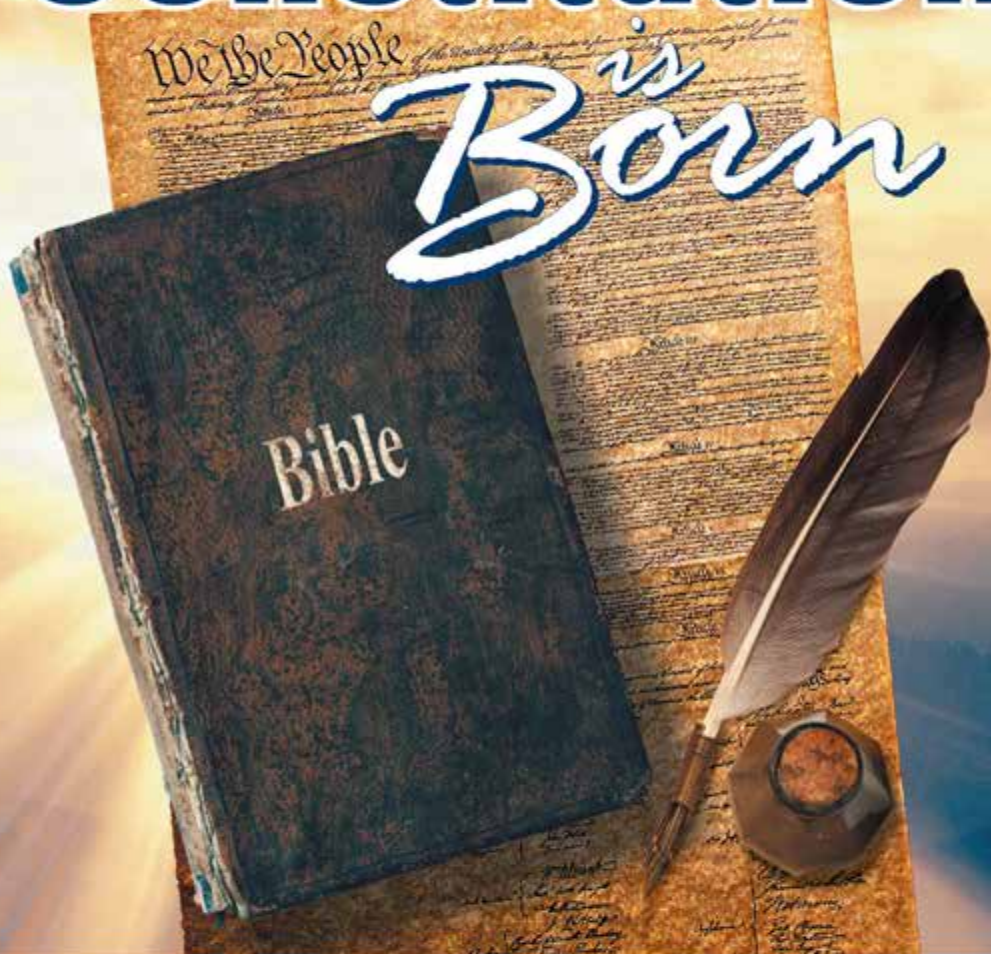


A Constitution

is
Born



A Brief History of the
Constitution of the United States of America,
Tracing the *Hand of God*

Norma Swanson & Barbara Aud

Constitution



A Brief History of the
Constitution of the United States of America,
Tracing the *Hand of God*

By

Norma Swanson *and* Barbara Aud

*Includes writings, quotes, landmark court decisions,
fascinating facts and historical documents.*

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INTRODUCTION

Why this book? - A different agenda!

While we stand, pledging allegiance to the flag and lustily singing our national anthem, a tidal wave of anti-Americanism is rising and threatens the very core of our existence. America is drifting rapidly from its Biblical foundation and — our nation's greatest document is under the microscope of revisionists. Our citizens, particularly our youth, appear to be stampeding in the direction of declining patriotism and even hostility towards our present form of government. We are living on the shifting sands of uncertainty and appear to have lost our moral compass.

There's a rustling in the winds, perhaps indicating that America may be awakening to the realization that, as a people, we know little regarding the foundation of our government — **who we are, where we came from, how we got here, what we stand for, what it cost, and that God orchestrated the whole process!** The Christian roots of our Nation are historically evident. Religious faith was central, pervasive and indispensable in the founding of our Nation, the most powerful nation on earth — but power without God's control is the formula for disaster.

In a recent poll of 1000 tourists at a national mall, 70% could not answer the question, "What is the supreme law of the land?" 61% did not know the length of a senator's term, 63% did not know the number of Supreme Court Justices, and 86% did not know the number of representatives in the House of Representatives, or the freedoms granted by the Bill of Rights. Most knew only the 1st and 5th Amendments.

Now, as never before, basic knowledge of our governmental heritage is essential if we want to be empowered to keep elected officials accountable and

defeat the forces that would destroy our freedoms. The truths of the Constitution must be embedded in our hearts — (not blocked out by social media or minds captured by electronic devices) as it is the only way to a guarantee of freedom. Since the celebration of the 200th anniversary of our Constitution, all three departments of government have, to a large degree, ignored the Constitution. Neglect of the principles contained in our Constitution has been responsible for the loss of many of the freedoms it guaranteed.

