a State grant a letter of marque and reprisal (which was a govt. license authorizing a person, known as a privateer, to attack and capture enemy vessels and bring them before admiralty courts for condemnation and sale). They cannot issue any paper money (Bills of Credit designed to circulate as money) nor decree that anything other than Gold & Silver be used to pay ANY debts (in their State). They can't pass any Bill of Attainder, which is a Legislative Action declaring someone, or group, guilty without a Trial. They can't pass any "retroactive" laws (see Art-1, Sec-9 above); or any law that interferes with any contract, by anybody or anything, as long as it is Legal; or grant any Titles.]*

[2] No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul *[control]* of the Congress. *[No interstate taxes, except where there are Inspection laws (like interstate movement of fruits), but these laws must be approved by Congress and the State's PROFIT from such Inspection Laws cannot be kept - it must be turned over to the U.S. Govt.]*

[3] No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay. *[The States are not permitted to charge any Ship Taxes, keep State Troops or warships in times of peace, nor can they enter into ANY form of agreement with any other State or foreign government, or engage in War unless actually invaded or about to be invaded.]*

Article II *[The Executive Branch]*

Section 1 *[The President]*

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four

Years, and, together with the Vice-President chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof [of that STATE] may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector [it would be a "conflict of interest"].

(The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not lie an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But, in the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from chusing each State having one Vote; a quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two-thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice-President.)

[This clause 3, in parentheses above, was superseded by the 12th Amendment.]

[Each elector was originally intended to be a "free agent", voted for by The-People, as an informed, respectable, independent citizen from each state, that weighed the merits of competing presidential candidates that voted according to what he felt was best for the country & The-People – NOT necessarily according to the popular vote (as they feared that most voters would likely vote according to their individual, personal needs, desires or "factions")

It provided for the original fashion by which the President and Vice President were to be chosen by the electors. Unlike the present system, each elector voted for two people for President, rather than one vote for President and one vote for Vice President. To become President, a candidate had to have more votes than any other and must have received votes from a majority of the electors. After the choosing of the President, the person with the next most electoral votes would become the Vice President. If no one received a majority of the votes, the decision would be made by the House of Representatives. The design of the Electoral College was based upon several assumptions and anticipations of the Framers of the Constitution: 1:Each state would employ the district system of allocating electors. 2:Each presidential elector would exercise independent judgment when voting. 3:Candidates would not pair together on the same ticket with assumed placements toward each office of President and Vice President.

4. *The system as designed would rarely produce a winner, thus sending the election to Congress. The present Electoral College is a peculiar American institution. When Americans vote for President and Vice-President, they do not actually vote for those people, but for electors. These electors meet in their state capitals after the general election and cast votes for President and votes for Vice-President. On these facts, scholars have described the intended role of the Electoral College as simply a body that would nominate candidates from which the Congress would then select a President and Vice President. Though electors are pledged to the candidates of their party, there is nothing in the Constitution requiring them to so vote - and, in fact, every so often an elector defects from his party's candidates, though the effect on the election is usually nil. Some states have laws against electors casting such "faithless" votes, but it is unclear if anyone could actually be prosecuted under such laws, since the electors are protected by the Constitution (though not in so many words). Today few know the intentions and "fears" of our Founding Fathers but, we certainly know the framers were not in favor of political parties and had made no mention of them in the Constitution. And, at that time there were several parties, none of which had much power. Many believe that if the Founders had known that a 2-Party system would ever evolve they would have either "outlawed" these parties or severely modified the "Electoral" procedure. George Washington was strongly against Political parties: Partisanship would lead to the "ruins of public liberty," our first president said. He was more right than he knew. In his Farewell Address he wrote: "The common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it," We know that Electors were originally intended by the Framers to be free agents. The question has been, since 1796, with the clear advent of Political Parties on the national stage - just how free can the Electors really be in the midst of Partisan Politics? This question has become even more acute since the pervasiveness of the General Ticket ("Winner-Take-All") system of allocating Electors State-by-State since the 1830's.]*

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No person except a **natural born Citizen**, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

(In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.)

[This clause in parentheses has been modified by the 20th and 25th Amendments.]

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section 2 *[Civilian Power over Military, Cabinet, Pardon Power, Appointments]*

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States *[but not if in service of its State]*; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to Grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

[He can only grant Reprieves or Pardons for Federal Crimes but, cannot for Impeachment.]

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate *[this means a majority]*, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments. *[The President has the power to make ALL other "inferior" appointments, if they are established by law (by Congress) and not otherwise covered in the Constitution. However, Congress may give appointment power to the Courts or the Heads of Federal Departments as they see fit.]*

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section 3 *[State of the Union, Convening Congress]*

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper *[it does NOT say he can "reconvene" them as he thinks proper]*; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States *[This means non-elected OFFICERS /Officials].*

Section 4 *[Disqualification]*

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article III *[The Judicial Branch]*

Section 1 *[Judicial powers]*

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may

from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behavior, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

[There is only ONE Supreme Court and Congress establishes all lower Federal Courts. Judges terms in office are permanent unless they 'misbehave' and are removed by impeachment. Their salary is determined by Congress and cannot be reduced while in office.]

Section 2 *[Trial by Jury, Original Jurisdiction, Jury Trials]*

(The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority; to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls; to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction; to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party; to Controversies between two or more States; between a State and Citizens of another State; between Citizens of different States; between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.)

[This section in parentheses is modified by the 11th Amendment.]

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

[Cases concerning Ambassadors etc. can ONLY be tried in the supreme Court. All other cases can ONLY be Appeals - from some Court's prior ruling. Congress ALONE makes the "rules".]

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury *[obviously, we have minor cases that are NOT by Jury, such as traffic tickets. The 7th Amendment says we have the right to a jury trial if over \$20.]*

; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

Section 3 *[Treason]*

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood *[Part of ancient English penalty for treason - usually part of a Bill of Attainder, which normally sentenced the accused to death. Corruption of blood would forbid the accused's family from inheriting his property.]*

or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

[The Founders/authors were concerned about the definition of treason. They thought that it was used too broadly to define any dissenting opinions. Their new country would be much stricter about what treason was, and how one would be accused and convicted of it. Treason, then, is defined only as going to war against the USA, or aiding the enemies of the USA. To be

convicted, the accused must confess to treason, or be accused by two direct witnesses of the treason. The authors were also concerned that the person convicted of treason be the only one to suffer for the treasonous acts. The Constitution explicitly states that there may be no "corruption of blood," or that the children and relatives of the traitor not be considered traitorous simply by relation; the "no forfeiture" clause basically means that once the traitor dies, "payment" for the crime ends.