Our Constitution has blessed the people of this nation as well as people throughout the world, and we have been the recipients of the greatest blessings of any people who have lived on this earth. Millions of people have risked their lives to come to America to enjoy the freedom offered by our constitutional republic.

***A Constitution is Born* was written to be a clarion call, loud and clear, for renewed patriotism, a love for country and above all a realization that our direction comes from God, not from man, and we are responsible to Him, our Maker.** This brief history of the U.S. Constitution with relevant information is to be a sword of the Lord, piercing the heart and soul, invoking action to carry out His plan as He makes it known to us — until the battle is over and we are safe with Him.

Our continuing prayer is that *A Constitution is Born* will find a special place in the hearts of Americans and that they will read it to their children to provide insight, and understanding as to what it means to be a free, courageous American with increased faith in our God who has brought us this far. **With His help and wisdom, we will NOT be defeated —our God is marching on.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When the idea for *A Constitution is Born* was conceived, we were totally unaware of the perils and pluses we would encounter on the path to a published book. The many hours of research, writing, editing and yes, a computer that would not always cooperate, were beyond comprehension. Now that we have emerged from a labyrinth of books and papers, the pluses far outweigh the perils.

Our eyes have been opened as never before to our magnificent spiritual heritage, and our hearts are filled with a deeper sense of gratitude for our great God who has made our freedom possible. There were others who joined us on this path with interest and expertise, and for them we are extremely grateful. Barbara is especially grateful for the patience of her husband, Joe and daughter Hannah who put up with her lack of sleep, lack of home-cooking, and their constant support though these many months of writing and research.

Historians Ronald Mann and Lawrence Yandell took time from their busy schedules for the ever important task of checking the document for accuracy and providing suggestions for inclusions. We are especially grateful for the generosity of Ron Mann and Herbert Shuck for allowing us the use of original lithographs and steel engravings dating back to 1755.

We thank Pam Pencola, Diana Samuelson and Judy Nusbaum for their professional editing. How often we needed the technical assistance provided by Debbie Pearse, Michael Hamner and Paul Pencola. For their prayers and encouragement, we thank Sarah Patterson, Charlotte Bendell, Sue Dickson, Gary and Shelby Hooper and Norma's son Dane and

daughter-in law Karen. We are especially grateful for the inspiration and encouragement from our long-time friends, Joe and Gladys Grimaud. Without their encouragement and support there may never have been *A Constitution is Born*. And how can we ever sufficiently thank The National Center for Constitutional Studies for the abundance of quality reference material they provided?

Then there is our publishing team at Aspect Books. We thank them sincerely for their patience and wise counsel through the long and tedious process of putting this book together.

Our prayers will continually ascend to our Lord who has answered our prayers for wisdom, guidance, and for strength when we were weary. We trust now that *A Constitution is Born* will be read and will accomplish the purpose for which it was written — to invigorate the soul of the American with the inspiration to keep freedom alive and to bring glory to our God who made this nation possible.

Authors, Norma and Barbara

FOREWORD

During the celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, several national surveys were taken of adults and student's knowledge of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. The results were appalling. In response to most questions, the answers revealed the vast majority of those surveyed bordered on gross ignorance. Since that time I am sure that any surveys taken would reveal a worsening of the results.

Repeatedly, our Founding Fathers warned us if our system of government a "Constitutional Republic," was to continue, it would be necessary for the citizens of the United States to maintain it. Thomas Jefferson wrote to his friend Chas Yancey (1786): *"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."*¹ The Virginia Declaration of Rights written in 1816, also addressed this subject. *"That no free government or the blessings of liberty cannot be preserved to any people, but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, Frugality and virtue, and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles."*

The members of Congress dutifully take the Oath of Office (see Article II, Section 1 and Article VI) and then almost immediately proceed to ignore it by passing legislation which is not authorized by the Constitution. The President and Judiciary give lip service to the Constitution, but like the Congress, ignore it. Perhaps it has reached the point that it may be necessary to start impeachment proceedings (see Article II, Section 4 and Article I, sections 2 & 3) against some of our elected officials in order to force them to do their work in accordance with the Constitution.

1 Jefferson Quotes and Family Letters – <http://1ref.us/bv>

Have we forgotten or ignored what James Madison warned? *“Because it is proper to take alarm at the first experiment on our liberties, we hold this prudent jealousy to be the first duty of citizens, and one of the noblest characteristics of the late Revolution. The freemen of America did not wait till usurped power had strengthened itself by exercise, and entangled the question precedents. They saw all the consequences in the principle, and they avoided the consequences by denying the principle.”* (Memorial and Remonstrance, James Madison, 1785) We dare not wait any longer to start addressing the numerous violations of our Constitution.

Our Founders provided us with the greatest Constitution in the world. It has provided us with the best form of government on earth but it must be maintained, and the best way to accomplish that is to continually elect moral and righteous men, and to educate our youth with a goal of deep respect and love of our Constitution.

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And lastly, to remember that our Constitution was written only for a moral and righteous people. President John Adams said: *“We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by*

*morality and religion.*² President George Washington wrote to his dear friend Lafayette: “*Though, when a people shall have become incapable of governing themselves and fit for a master, it is of little consequence from what quarter he comes.*”³ For this reason and others, we must elect a moral and righteous president as well as representatives, individuals who will truly live up to their oath of office.

George Washington said: “*Let (the people) persevere in their affectionate vigilance over the precious depository of American happiness, the Constitution of the United States. Let them cherish it, too, for the sake of those who from every clime are daily seeking a dwelling in our land.*”⁴

President Abraham Lincoln said of our Constitution: “*Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well-wisher to his posterity support the Constitution. Let it be taught in schools, in seminaries and colleges. Let it be written in primers, in spelling books and in almanacs. Let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. In short, let it become the political religion of the nation, and in particular, establish a reverence for the Constitution.*”⁵

Perhaps one of our most favorite quotes on our Constitution was a statement written by Frances Grund in: *Aristocracy in America*, Harpers, 1959, pp. 212-213:

“The American Constitution is remarkable for its simplicity; but it can only suffice a people habitually correct in their actions, and would be utterly inadequate to the wants of a different nation. Change the domestic habits of the Americans, their religious devotion, and their high respect for morality, and it will not be necessary to change a single letter in the Constitution in order to vary the whole form of their government.”

The authors of this book are of the conviction that one of the best ways to address the problems confronting this nation is through an educational process dedicated to our people, particularly our youth. Via this process they hope and pray that our youth will learn to drink from the sources of our Constitution – our Fathers, and thereby develop the understanding and knowledge necessary to maintain the source of their freedoms – our Constitution.

I believe our Constitution was inspired by God. It took centuries to prepare and locate a people that could bring it into being and then at a terrible cost in

2 John Adams – <http://1ref.us/bw>

3 Founders Online – <http://1ref.us/bx>

4 Sixth Annual Message of George Washington – <http://1ref.us/by>

5 Abraham Lincoln’s Lyceum Address – <http://1ref.us/bz>

personal sacrifice. We are its caretakers, responsible to ensure its continuance. If we allow it to be destroyed at this point in history, there is no doubt in my mind that we will never again live to see the blessing of freedoms we have enjoyed. This nation and the world at large will have lost the greatest beacon of liberty ever built.

Ronald M. Mann, *former Director and Deputy Director of
The Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.*

COMMENTS ABOUT *A Constitution is Born...*

“The importance of educating our youth about the principles set forth in our Constitution has always been high on my list of priorities. I am pleased and excited to recommend the work of Barbara Aud and Norma Swanson through *A Constitution is Born*. The book provides a brief history of the Constitution and what it means in layman’s terms.”

Ronald M. Mann, *Former Director and Deputy Director of the Commission of the Bi-Centennial of the Constitution, Special Advisor to President Ronald Reagan*

“Norma Swanson and Barbara Aud’s new book, *A Constitution is Born* is a must-read for every American citizen. In this fascinating book, they trace the invisible hand of God in formulating the foundational guiding document for our nation. This book is essential reading for everyone who wants to know the truth of the founding of our country.”

Dr. Robert Jeffress, *Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas and Fox News Contributor.*

“Our children must understand the freedoms that the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution guarantees for all Americans if our republic is to survive.

A Constitution is Born is a vital tool available to all parents, teachers, and all who love liberty. Read this book, teach it to your children, share

it with your students, tell your neighbors about it. This is something you can do to light freedom's way for generations to come.

Dr. Robert Sweet, Jr. *Professional Staff Member, Committee on Education and the Workforce, United States House of Representatives*

“As you become aware of today’s political and social climate and the attack on our freedoms, you can’t help but think *A Constitution is Born* could not have been published in a timelier manner. Citizens both young and old, now more than ever, need to understand the sacrifice and principles that were so thoughtfully crafted in the Constitution by its designers. Every household, school and church should have this book and integrate the principles and truths into their lives.”

Rose Gamblen, Ph.D. *Educational Specialist and Published Author, Professor, Penn State Producer and Co-Host of My Home School Companion, radio network*

“I APPLAUD Barbara Aud and Norma Swanson for their many hours of research and labor in producing this very timely book, *A Constitution is Born*. Never before have we needed to provide for our youth a basic understanding of how they received the freedom by which they live, and how the hand of God moved in the forming of the nation as we know it today. As an educator, I highly recommend that every home and parent make this book a “must” in the education of their children.”

Dr. Arthur Nazigian *Board Chairman Emeritus, Association of Christian Schools, International Published Author, Charter member ACSI Board*

“*A Constitution is Born* should be distributed to every teacher in the land, to their teachers’ rooms, school libraries and homes, so future generations of young Americans will have knowledge of the world’s greatest document of freedom passed intact to them, and hopefully to all future generations. It is the responsibility of every true American to pass it on. Bravo to the authors, Barbara and Norma!”

Sue Dickson *Teacher and curriculum designer, Author *Sing, Spell, Read & Write*, *Songs that Teach*, Learning Systems L Pearson, Published author*

“‘*The road to hell is paved with good intentions*’ is a saying that was popular in my youth. I think of this saying frequently when talking to many of my friends in the Congress or listening to their comments on the floor of the House or Senate. They genuinely believe that the larger and more controlling the Federal government is, the better off we will be because government always makes better decisions than people do and always spends money more wisely. They really do have good intentions but they have no sense of where this will lead. They desperately need to read *A Constitution is Born*. In clear layman’s language, the authors detail the origin of the Constitution and why the ‘original intent’ interpretation is crucial to the preservation of our liberties and indeed to the preservation of our status as a premier world power.”