Judicial Review is Unconstitutional

It is within the power of a court to decide whether a law or decision by the government is constitutional BUT, ONLY in a particular case that it is trying. It cannot extend its decision to any other case or to become the law. There is NO PLACE in the Constitution that grants the Supreme Court such a Power. The Supreme Court GAVE ITSELF THIS POWER in the Supreme Court case Marbury v. Madison. The Supreme Court can only TRY CASES - it CANNOT make Law. Only Congress can change, or define, the law.

Binding Precedent is Unconstitutional.

This means the Court must use PRIOR Decisions to decide a case. The Constitution neither authorized nor requires it, and indeed it may be inconsistent with being the supreme law. It is entirely prudential, for convenience of the court and "public policy", not law. Judges in the eighteenth century subscribed to "natural law" theories - law was believed to have an existence independent of what individual judges said. They saw themselves as merely declaring the law, which had always theoretically existed, not making it. Therefore, a judge could reject another judge's opinion as simply an incorrect statement of the law, like scientists often reject each other's conclusions as incorrect statements of the laws of science. Now they use the term "Settled Law" to take ALL Prior Rulings as the final word on anything in the future. This is a TRAVESTY. Most Supreme Court Rulings are NOT unanimous! In fact, most are decided by thin margins. Can 9 persons, all of different beliefs, decide what our FUTURE is FOREVER- on a 5-4 decision?.. Where only ONE person makes the difference?...Based on controversial rulings in the past, that probably would have been different at an earlier or later time? These decisions should NOT be unalterable FOREVER. It should NOT be a matter of CONVENIENCE - it's EASIER to rely on Prior Rulings than to review ALL the Facts! Only Congress can change, or define, the law.]

Article IV [The States]

Section 1 - Each State to Honor all others

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof. [This means the Federal Government will accept as legal any official acts by any State, however, Congress may make general laws to prescribe/define the manner of how they are done, proved or effected.]

Section 2 - State citizens, Extradition

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having

Jurisdiction of the Crime.

[The States may extradite people from another State - the State where he is will deliver/allow him to be extradited.]

(No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, But shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.) *[This clause in parentheses is superseded by the 13th Amendment.]*

Section 3 - New States

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new States shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State;

[This means the separation of West Virginia from Virginia needed consent of the Virginia Legislature as well as Congress]

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nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States;

[This means the Congress can make all laws regarding Puerto Rico & other territories]

and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State. *[Nothing in the Constitution can be used to reduce or nullify any claims of the U.S. or any State.]*

Section 4 - Republican government

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, *[A government having a chief of state who is not a monarch in which supreme power is held by the citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officers and representatives governing according to law;]*

and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

[The federal Government shall protect each State against Invasion and against domestic violence if the State Legislature requests it. This originally pertained to the Militia but, as we now have NO Militia, it is being used to deploy federal Troops to assist States with natural disasters and only twice, due to the Posse Comitatus Act, the National Guard was deployed for Civil Unrest (the Coast Guard is also possible).]

Article V *[Making Amendment]*

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as part this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress;

[We have two methods of proposing an Amendment:

1st: 2/3 of the both Houses propose an Amendment, OR:

2nd: 2/3 of the State Legislatures call for a "Constitutional Convention" for proposing Amendments. It is not clear how this Convention will be formed. It is assumed by many that each State's Legislature will determine how many Delegates it will send and that each States Delegations will have one combined (equal) vote (as it was done in the original Constitutional Convention)

Then, Congress will propose one of two methods for Ratification, which are:

1st: The Legislatures of ¾ of the States ratify it. OR:

2nd: Conventions in ¾ of the States ratify. Again it is not clear how these Conventions will be formed but, many assume each State will determine who & how many Delegates will attend their Convention and a majority will be required to ratify in each State, but, it appears that each State could require more than a majority to ratify if they so desired.

The most important thing here - the GREATEST DANGER is that once a Constitutional Convention is called it can do whatever it wants! How can we be assured that they will do EXACTLY what "We-The-People" want? If the Delegates are given specific instructions by their States, once assembled they can IGNORE those instructions and propose whatever Amendments they like. It is most likely that the States will choose and send some of their existing members as Delegates. And, if State Ratifying Conventions are called for by Congress, the same thing will happen there.

The BIG PROBLEM is that it is unlikely that any State will find a majority of TRULY honorable Delegates that will vote for what is best for our Country, rather than what is best for their Personal Benefit & Political Power. And, there is nearly a ZERO chance that ¾ of the States will find enough of such honorable Delegates.

In all likelihood, a Constitutional Convention would be the END of FREEDOM for the U.S. and would lead to really bad things, like a Dictatorship, another Revolution and/or Anarchy.

Think about it! If our present Elected Officials and the TENS of THOUSANDS of bureaucrats are not following the Constitution NOW, what could possibly make them follow it in the future?

Who in Congress would YOU trust with YOUR future, your CHILDREN's future and our COUNTRY's future? You probably can't think of 5 - but we will need AT LEAST 2/3 of 535, or an absolute minimum of 356 Honest Statesmen to come out better than when we go in! Dream On - It will NEVER Happen!]

Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; [Irrelevant after 1808 - this related to ending the importation of slaves, which ended in 1808.]

and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate. [No State, without its consent, can lose its privilege of equal voting in the Senate.]

NOTE: The President is not a part of the amendment process, he has no veto over any amendment. It makes no difference if the President says that he does or does not like any proposed amendment - At least, not technically, because the President, as presumed head of a political party, has some power over those in the same party - or, if not power, at least some influence.]

Article VI [Debts, Supremacy, Oaths]

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

[The Federal Government assumed responsibility for any debts

made by the Country or by the States before the Constitution was ratified.]

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

[The Constitution is the Supreme Law - no State Laws or Constitutions or anything else supersedes it. All Federal & State Judges and Legislature members are bound to support it.]

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

[However, nobody can be denied any Office or public Trust, State or Federal, on account of their religion.]

Article VII *[Ratification Documents]*

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

[It takes 9 of the 13 original States to ratify this Constitution and it shall apply to those States that ratify it. Eventually, all the States Ratified & all entered the Union, but only after they insisted on a Bill of Rights, which they got (with 12 Articles, 10 of which were accepted & Ratified) as the first 10 Amendments.]

Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth. In Witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names.