Roscoe Bartlett *Maryland Representative of the United States House of Representatives (26 years)*

“Patriotism (love of what is noble in one’s country) is a neglected virtue in character education. At the heart of what is noble about our country is the U.S Constitution and its moral framework, the Declaration of Independence. But we can’t love what we don’t understand. Norma Swanson’s and Barbara Aud’s *A Constitution is Born* will help our young citizens in-the-making grasp and cherish the crucial foundations of our democracy.”

Dr. Thomas Lickona *Director, Center for the 4th and 5th R’s (Respect and Responsibility) New York University. Author, *Educating for Character*, Bantam, 1992*

“Authors Swanson and Aud have completed a ‘trifecta’ with *A Constitution is Born*. They have (1) written on a topic that is relevant and necessary for these times, (2) provided in-depth and comprehensive information on the subject of the Constitution as it relates to God’s working in the process and (3) presented the material in a well written, readable narrative. This is a publication that will be an invaluable resource for anyone interested in understanding the background and creation of the Constitution.”

Lawrence Yandell *Historian and homeschool educator*

As a longtime friend of Norma Swanson, I am intimately aware of her love for God, America, and the Constitution. In her collaboration with Barbara Aud, *A Constitution is Born*, gave me a far greater understanding of why our Constitution is so unique and why we are so blessed as a nation to have had forefathers with the wisdom and willingness to sacrifice so much that we may live in freedom.

Joseph A. Grimaud Jr. *Two-time candidate for the United States House of Representatives and former CEO and President of the international franchisor Precision Tune, Incorporated*

“*A Constitution is Born* is a real gem. It is wonderful exposure to our United States founding documents as our youth and adults know little about their origins. This book is useful as a textbook or resource for personal information. With lifetime certification as an Administrator for the Association of Christian Schools International, and Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, I highly endorse this book.”

Sarah Patterson, *Administrator Emeritus,
The King's Christian Academy, Callaway, Maryland*

DEDICATION

It is with gratitude and admiration that this book is dedicated to the Reverend Don Wildmon whose life has embodied the essence of Christian principles and the spirit of a true American.

Reverend Wildmon founded the American Family Association in 1977 and the American Family Radio network in 1991. AFA and AFR were created to give leadership to the Christian community in addressing the great moral issues of our time. His leadership on these issues has resulted in millions of patriotic Americans becoming the salt and light in the culture that the Bible commends Christians to be. Like many of the Founding Fathers, Rev. Wildmon has given his life to promoting the values of faith, family and freedom.

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Part I

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF EVENTS IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION**

Chapter I- My Country 'Tis of Thee

Chapter II- The Struggle to Build a New Nation

Chapter III- Creating a Constitution — A Closer Look

Chapter IV- Inspiration and Influences, Evidence of God's
Hand at Work

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Psalm 33:12

Part I- Chapter 1

MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE

“We can best honor the Constitution by giving ourselves a civics and history lesson on its origin and meaning.”

Warren E. Burger, *Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court*

“SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY” ... “*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty*” (II Cor. 3:17). What is liberty? Is it something we can touch or feel? A state of mind? A philosophy? Why do we sing about it, talk about it and pray about it? Where do you get it? Where does it come from? Is it for everyone or just a privileged few? Why do we desire it?

*The Founding Fathers considered
liberty (freedom) so important
that they pledged their lives, their
fortunes and their sacred honor
just to secure and keep it.*

Webster's dictionary states that liberty is the “*quality or state of being free*” (freedom). The Founding Fathers considered liberty (freedom) so important that they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor just to secure and keep it. They fulfilled their pledge and liberty (freedom) was won.

Liberty is ours today, not given to us by them alone but by the multitudes that have come after them subscribing to the same basic concepts that made freedom possible. What then is liberty?

Liberty or freedom is the legal right not to be enslaved by government. It means possessing the power to act, think, or speak within established boundaries and norms. It is the right and capacity of people to self-rule. It is the absence of subjection to domination by government.

The Founding Fathers recognized the impossibility of maintaining freedom unless those who govern are able to exercise self-restraint. They gave to the Nation, through the Constitution, sufficient authority to complete the tasks assigned to it. They created within the document built-in reserves with a system of “checks and balances.” They built a system of government while incorporating Christian principles and the recognition of God, the true Giver of liberty and freedom. However, liberty is never free. America’s freedom is still being paid for every day, by those who wear the uniform of our country, and by others who willingly sacrifice all to safeguard our liberty.

The Declaration of Independence of July 1776 stated that we are endowed by our Creator with certain “unalienable” rights. The moral state of our Nation, then and now, is directly tied to this single phrase in the Declaration. Our American form of government has its roots in God’s word, the Bible. The first two commandments of our Lord are the basis upon which our dual form of government was established. The first commandment represents one’s duty to God: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind*” (Matthew 22:37). The second commandment is the basis for the relation of the individual states to each other—our relation to our neighbor: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*” (Matthew 22:39). The concept of representation began in the Old Testament. It is interesting that in the first chapter of the book of Deuteronomy, Moses was instructed by the Lord to: “*Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, I will make them rulers over you... captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes.*”

The Reverend Thomas Hooker, on May 31, 1638, chose this text for a sermon on liberty that planted the seeds for the first written constitution in America—The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. The colonists were very explicit in instruction to individuals to whom they had given the power of representation. They made sure men of integrity were elected, men who would manifest integrity and character in the selection process.