Geo. Washington - President and deputy from Virginia

New Hampshire - John Langdon, Nicholas Gilman

Massachusetts - Nathaniel Gorham, Rufus King

Connecticut - Wm Saml Johnson, Roger Sherman

New York - Alexander Hamilton

New Jersey - Wil Livingston, David Brearley, Wm Paterson, Jona. Dayton

Pennsylvania - B Franklin, Thomas Mifflin, Robt Morris, Geo. Clymer, Thos FitzSimons,

Jared Ingersoll, James Wilson, Gouv Morris

Delaware - Geo. Read, Gunning Bedford jun, John Dickinson, Richard Bassett,

Jacob. Broom

Maryland - James McHenry, Dan of St Tho Jenifer, Danl Carroll

Virginia - John Blair, James Madison Jr.

North Carolina - Wm Blount, Richd Dobbs Spaight, Hu Williamson

South Carolina - J. Rutledge, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Charles Pinckney,

Pierce Butler

Georgia - William Few, Abr Baldwin Attest: William Jackson, Secretary

RESOLVED,

That the preceding Constitution be laid before the United States in Congress assembled, and that it is the opinion of this Convention, that it should afterwards be submitted to a Convention of Delegates, chosen in each State by the People thereof, under the Recommendation of its legislature, for their Assent and Ratification; and that each Convention assenting to, and ratifying the Same, should give Notice thereof to the United States in Congress assembled.

RESOLVED,

That it is the Opinion of this Convention, that as soon as the Conventions of nine States shall have ratified this Constitution, the United States in Congress assembled should fix a Day on which Electors should be appointed by the States which shall have ratified the same, and a Day on which the Electors should assemble to vote for the President, and the Time and Place for commencing Proceedings under this Constitution. That after such Publication the Electors should be appointed, and the Senators and Representatives elected: That the Electors should meet on the Day fixed for the Election of the President, and should transmit their Votes certified, signed, sealed and directed, as the Constitution requires, to the Secretary of the United States in Congress assembled, that the Senators and Representatives should convene at the Time and Place assigned; that the Senators should appoint a President of the Senate, for the sole Purpose of receiving, opening and counting the Votes for President; and, that after he shall be chosen, the Congress, together with the President, should, without Delay, proceed to execute this Constitution.

By the Unanimous Order of the Convention,

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President,

WILLIAM JACKSON, Secretary

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New-Hampshire John Langdon, Nicholas Gilman

Massachusetts Nathaniel Gorham, Rufus King

Connecticut William Samuel Johnson, Roger Sherman

New-York Alexander Hamilton

New-Jersey William Livingston, David Brearley, William Paterson, Jonathan Dayton,

Pennsylvania Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Mifflin, Robert Morris, George Clymer,

Thomas Fitzsimons, Jared Ingersoll, James Wilson, Gouverneur Morris,

Delaware George Read, Gunning Bedford, Junior, John Dickinson, Richard Bassett,

Jacob Broom.

Maryland James M'Henry, Daniel of St. Tho. Jenifer, Daniel Carrol

Virginia John Blair, James Madison, Junior

North-Carolina William Blount, Richard Dobbs Spaight, Hugh Williamson.

South-Carolina John Rutledge, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Charles Pinckney,

Pierce Butler.

Georgia William Few, Abraham Baldwin.

attest, William Jackson, Secretary

*[The first 10 Amendments to the Constitution
Are collectively known as]*

The BILL OF RIGHTS

Effective December 15, 1791

[Each Amendment to the Constitution came about for a reason — to overrule a Supreme Court decision, to force a societal change, or to revise the details of the Constitution. These pages will give an overview of how each Amendment came to be.]

Articles in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

[PREAMBLE]

The conventions of a number of the States having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire,, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers,, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government,

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will best insure the beneficent ends of its institution.

Amendment 1 *[Freedom of Religion, Press, Expression. 1791.]*

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;

[Congress is PROHIBITED from passing any law that Establishes a National Religion, favors or gives preference to one religion over another. And, Congress CANNOT prohibit the free exercise of any religion. One of the most heated debates of our time involves the issue of prayer and schools. Do students have the right to pray in class? Or would a prayer interfere with another student's rights "not" to pray? There have been Supreme Court rulings against such prayer but this is still very much in contention as most people believe prayer is one of the most important ways they can "FREELY exercise their religion". However, this does NOT mean that ANY religious practice is OK! Why? Nothing is OK if it infringes on our Individual Rights. .Separation of Church & State, here in the USA, ONLY means: There can be no 'Official Religion' IN our government, no way that any religion can CONTROL any part of our government. The Founding Fathers were well aware that National religions ALWAYS turned into TYRANNY...Either you believed the National Religion or you paid the price - often DEATH! Our early history shows many groups coming to America for that very reason - to escape Religious Persecution. Also, This does NOT mean that our Government cannot be involved in, encourage or even assist in religion. In fact, many of our Founding Documents, like "The Northwest Ordinance of 1787", specifically state that: Government should ENCOURAGE Religion & Education. . Some of the first colonists of the nation for which the Constitution was written had been seeking to escape religious persecution. The constitutions of several of the states prohibited public support of religion (though some did explicitly support or demand adherence to Christianity). Above all, the many varying sects of Christianity in America required that to be fair to all, there could be preference to none. It would have been disgraceful for anyone to wish to leave the United States because of religious persecution. So the authors decided it best to keep the government out of religion. This is not to say that the United States was not or is not a religious nation. Religion plays a big role in the everyday life of Americans, then and now. But what the authors were striving for is tolerance... something contemporary Americans are lacking.]

or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press;

[Congress cannot pass any laws that stop you from speaking your mind or opinion, even if some people find it offensive. Usually, offensive speech is related to some sort of problem and NO problem can be solved if it cannot be explained. And, the Truth should ALWAYS be able to be spoken - even if somebody doesn't like it. You can say what you think, provided you do not intentionally hurt someone else's reputation by making false accusations. Neither may they make irresponsible statements deliberately harmful to others, such as yelling, "Fire!" in a crowded theater when there is no fire. However, slander is another thing. If you say something that really adversely affects another's life - and it is NOT True, you can be sued civilly for Slander. Also, if you threaten someone's Life or say something that incites violence in someone else you could be liable. The First Amendment also gives you the right to disagree with what others say without fear of punishment by the government authorities. If you make an outrageous statement, such as, "The earth is flat," free speech will not keep people from making fun of you. Freedom of the press

enables us to keep informed about what goes on in government. Reporters and editors can criticize the government without the risk of punishment, provided they do not deliberately tell lies. Nothing has to be submitted for govt. inspection beforehand - censorship violates this Amendment.

The ability to speak your mind is a right that Americans take for granted. Imagine being too frightened by the possible consequences of speaking out to actually do so. Your opinion would not matter - even your vote would be corrupted. As for the press, the authors regarded a free press as almost a fourth branch of government, constantly keeping tabs on the government's activities and actions. Though today's tabloid papers and television might give one pause, this kind of trash is a small price to pay to ensure that any news organization can rest assured that it can report freely on the activities of the government. Many other organizations in other nations have to worry about toeing the state's line or be shut down. How objective do you think a reporter can be when his life could be ended because of a critical story?)]

or the right of the people peaceably to assemble,

[Freedom of Assembly. makes it possible for Americans to join clubs or political parties, even if those groups represent unpopular views, and groups have the right to take collective action to pursue the interests of its members.. They can join groups to protest government interventions, imports, toxic wastes, or whatever. But, violence is another thing - it is NOT "peaceably".]

and to petition the Government for a redress

[remedy or set right] of grievances. [You can tell the government what you think is needed or not needed and complain to the government without fear of penalty when things don't go the way they should. Not only can you have an opinion about your government, the government must listen to you (though it need not heed you - but that's what elections are for.

Many believe the First Amendment is the single most important part of the Constitution. It protects some of the most basic human rights and reflects a view of the dangerous places government might tread. Initially, it applied only to laws enacted by Congress, and many of its provisions were interpreted more narrowly than today. Several delegates to the convention refused to sign the newly drafted constitution because it did not include a bill of rights. Bills of Rights were typically parts of the constitutions of the several States of the day (and today), placed there to ensure that certain rights were recognized by the government. Most of the delegates did not feel such a bill was necessary, and other may have been on the fence but were weary from the months of negotiations. The lack of a bill of rights was one of the main arguments that Anti-Federalists used to try to convince the public to reject the Constitution. But the need for change was all too evident, and it was not rejected. However, some of the States sent suggestions for amendments to the Constitution to add an enumeration of certain rights. The ratification messages of the States included many varying suggestions, which the very first Congress took under consideration in its very first session.

Representative James Madison, who was so instrumental in the creation of the Constitution in the first place, drafted a Bill of Rights. He introduced the bill into the House, which debated it at length and approved 17 articles of amendment. The Senate took up the bill and reduced the number to 12, by combining some and rejecting others. The House accepted the Senate's changes, voting on September 24th and 25th, 1789; twelve articles of amendment were sent to the states for ratification.

The first two articles were not accepted by enough states, but the last ten were. We know them today as Amendments 1 through 10. The original second article was eventually ratified as the 27th Amendment. The Original First Article defined the maximum amount of people for each member of the House of Representatives. It was never fully ratified - 9 out of the 13 did until they discovered a 'typo error' - and it has laid dormant for well over 200 years (Ratifications do not expire). The Founders were afraid that over 50,000 was too many - that no 'Rep' could 'feel the pulse' of the people or truly understand their needs beyond that number. Unfortunately, Congress simply decided to throw out that number around 1920 and it has now grown 15 times over to about 750,000 (from 50,000). There is a movement now, headed by TacticalCivics.com to get the required 27 more States to Ratify this Original First Amendment, which is called the "Bring Congress Home Act". Those that understand this believe that it would enormously improve the accountability of House-Rep's and how well they actually represent their constituencies.]

Amendment 2 *[Right to Bear Arms. 1791.]*

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed. *[This guarantees individual states the right to maintain a well regulated militia," and citizens the right to "keep and bear arms." Ultimately, this may be the only Amendment that guarantees all the others! It enables our GOD-given Right to Self-defense. Because criminals often used unlicensed weapons to hurt others, some people have urged the national government to control the sale of guns. But, most people argue that licensing & gun control is a violation of the Second Amendment. The concept of this right existed within English common law since 1689]*

Amendment 3 *[Quartering of Soldiers. 1791.]*

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

[In peacetime, citizens will never have to keep soldiers in their homes without consenting. Before the Revolution, the British forced Americans to provide lodging and food for their troops. The colonists bitterly resented this intrusion on their privacy as well as the cost of feeding hungry soldiers.]

Amendment 4 *[Search and Seizure. 1791.]*

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

[This concern the rights of people suspected of crime. It protects citizens from improper searches of their bodies, possessions, or homes. It requires that a detailed warrant be issued by a judge listing what can be searched. There has to be probable cause, a good reason for the search. Example, if police knew someone in a group was selling drugs they can't search the home of every person in the group, not even 1 or 2 without a court order. Search, seizure & arrest must be limited in scope to specific information supplied the issuing court,]

Amendment 5 *[Trial & Punishment, Compensation for Takings 1791.]*

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; *[Protects the rights of anyone accused of a crime. It assumes that everyone is innocent until proven guilty. In some countries, exactly the opposite is true. Suspects must prove that they are innocent. Established that defendants must be informed of their rights (Miranda), to an attorney & against self-incrimination prior to interrogation by police. If accused of a crime for where punishment could be death, this requires a Grand Jury look at the charges before that person can be brought trial. A grand jury is a group of citizens who decide if there is enough evidence to try a person. It is intended to prevent people from being falsely accused of a serious crime. Today, grand juries consider most serious criminal charges.]*

nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb;

[A person cannot be tried twice for the same crime.]

nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself,

[This section has received the most publicity - the guarantee against "self-incrimination." This means people cannot be forced to testify against themselves. Law enforcement officials must produce the evidence necessary to convict a person of a crime. The accused person cannot be made to provide it. In earlier times, people were tortured until they confessed to crimes - sometimes that they may not even have committed. If an accused person tells a lie in court he risks punishment for "perjury," or lying under oath. Instead, he may refuse to testify on the grounds that they might incriminate themselves. The guarantee against self-incrimination makes sure that unfair pressure cannot be used to make a person confess. The right to remain silent also protects innocent people against ruthless accusations.]

nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law;

[In other words, the government must follow certain legal procedures before deciding on a penalty. It can't jail a person because it suspects that the person committed a crime. It must prove the accusation by following certain rules and methods. However, "due process of law" is a rather vague and general term. As times have changed, so has its meaning. As an example: How might the presence or absence of cameras affect a defendant's right to due process?]

nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation. *[This requires the government to pay citizens when it takes over their property for a public use. The government's right to take this property is called "Eminent Domain." Suppose the state wanted to build a highway which would run right through your home. It would have to pay you a reasonable price for the property (what someone else, that wanted to buy your home, would pay - the market Value). The government could force you to move, but at least it would have to provide you with the money to relocate. However, note that it says "PUBLIC use" - most people believe it means what it says! It does NOT allow Eminent Domain for NON-Public use, and, this includes, for example, taking land for a Land Developer, whether or not he is going to use it for use by the Public.]*

Amendment 6 *[Right to Speedy Trial, Confront Witnesses. 1791.]*

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

[This guarantees a speedy, public trial by an impartial jury (not biased against you) in the area where the crime was committed (by your peers - people like you, that know the 'neighborhood'). The defendant must be informed of the charges, able to question the accusers & force favorable witnesses to testify. The accused has a right to a lawyer (paid by the Govt if he can't afford one.). What if you were falsely accused of something and had no idea who was accusing you. How could you question your accuser, defend yourself or prove your innocence? Your reputation could be hurt if you had to wait a long time.]