Samuel Adams wrote of liberty speaking of *“this gift from Heaven.”* *“The perfection of liberty therefore, in a state of nature, is for every man to be free from any external force, and to perform such actions as in his own mind and conscience he judges to be rightist; which liberty no man can possess whose mind is enthralled by irregular and inordinate passions; since it is no great privilege to be free from external violence if the dictates of the mind are controlled by a force within, which exerts itself above reason.”*⁶

*The colonists were very explicit
in instruction to individuals
to whom they had given the
power of representation. They
made sure men of integrity were
elected, men who would manifest
integrity and character in the
selection process.*

John Quincy Adams said, *“Posterity! You will never know, how much it cost the present Generation, to preserve your Freedom! I hope you will make a good Use of it.”*⁷

In addressing liberty, Thomas Paine said, *“What we obtain, too cheap, we esteem too lightly:--’Tis dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to set a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated.”*⁸

William Prescott wrote to the men of Boston, *“... Our forefathers passed the vast Atlantic, spent their blood and treasure, that they might enjoy their liberties, both civil and religious, and transmit them to their posterity. ... Now if we should give them up, can our children rise up and call us blessed? ...”*⁹

6 National Center for the Development of Constitutional Strategies – <http://1ref.us/c0>

7 Massachusetts Historical Society – <http://1ref.us/c1>

8 Library of Congress – <http://1ref.us/c2>

9 WorldNetDaily.com, Inc. – [http://1ref.us/c3 /](http://1ref.us/c3/)

In 1779 in a letter to James Warren, Samuel Adams stated ... “A *general dissolution of principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of America than the whole force of the common enemy...*”¹⁰

This collective vision culminated in a document born of men, not perfect men, but men who put their trust in the Providence of God. It has served us well. Beginning with the Declaration of Independence and the signing of the U.S. Constitution, Americans rested in the confidence of chartered waters and the Providence of God. It appears, however, in the twenty-first century we have, in part, relinquished our liberties to an encroaching government and moral decline. It is encouraging that some in Congress have begun to recognize a general falling away from these principles and the lack of emphasis given to the teaching of the U. S. Constitution.

While some among us would argue that our present Constitution is not adequate in a global society, is it not possible that if God scripted the Document through the minds and hands of 55 men who sought His guidance, will God not take care of all our tomorrows?

In 2005 Congress entered an amendment in *Public Law 108-447, Sec. 111 (b)* that stated: “*Each educational institution that receives federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by that institution.*” This action further showed that Congress understood Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Earl Burger’s intent when they passed and sent this bill to President George W. Bush who signed the act into law. Although the intentions were good, this mandate has not been taken very seriously; and for reasons unknown to us, school districts have not implemented the law and most teachers are not prepared to comply. Unfortunately, today most communities do not celebrate this special day. This amendment pleased Christians who already recognized a moral mandate to develop in the next generation a love for liberty, equality for all people, and a deep faith in the Almighty, the foundational values established for us by the Founding Fathers.

Through the years, most Americans have been proud of their country and for what it stands. In 1952 President Harry S. Truman signed a bill that moved “*I Am an American*” day from the third Sunday in May to September 17. This was done to coincide with the day the U. S. Constitution was signed in 1787. This day would later be renamed “*Citizen’s Day.*”

10 The Writings of Samuel Adams, Harry Alonzo Cushing, Putman: 1908 – <http://1ref.us/c4>

After looking at our pluralistic, sometimes almost socialistic society, we ask, “What has happened?” Is it possible we could see an actual attempt to overthrow our constitutional liberties? We look to our elected officials or even to the media and receive no answers to our questions. April 1, 2010, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Stephen J. Markman said in a speech delivered in Washington, D.C., “*Proponents of a ‘21st century Constitution’ or a ‘Living Constitution’ aim to transform our Nation’s supreme law beyond recognition—and with a minimum of public attention and debate.*”¹¹ It appears today that they have made considerable progress toward their goal.

Have we lost our way? Do we not know our own Christian heritage? Do we know the “why” and “how” our liberty is protected? Do we understand why some in our midst (even in Congress) strive to change it? Are we aware of the dangerous interpretations of the Constitution? A recent poll revealed the following:

- Of the four specific rights guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, only *Freedom of Speech* could be identified by more than 20% of the respondents.
- 16% could identify *Freedom of the Press*.
- 19% could name *Freedom of Religion*.
- Only 3% could identify the *Right to Petition the Government for a Redress of Grievances*.
- Most American homes do not have a copy of the U. S. Constitution. (Although during the Constitution celebrating of the Bicentennial of our Constitution, more than 50,000 copies of the Constitution were given out by the Commission.)