Amendment 7 *[Trial by Jury in Civil Cases. 1791.]*

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law. *[Guarantees you will receive a jury trial in Federal (not State) civil cases (as opposed to criminal cases) involving property worth more than \$20, a minimum of six members for a jury in a civil trials, & the judge CANNOT overturn a jury's findings of fact. Today, however, people rarely bring such cases to Federal Courts unless a much larger sum of money is involved.]*

Amendment 8 *[Cruel and Unusual Punishment. 1791.]*

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

[Protects people from having to pay unreasonably high (still open to interpretation) fines or "bail" (money given to pledge that a person accused of a crime can be released & will appear for trial). Finally, it outlaws cruel and unusual punishment. This requirement, as well as the Fifth Amendment's guarantee against self-incrimination, protects citizens from the use of torture. Some people argue that the death penalty is a form of cruel and unusual punishment.]

Amendment 9 *[Construction of Constitution. 1791.]*

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people. *[Concerns liberties of citizens & rights of states.. It says the Constitution & the Bill of Rights do not define all the fundamental, GOD-given, Natural Rights that ALL people have. Such rights exist whether or not they are defined.]*

Amendment 10 *[Powers of the States and People. 1791.]*

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. *[Any power not SPECIFICALLY mentioned in the Constitution belongs EXCLUSIVELY to the States or The-People. This amendment is also known as the States' Rights Amendment. It is a reaffirmation of the nature of our Federal System of Freedom - that the states and the people have powers that are set aside and not listed item by item, called*

"reserved powers." These contrast with "express powers," which are specifically defined in the Constitution.

(1) This expresses the principle of **Federalism**, which strictly supports the entire plan of the original U.S. Constitution:

(2) The Federal Government was **CREATED** by The States to **SERVE** specific needs of all the States and The-People,

(3) The Powers of the Federal Government are Strictly **LIMITED** by the Constitution (to serve **ONLY** those needs) ,

(4) All **OTHER** Powers **REMAIN** to the States and The-People.] (In this way the Constitution allows for growth and change. With the invention of radio, television, automobiles, jet planes, computers, and satellites, what rights might the States and The-People now claim? How else can the Constitution be kept up to date? Congress has sometimes thwarted the Tenth Amendment by invoking the "Commerce Clause" in Article One or by threatening to withhold funding for a federal program from non-cooperative States.)

-----End of Bill of Rights-----

Amendment 11 [Judicial Limits. 1795.]

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

[This came about as a direct result of the Supreme Court decision in Chisholm v Georgia (2 U.S. 419) in 1793 (see the Events Page for details). Congress felt that the Supreme Court had over stepped its bounds, and feared it would do so again unless prohibited by the Constitution. The Chisholm case was decided in 1793, just five years after the adoption of the Constitution. The Amendment was approved by Congress on March 4, 1794, and ratified on February 7, 1795 (340 days). The Amendment limits the jurisdiction of the federal courts to automatically hear cases brought against a state by the citizens of another state. Later interpretations have expanded this to include citizens of the state being sued, as well. In Hollingsworth v Virginia (3 USC 378 [1798]), the passage and ratification of the 11th was challenged for two reasons. First because the President did not sign the amendment bill, and second because the amendment presented a situation where people had some legal relief before ratification that dried up after, creating an ex post facto situation. The Supreme Court rejected both challenges, setting some important precedent for future amendments. This Amendment was designed to prevent a citizen of one state from bringing suit against another state in federal court, modifying Article 3, Section 2, Clause 1. Over time, it has also been construed to prevent citizens of a state from bringing their own state to federal court. 11th Amendment law was in a resurgence in the 1990's as several Supreme Court cases made their mark.]

Amendment 12 [Choosing the President, Vice-President. 1804.]

The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves

[this means the President & Vice-Pres can NOT be from the same State!]

; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and

certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate;

The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted;

The person having the greatest Number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum or this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President.

The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

The Constitution was written before political parties were a player in American politics. When John Adams was chosen for President in the 1796 election, the second-place candidate, Thomas Jefferson, became Vice President — but Adams was a Federalist and Jefferson was a Democratic-Republican. The two clashed several times during Adams's presidency, though Adams's conflicts with Hamilton, a Federalist, too, probably caused Adams more concern. In the election of 1800, the flaws of the original system became more than apparent. Jefferson and Aaron Burr both got 73 votes in the Electoral College, forcing the House of Representatives to choose. The problem? Both Jefferson and Burr were candidates of the same party, with Burr chosen to be the Vice President; some states preferred Burr, and neither was able to get the required majority until the stalemate was ultimately broken.

The result was the 12th Amendment, approved in Congress on December 9, 1803, and ratified on June 15, 1804 (189 days), in time for the new process to be in place for the 1804 election. With the 12th, Electors are directed to vote for a President and for a Vice President rather than for two choices for President.]

Amendment 13 *[Slavery Abolished.1865.]*

1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

[Slavery was an institution in America in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Southern states, with their agricultural economies, relied on the slavery system to ensure the cash crops (cotton,

hemp, rice, indigo, and tobacco, primarily) were tended and cultivated. Slaves were not unknown in the North, but abolition in the North was completed by the 1830's. In 1808, the Congress prohibited the slave trade, not a year later than allowed in the Constitution. A series of compromises, laws, acts, and bills tried to keep the balance between the slave states and the non-slave states. South Carolina voted to secede from the United States as a result of Abraham Lincoln's election to the Presidency. Lincoln had, over time, voiced strong objections to slavery, and his incoming administration was viewed as a threat to the right of the states to keep their institutions, particularly that of slavery, the business of the states. More states seceded, eleven in all, forming the Confederate States of America. The secession movement led to the Civil War. In the waning days of the war, which ran from 1861 to 1865, the Congress approved an amendment to abolish slavery in all of the United States. Once the CSA was defeated, approval of the 13th Amendment was quick in the Northern states. By the end of 1865, eight of the eleven Confederate states had also ratified it. Proposed on January 31, 1865, it was ratified on December 6, 1865 (309 days). Eventually, all of the CSA states except Mississippi ratified the 13th after the war; Mississippi ratified the amendment in 1995.]

Amendment 14 *[Citizenship Rights. 1868.]*

1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim

for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

5. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

[The 14th was designed to ensure that all former slaves were granted automatic United States citizenship, and that they would have all the rights and privileges as any other citizen. This is one of the most used (and, perhaps, misused) parts of the Constitution. It came out of the Civil War. Basically, it says that all men 21 or older will be counted to determine representation in Congress, with a reduction in that count for anyone not allowed to vote; that no one in the Confederate government (or any future government of insurrection) may be members of the U.S. government (unless approved by a 2/3 vote); and that all debts incurred by the U.S. to fight the Confederacy are to be paid, but none of those incurred by the Confederacy would be. It also states that no State shall make any law abridging the rights of any of its citizens without due process of law. The first clause is the most important. Prior to the 14th, states were free to ignore the Bill of Rights; a series of Supreme Court rulings made it clear that the Bill was to apply to acts of the Federal Government only. With the establishment of the 14th, the Bill, or at least parts of it, is made to apply to state law, too. This clause has resulted in some good law, such as the Voting Rights Act. But States' Rights proponents are opposed to the Amendment in parts and/or as a whole. The Supreme Court, at first, did not allow the Due Process clause to be used to expand individual liberties (1870's and 1880's). Eventually, though, it was used to protect more than just former slaves. In the 1900's and 1930's, it extended the clause to the protection of workers against state regulations, allowing national standards for work conditions and minimum wage to be set. The due process clause has been used to extend most Bill of Rights Amendments to some extent, and is the basis for the "Right to Privacy" extended in the infamous Roe v Wade decision. The Supreme Court, in the end, is the legal arbiter of Constitutional interpretation. We feel that as long as those rights don't impinge on another individual's rights, the rights of the individual must outweigh those of the state, and the Due Process clause of the 14th Amendment guarantees that.

Note: some have tried to argue that because of the representation reduction clause and the implications on States' Rights, that the 14th Amendment is unconstitutional. However, since it is an amendment to the Constitution, it cannot possibly be unconstitutional. Some argue that it was passed in an unconstitutional way, which is an interesting and plausible argument. The fact remains, however, that it is a part of our Constitution, and deserves as much respect as any other part, unless it is at some point repealed.

Currently, Title 8 of the U.S. Code fills in those gaps. Section 1401 defines the following as people who are "citizens of the United States at birth:"

- *Anyone born inside the United States **
- *Any Indian or Eskimo born in the United States, provided being a citizen of the U.S. does not impair the person's status as a citizen of the tribe*
- *Any one born outside the United States, both of whose parents are citizens of the U.S., as long as one parent has lived in the U.S.*
- *Any one born outside the United States, if one parent is a citizen and lived in the U.S. for at least one year and the other parent is a U.S. national.*

- Any one born in a U.S. possession, if one parent is a citizen and lived in the U.S. for at least one year
- Any one found in the U.S. under the age of five, whose parentage cannot be determined, as long as proof of non-citizenship is not provided by age 21
- Any one born outside the United States, if one parent is an alien and as long as the other parent is a citizen of the U.S. who lived in the U.S. for at least five years (with military and diplomatic service included in this time)
- A final, historical condition: a person born before 5/24/1934 of an alien father and a U.S. citizen mother who has lived in the U.S.

* There is an exception in the law - the person must be "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States. This would exempt the child of a diplomat, or ANY foreigner, whether legally or illegally in this country, for example, from this provision as they are subject to the jurisdiction of their 'natural' country.

The ratification of the 13th Amendment was a major victory for the North, and it was hoped that with the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment, the effects of slavery in the United States would quickly diminish. The original plan to readmit States after acceptance of the 13th was supported by President Andrew Johnson, but the "Radical Republicans", as they became known, wanted more than just a return to normalcy. They wanted to keep the power they had attained during the war years. The South did not make it easy for Johnson, however, and the so-called Black Codes started to be passed in Southern states. Congressional inquiries into the Black Codes found them to be a new way of controlling ex-slaves, fraught with violence and cruelty. The ensuing Reconstruction Acts placed the former CSA states under military rule, and prohibited their congressmen's re-admittance to Congress until after several steps had been taken, including the approval of the 14th Amendment. The amendment passed Congress on June 13, 1866, and was ratified on July 9, 1868 (757 days).]

Amendment 15 [Race is No Bar to Vote. 1870.]

1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. [The last of the Reconstruction Amendments, the 15th Amendment was designed to close the last loophole in the establishment of civil rights for newly-freed black slaves. It ensured that a person's race, color, or prior history as a slave could not be used to bar that person from voting. Though a noble idea, it had little practical effect for quite some time, as the Southern states found myriad ways to intimidate blacks to keep them from voting. The Congress passed the amendment on February 26, 1869, and it was ratified on February 3, 1870 (342 days). Though ratification of the 15th Amendment was not a requirement for re-admittance to the Congress of the Confederate states, one of the provisions of the Reconstruction Acts required that the states include a provision in their new constitutions that included a near-copy of the text of the 15th. All of the CSA states except Tennessee, which was immune from the Reconstruction Acts, eventually ratified the 15th Amendment.]

Amendment 16 *[Status of Income Tax Clarified. 1913.]*

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

[In 1895, in the Supreme Court case of Pollock v Farmer's Loan and Trust (157 U.S. 429), the Court disallowed a federal tax on income from real property. The tax was designed to be an indirect tax, which would mean that states need not contribute portions of a whole relative to its census figures. The Court, however, ruled that the tax was a direct tax and subject to apportionment. This was the last in a series of conflicting court decisions dating back to the Civil War. Between 1895 and 1909, when the amendment was passed by Congress, the Court began to back down on its position, as it became clear not only to accountants but to everyone that the solvency of the nation was in jeopardy. In a series of cases, the definition of "direct tax" was modified, bent, twisted, and coaxed to allow more taxation efforts that approached an income tax. Finally, with the ratification of the 16th Amendment, any doubt was removed. The text of the Amendment makes it clear that though the categories of direct and indirect taxation still exist, any determination that income tax is a direct tax will be irrelevant, because taxes on incomes, from salary or from real estate, are explicitly to be treated as indirect. The Congress passed the Amendment on July 12, 1909, and it was ratified on February 3, 1913 (1,302 days). On April 13, 2000, the organization We the People Foundation for Constitutional Education, Inc. sent delegates to the U.S. capital to present well researched evidence that the 16th Amendment was not properly ratified.]