In the book, *The Sum of Good Government*, by former U.S. Representative Phillip Crane (August 2001), he quotes Dr. Roger Freeman, “*By its massive entry over the past two decades into the field of domestic public services, the national government has decisively altered the nature of the American federal system. In establishing a federal structure with an intricate system of checks and balances, the Founding Fathers aimed to disperse authority so widely that no branch or level of government –and no one man could prevail over the others. They concluded from history that concentration of power corrupts and sooner or later leads to abuse and tyranny...American society has strayed far from its*

11 The Coming Constitutional Debate – <http://1ref.us/c5>

*beginnings. Instead of desiring freedom from governmental interference, instead of looking to the government primarily as a source of protection from foreign or domestic enemies and not the provider of services and benefits, Americans have embraced the very centralized government the Founding Fathers urged them to fear and to hold in check.*¹²

Some have asked “Have we exchanged freedom for perceived security?” Government controls have not only restricted our freedom to use our economic resources, they have also affected our freedom of speech, of the press, and of religion. We have been brainwashed to believe that it is the responsibility of the government to take resources from some and give them to others. Why have we allowed this to happen? The late Senator Jesse Helms had the answer, “*When you have men who no longer believe that God is in charge of human affairs, you have men attempting to take the place of God by means of the Super-state. The Divine Providence on which our forefathers relied has been supplanted by the Providence of the All-Powerful State.*”¹³

How much do we value our freedom and our liberties? At this time, America faces gigantic crises on several fronts, the results of which could be a very real loss of liberty. If freedom is to prevail, we must embrace the valor, determination and the faith of our Founding Fathers. In view of available information, how can we be prepared to defend our liberties if we do not know the rights guaranteed to us through the Constitution?

In the following chapters of this book the authors have attempted to present America’s greatest document, The Constitution of the United States, with explanations of what it means in laymen’s terms. It includes other interesting facts as well as background information and articles to expand the readers’ understanding of our Christian heritage. Reasons for the preservation of our liberty are clearly set forth.

We will walk through the colonial period, view the colonists’ lifestyle and their struggles as they faced what seemed insurmountable odds in their determination to build a new and free nation. As these historic documents are read, the reader will see how fifty-five brave men committed themselves to preserving freedom for us and our posterity while they sought guidance from a Sovereign God. Religious liberty was so important to them that it was placed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. While we still have freedom to speak out in defense of our liberty, may we as Christian soldiers pick up the drumbeat of

12 January 1998 Newsletter, NavSource – <http://1ref.us/c6>

13 The Authentic Jesse Helms (The one I knew and loved) – <http://1ref.us/c7>

our Founding Fathers and proclaim the message as we march on singing lustily, “Then conquer we must, for our cause, it is just..”

(See Appendix: *How the Bible Helped Shape the Constitution*, Bill Bright, *Campus Crusade for Christ*)

“A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.”¹⁴ —Woodrow Wilson

14 <http://1ref.us/c8>

Part I, Chapter II

THE STRUGGLE TO BUILD A NEW NATION

Things were not going well for the American colonists. They had reached a population of nearly three million people in thirteen separate colonies, each with its own form of government. These colonies were: New Hampshire, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The colonists' hope for peace and freedom from British oppression had not yet been fully realized. Operating as thirteen independent colonies with taxes and duties on goods imported from other states was cumbersome. There were debts that had to be paid. Printing money without any type of backing created unbearable inflation.

Central to the thinking of the colonists at that time was the issue of Laws of Nature and of Nature's God. This phrase to them meant God's law revealed to man through the Holy Scriptures.

A revolutionary idea had been developing over the past 140 years through the Great Evangelical Awakening in 1738. It was spurred on by the popular Englishman, William Blackstone, an expositor of law and government, and the Reverend George Whitefield. There were other great thinkers as well whose views were in agreement with Blackstone and Whitefield. Central to the thinking of the colonists at that time was the issue of *Laws of Nature and of Nature's God*. This phrase to them meant God's law revealed to man through the Holy Scriptures. The laws of nature are God's laws given to man at creation. These truths are self-evident and unalienable. The unalienable right to life is a gift from God and the person who holds that right cannot give it away. The word "equal" meant we are all equal before God.

Hence, the central idea behind the Declaration of Independence was to set forth the conviction by the colonists that the authority of the government comes from God down through the people. This was a revolutionary idea coming from people who had been governed by monarchies for hundreds of years. Thomas Jefferson won great acclaim when he declared that the authority of King George III came from God through the people and that governing the colonies was not the King's birthright. Samuel Adams of Massachusetts was the first person to call for a meeting of the colonists to discuss what action could be taken to address the oppression from the British King.¹⁵

It had become clear that the king was not going to be a conciliator. It was then that Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, a rather small pamphlet, was published advocating republicanism as an alternative to monarchy rule. It was significant because it stimulated public debate on a subject that was not openly discussed.

In 1774 the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, in an effort to be ready to fight at a moment's notice, reorganized the state militia, one-fourth of which would be "Minutemen." Their charge would be:

"You...are placed by Providence in the post of honor, because it is the post of danger...The eyes not only of North America and the whole British Empire, but all of Europe, are upon you. Let us be, therefore, altogether solicitous that no disorderly behavior, nothing unbecoming our characters as Americans, as citizens and Christians, be justly chargeable to us."¹⁶

15 The Committees of Correspondence: The Voice of the Patriots –<http://1ref.us/c9>

16 American's God and Country: Encyclopedia of Quotations, William Joseph Federer 1994 - Literary Collections – <http://1ref.us/ca>

The First Continental Congress

On September 5, 1774, the thirteen English colonies began meeting together at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia as a confederation of colonies or as a "Congress of States." All of the colonies were represented except Georgia. They had done this without national authority from England and without any formal constitution. English policy was forcing the colonies to unite and to establish themselves as a free and independent people with some sort of formal charter. However, this "Congress of States" appeared to be ineffectual and was making poor decisions in foreign affairs that caused some strained relationships with the other colonies. There was no strong central government. The country's need for restructuring had become apparent as a strategy for dealing with England. Although a war had already been fought (The French and Indian War) dealing with problems, they had not received help from England with the Native American problems on the frontier.



They adopted a Declaration of Rights, and they also called for a repeal of the tax laws they opposed, and agreed to boycott English-made goods. This initiative was in response to the passage of the *Intolerable Acts of the Colonial Americans* by the British. These *Acts* punished the colonists for the Boston Tea

Party. The British had stormed Boston to arrest those who publicly voiced their opposition to the Crown. Fights at Concord and Lexington had become bloody. It was not the purpose of the delegation to declare independence but to come up with a way to address their grievances. They adopted a resolution "*that these United Colonies are, and of right, ought to be free and totally dissolved.*"

There were concepts, as well, that had been handed down to them through the ages. First, and perhaps the most important concept was the principle of popular sovereignty: The people are the source of government power, and the people consent to a constitution and delegate powers to the government. The second concept involves the separation of powers in the three branches

of government. Each branch has a limited and specified charter over which they are never to overstep. The third concept involves the division of powers between the states and the Federal Government. The states must not allow the Federal Government to deprive them of any of the powers granted to them through the Constitution. The fourth concept is the rule of law and not man. Allegiance is to be given to the Constitution and to the principles it embodies, not to individuals or political parties.

Early on, the Founders thought of a president instead of a king. They agreed with John Locke who said, "*As men, we have God for our King, and are under the Law or Reason: as Christians we have Jesus the Messiah for our King, and are under the law by Him in the Gospel.*"¹⁷

Second Continental Congress

On May 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia with 56 delegates to organize the defense of the colonies. In spite of the efforts of the colonists, Britain was unmoved. There was still no authority for Americans to pass laws. Also, they had no powers to enforce any of the measures they adopted, and no means of raising revenue. Congress appointed a committee of five members to draft a resolution. Congress approved a Resolution of Independence on July 2, 1776, and attention was turned to forming a formal Declaration of Independence.

The 33-year-old Thomas Jefferson composed the original draft of the Declaration of Independence while his fellow committeemen Benjamin Franklin and John Adams did some revisions. John Hancock, President of the Congress, signed the Document. It was then sent to Congress for a final editing. Once these things were accomplished, the Second Continental Congress ended. All 56 delegates signed the Declaration of Independence.

This document represented much more than just a birth certificate for a new nation. It contained a magnificent preamble that revolutionized the principles and policies of government. Other revolutions had taken place, but they signaled only a change in the rule of men. The Declaration affected a change in principles.

After it was adopted, the Declaration of Independence exerted an incalculable influence upon later history. With its democratic principle that *all men are created equal*, it stimulated humanitarian movements of various kinds in the United States. This action of the Congress resulted in the beginning of a new nation.

17 The Works of John Locke: The Reasonableness of Christianity– <http://1ref.us/cb>



The Declaration of Independence

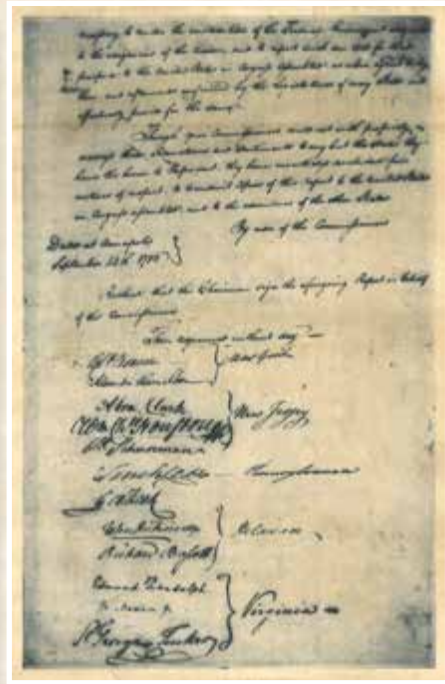
Published by Samuel Walter, Boston

On July 4 a statement was issued by the Congress that they were no longer a part of the British Empire but they now were to be regarded as independent states. They were now a new Nation—THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. The original document is now on display at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

The Declaration of Independence is considered the official and unequivocal affirmation by the American people of their belief and faith in God. It affirms God's existence as a "self-evident" truth that requires no further discussion or debate. The Declaration contains five references to God: God as supreme, God as Creator of all men, God as the Source of all rights, God as the world's Supreme Judge, and God as our Protector on whom we can rely.

Articles of Confederation

The Continental Congress appointed another committee to draft a plan of union. After much debate and many revisions, the Congress on November 15, 1777, adopted the committee's plan, The Articles of Confederation. The Articles provided no legitimacy for the Revolutionary War or to conduct diplomacy with Europe as well as to deal with issues involving Native Americans.



As chairman of the committee, John Dickinson (Pennsylvania and Delaware) wrote a draft of the Articles of Confederation. It was not to be a “people’s Constitution” but simply a compact among the states. Much haggling ensued and a watered down version of Dickinson’s draft was agreed upon. The Congress operated under the Articles of Confederation all through the Revolutionary War even though the Articles were not formally ratified until the war was nearly over in 1781. Moreover, the Articles were inadequate and nearly caused the failure of the War for Independence.