Amendment 17 *[Senators Elected by Popular Vote. 1913.]*

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures. When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

[One of the most common critiques of the Framers is that the government that they created was, in many ways, undemocratic. There is little doubt of this, and it is so by design. The Electoral College, by which we choose our President, is one example. The appointment of judges is another. And the selection of Senators not by the people but by the state legislatures, is yet another. The Senatorial selection system eventually became fraught with problems, with the selection system being corrupted by bribery and corruption. In several states, the selection of Senators was left up to the people in referenda, where the legislature approved the people's choice and sent him or her to the Senate. The 17th Amendment did away with the ambiguity with a simple premise — the Senators would be chosen by the people, just as Representatives are. Of course, since the candidates now had to cater to hundreds of thousands of people instead of just a few

hundred, other issues, such as campaign finances, were introduced. The 17th was not a panacea as it put the Representatives even farther away from the people, which opened up even more corruption and made them almost totally unaccountable. It was Ratified on April 8, 1913 (330 days).]

Amendment 18 *[Liquor Abolished. Ratified 1919. Repealed by Amendment 1933.]*

1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.
2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

[Consumption of alcohol was discouraged by law in many of the states over the first century of the United States under the Constitution. By 1855, 13 of the 31 states had temperance, or alcohol prohibition, laws. The Civil War distracted the public from the temperance movement, but the proliferation of saloons after the Civil War, and the trappings of the saloons (like gambling, prostitution, and public drunkenness) led to the so-called "Women's War" in 1873. Over time, the movement became more organized and the Anti-Saloon League was established in 1893. In the election of 1915, ASL-sponsored candidates swept the elections for Congress, and on December 18, 1917, Congress passed the 18th Amendment. It quickly was adopted by the states, ratified in just over a year, on January 16, 1919 (394 days).]

Amendment 19 *[Women's Suffrage. 1920.]*

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. *[Though the Constitution originally made no mention of a woman's right to vote, it was implied by society — women simply did not have the right. The 14th Amendment actually made things worse, by codifying the suffrage right to men only, when its Second Clause punished the denial of suffrage to men (though this still did not officially deny women the right). As early as 1848, groups met to discuss how to further women's rights, and the franchise, it was decided, was the best place to start. But America was not ready, and the suffragists, as they were called, were branded as immoral. Famous women's rights leaders Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton tried to make a stand after the Civil War, to have the language include women, though the issue was too volatile by most, and passage was thought to be in grave jeopardy if such a provision were included. Anthony later used the 15th Amendment as rationale for voting in a New York election, and though she was tried and fined for voting, the ordeal proved an impetus for the eventual guarantee of voting rights for women. By 1918, about half the states had granted women full or partial voting rights; the stature gained by women involved in the temperance movement also helped push the suffragist movement along. The support of women to the war effort convinced many more, even President Woodrow Wilson, who had been staunchly*

opposed to a federal suffrage amendment. [Passed by Congress June 4, 1919, ratified on August 18, 1920 (441 days).]

Amendment 20 *[Presidential, Congressional Terms. 1933.]*

1. The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

2. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

3. If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

4. The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

5. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

6. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

[The term "Lame Duck" originates in the mid 1700's. In the United States today, the President is elected in November, and inaugurated in January of the following year — the time in between if the President was not reelected, is the lame duck period. Early in the political history of the nation, this period was a small issue, with slow methods of transportation and the nature of the politician in the 18th century, the lame duck period was almost a necessity. But from the start, the lame duck period was a problem, most famously illustrated in the Marbury v Madison case, where lame-duck appointments by out-going President John Adams set the stage for a landmark Supreme Court decision with his series of late-night, last-minute appointments. The 20th Amendment cleared up this problem to a degree, by shortening the lame duck period. The Congress is sworn in on January 3 following the election, and the President is sworn in on January 20, rather than the March 4th prescribed in the 12th Amendment. The Amendment closes a gap in Presidential power by specifying what happens if a President-elect dies before he is sworn in. The 20th Amendment was passed by Congress on March 2, 1932, and was ratified by the States on January 23, 1933 (327 days).]

Amendment 21 *[Amendment 18 Repealed. 1933.]*

1. The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

2. The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

3. The article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

[It would be a disservice to say that the 18th Amendment was completely ineffective. It would also be a disservice to say that the 18th Amendment caused the lawlessness embodied by people like Al Capone. The 18th Amendment did reduce alcohol consumption in the United States, and it did not cause organized crime. In the Prohibition era, alcohol consumption (measured in gallons of ethanol consumed) dropped to an average of less than a gallon per person per year, down from two and a half gallons in 1915. And organized crime existed before Prohibition, and existed after it, too. That having been said, the Prohibition era did have a certain sense of lawlessness; the very fact that consumption was not eliminated is testimony to that; and the fact that organized crime manufactured and distributed the bulk of the illicit alcohol of the 1920's and early 1930's is evidence that gangsters were aided by Prohibition. A movement began to form to repeal the 18th Amendment. Prohibition of alcohol was seen as an affront to personal liberty, pushed on the nation by religious moralists. Congress passed the amendment on Feb 20, 1933 (288 days). It mandated, for the first time, that conventions of the states were to vote on the amendment, rather than the legislatures, feeling that conventions would be more apt to vote to ratify - and they did, quickly — the ratification process was complete on December 5, 1933. The 21st Amendment repealed the 18th, the first time an amendment had been repealed by another.]

Amendment 22 *[Presidential Term Limits. 1951.]*

1. No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President, when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

2. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

[Since the presidency of George Washington, only one thing could be said to be totally consistent — that no President had the job for more than two full terms. Washington had been asked to run for a third term in 1796, but he made it quite clear that he had no intention of doing so; that an orderly transition of power was needed to set the Constitution in stone. And so it was for almost 150 years.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was first elected President in 1932, and re-elected in 1936. When it came time for the Democrats to nominate a candidate for the Presidency in 1940, two things had happened. First, the Republicans had made great gains in

Congress in the 1938 elections. And Hitler happened. Europe was in the throes of a great war, with trouble in the Pacific, too. A change away from Roosevelt, who had led the nation through the Great Depression, did not seem wise. He was nominated for an unprecedented third term, and won. It was not a landslide victory, however, and it is debatable that FDR would have had a third term had it not been for the war. When 1944 rolled around, changing leaders in the middle of World War II, which the United States was now fully engaged in, also seemed unwise, and FDR ran for and was elected to, a fourth term. His life was nearly over, however, and his VP, Harry Truman, became President upon FDR's death less than 100 days after his inauguration. The Congress was determined, once the war ended, to ensure that Washington's self-imposed two-term limit become the law of the land. Excepting Truman from its provisions, the 22nd Amendment passed Congress on March 21, 1947. After Truman won a second term in 1948, it was ratified on February 27, 1951 (1,439 days). Truman could have run for a third term, but bowed out early..]

Amendment 23 *[Presidential Vote for District of Columbia. 1961.]*

1. The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct: A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

[The District of Columbia has been a unique city since its founding in 1800 as the seat of the new government. When first established, it was a town of 5000, and it was assumed that it would be the center of government, and not a population center. But by 1900, over a quarter of a million people lived within its bounds. Since it is a federal district, however, and not a state, the inhabitants not only had no real local government, they had no vote in the federal government either. By 1960, when 760,000 people lived in Washington, D.C., it seemed odd that people from a dozen states, with lower populations, had more voting rights than residents of the District. As citizens, they were required to pay taxes and to serve in the military, but a vote in the Presidential election was available only to the states.

It is important to note that the 23rd Amendment does not make Washington, D.C., a state; it just confers upon its citizens the number of electors that it would have if it were a state. It also did not provide full representation in Congress for the District. Passed June 17, 1960; ratified on March 29, 1961 (285 days).]

Amendment 24 *[Poll Tax Barred. 1964.]*

1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

[One of the last legal vestiges of segregation was the effort to keep the blacks from participating in the vote. Most methods to keep it to a minimum were unconstitutional, so several Southern states found an answer — the poll tax - in order to vote, a certain tax must be paid. The tax is the same for all, which allowed the affluent whites access to the polls with little pain, while the poorer blacks would have trouble justifying trading food on the table for a vote in the ballot box. Worse, different kinds of poll taxes were implemented, some accumulating even if no attempt was made to vote, meaning increasingly higher back-taxes to be paid to gain the vote. In 1939, Congress began to try to get rid of the poll tax, but history was not behind them. In colonial times and when the Constitution first came into effect, land ownership was often a requirement for suffrage. Though only five states still had a poll tax by the time the amendment passed, Supreme Court rulings made it doubtful that legislation would eliminate the tax altogether. Proposed by Congress on August 27, 1962, ratified within a year and a half, on January 23, 1964 (514 days).]

Amendment 25 *[Presidential Disability and Succession. 1967.]*

1. In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.
2. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.
3. Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.
4. Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty one days after receipt of the written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

[The assassination of President Kennedy in 1963 shocked the nation in more ways than the obvious. The advancement of

medical technology had many hoping the President could have been saved. If he had been, Kennedy could have been in a coma for an extended period of time, perhaps never able to fully function again - the President, but would not be able to fulfill his duties. The resulting power vacuum would cause a constitutional crisis — who is President? Who has the power of the Presidency? Less than two years after his death, on July 6, 1965, Congress passed the 25th Amendment. The line of succession was clarified, and what was to be done in the case of presidential disability. The selection of a VP for an empty VP seat was also provided for. The states ratified the amendment on February 10, 1967 (584 days). The second clause, the filling of a vacancy in the Vice Presidency, was used less than six years later when Gerald Ford assumed the Vice Presidency upon the resignation of Spiro Agnew.]

Amendment 26 *[Voting Age Set to 18 Years. 1971.]*

1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

[The United States was in the throes of the Vietnam War and protests were underway throughout the nation. Draftees into the armed services were any male over the age of 18. There was a seeming dichotomy, however: these young men were allowed, even forced, to fight and die for their country, but they were unable to vote. The 14th Amendment only guaranteed the vote, in a roundabout way, to those over twenty-one. The Congress attempted to right this wrong in 1970 by passing an extension to the 1965 Voting Rights Act (which itself is enforcement legislation based on prior suffrage amendments) that gave the vote to all persons 18 or older, in all elections, on all levels. Oregon objected to the 18-year-old limit, as well as other provisions of the 1970 Act (it also objected to a prohibition on literacy tests for the franchise). In Oregon v Mitchell (400 U.S. 112), a sharply divided Supreme Court ruled that the Congress had the power to lower the voting age to 18 for national elections, but not for state and local elections. The case was decided on December 1, 1970. Later, on March 23, 1971, the Congress passed the text, specifically setting a national voting age, in both State and national elections, to 18. In just 100 days, on July 1, 1971, the amendment was ratified.]

Amendment 27 *[Limiting Congressional Pay Increases. 1992.]*

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

[The 27th Amendment was originally proposed on September 25, 1789, as the 2nd Article in the ORIGINAL Bill of Rights. It did not pass the required number of states with the articles we now know as the first ten amendments. It sat, unratified and with no expiration date, in constitutional limbo, for more than 80 years when Ohio ratified it to protest a congressional pay hike; no other states followed Ohio's lead. Again it languished, for more than 100 years until 1978, Wyoming ratified the amendment, but again, no follow-up. Then, in the early 1980's, Gregory Watson, a young aide to a Texas legislator, took up the proposed amendment's cause. From 1983 to 1992, the requisite number of states ratified the amendment, and it was declared ratified on May 7, 1992 (74,003 days).]

-----END-of-Amendments-----

PROCLAIM LIBERTY!

Our unique Experiment in Government worked well - the U.S. became the Greatest Country EVER - the Envy of the whole World. We had the **Freest, Richest** and **HAPPIEST** Citizens EVER in all of Human History. *But, we must FOREVER guard it:*

"Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master."

-- George Washington

"Woe to those who decree unjust statutes and to those who continually record unjust decisions, to deprive the needy of justice, and to rob the poor of my people of their rights..."

Isaiah 10:1,2

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...! Hosea 4:6

"If My people which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their Wicked Ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

II Chron. 7:14

"The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." Edmund Burke 1729-1797

Our Constitution is considered a "Miracle", perhaps the greatest document ever written by mere Men.

When George Washington took the oath as first President of the United States on April 30, 1789, he added this 4-word prayer of his own: *"So help me God."* These words are still used in official oaths by Americans talking public office, in courts of justice, and in other legal proceedings. His words show he was a man who believed in asking God's help in every part of our private and public lives. During the terrible times of the Revolutionary War, Washington repeatedly counseled his troops to put their faith & trust in God.

Here is one of his messages:

"The time is now near at hand which must probably determine, whether Americans are to be, freeman or slaves; whether they are to have any property they can call their own The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army.... Let us therefore rely on the goodness of the cause and the aid of the Supreme Being, in whose hands victory is, to animate and encourage us to great and noble actions."

This neglected warning, was sounded by William Pitt before the British House of Commons addressing the need for PRIVACY—the protection of LIFE, LIBERTY, PROPERTY and HAPPINESS.

Will it go unheeded?

"The poorest man may, in his cottage, bid defiance to all the forces of the Crown. It may be frail, its roof may shake; the wind may blow through it; the storm may enter; the rain may enter; but the King of England may not enter; all his force dares not cross the thresh-hold of the ruined tenement."

"We must obey GOD rather than men." Acts 5:29

WARNING

This document may be hazardous to BAD LAWS. Courts may not welcome or approve these truths, neither are they to be construed as legal advice.