The Articles were internally flawed because they created a weak central government and did not allow taxation of the people. Also, they had no power over the states and led to no enforcement of trade agreements. Therefore, they could not regulate trade between the states. Also, there was no provision to protect an individual’s property rights. However, one of the few good things in this document was the provision for each state to have an equal vote in Congress. The states were, hereby, to retain sovereignty over all government functions not specifically assigned to the National Government. The Articles were approved for ratification by the signatures of 48 of the 55 delegates but the process was not completed until March 1, 1781. There was now a guide for the government to operate and the official name for the new nation became The United States of America.

During this time George Washington moved back to his farm at Mount Vernon but continued to work for ratification by the states. On April 30, 1789 he was unanimously elected as President of the new United States of America.

Mount Vernon Trade Conference

Since the Articles of Confederation allowed the states to pursue their own trade policies, conflict was inevitable. On March 28, 1785, representatives from Maryland and Virginia met in Alexandria, Virginia. The plan was to discuss a trade dispute involving fishing rights in the Potomac River. Because they were not making progress, George Washington suggested they meet at his Mt. Vernon estate on the Potomac River. This meeting concluded successfully with a contract being ratified by both states. Encouraged by the results of this meeting, the General Assembly of Virginia, and at the urging of James Madison, proposed on July 21, 1786, a broader trade conclave to be held in Annapolis, Maryland the following year.



Washington's headquarters at Newburgh.

Annapolis Trade Conference

In September 1786, although all thirteen states were invited, only five sent delegates to meet in Annapolis to discuss commerce and establish standard rules and regulations. But with so few in attendance, a quorum could not be met to conduct any substantive business. Most delegates in the group were “Nationalists” who desired a stronger national government. It was decided that another meeting was necessary to address the deficiencies in the Articles of Confederation. The report of the Annapolis Conference was the first step toward the Constitutional Convention that would lead to the Constitution of the United States.

Significant Concerns

Serious problems in the birth of our nation presented themselves. The cost of food was of great concern. The veterans of the Revolutionary War were losing their farms because they could not pay their taxes and the currency was nearly useless. Merchants could not pay their debts, and farmers were losing their

land. States were arguing with each other and in some instances, the debate became intense. An uprising led by Captain Daniel Shay called “Shay’s Rebellion” grew to a force of eleven hundred men, the majority of them farmers, to capture the state arsenal in Springfield, Massachusetts and to take possession of the arsenal’s muskets. They were defeated by a determined state militia. Hostility, leading to the taking up of arms, coupled with economic chaos, was not what the states had anticipated. All agreed that something had to be done. The people had not learned to govern themselves as a united republic. These problems finally convinced the Continental Congress to agree to a Constitutional Convention, which later convened in Philadelphia on May 25, 1787.

The Constitutional Convention

Eventually, fifty-five delegates from twelve states convened in Philadelphia on May 25, 1787 (Rhode Island boycotted the Convention.). The average age was 42, and almost seventy-five percent of them had had political experience. At 24, Charles Pinckney of South Carolina was the youngest delegate. Benjamin Franklin, one of the most prolific of the delegates, was the oldest at 82 years. Their goal was to give the national government sufficient power to perform its assigned duties within established limits. Knowing man’s fallen nature, Madison said, “*There is a degree of depravity in mankind which requires a certain degree of circumspection and distrust.*”¹⁸ Although the original intent of the Convention was to amend the Articles of Confederation, they began by drawing up a new plan for their government. Their idea of self-governance was to be rooted in a respect for the rights with which we are endowed, and a respect that shapes society where everyone may benefit. They gave Congress power to legislate for the common good, and three branches of Government that would control each other. It was a blueprint for a free society.

Divisions arose over apportionment of representation. Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth proposed what is sometimes called the “Great Compromise,” a bicameral (2 houses) legislature with proportional representation in the lower house and equal representation in the upper house. That compromise was approved on July 16, 1786. A Committee of Detail met during the July recess and produced a draft, most of which can be found today in the final version of the Constitution.

A Committee of Style completed the final version to be voted on and presented it to the states. Thirty-nine of the fifty-five delegates supported the

18 The Federalist #55 Constitution Society – <http://1ref.us/cc>

adoption of the new Constitution. There was a signing ceremony on September 17, 1786.

On December 7, 1786 it was ratified by five states: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut. Massachusetts ratified the Constitution in February 1788 followed by Maryland and South Carolina. New Hampshire ratified it on June 2, 1788 followed by Virginia on June 21 and New York on July 26, 1788. It was agreed that the new Government would begin on March 4, 1789. North Carolina ratified the Constitution after her Second Convention in 1789. Rhode Island squeezed into the Union on May 29, 1790, after the Constitution had been functioning for 2 years.

It is significant to note that this Convention was not without the recognition of a Sovereign God. The endeared Benjamin Franklin stood before the Convention reminding them of how at the beginning of the war with England, The Continental Congress had voiced prayers for Divine protection. *“Our prayers, Sir,”* he said, *“were heard and they were graciously answered.... I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayer imploring the assistance of heaven and its blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning...”*

The Northwest Ordinance

The Continental Congress met on July 13, 1787 and passed the Northwest Ordinance. This expressed the desire of the United States to settle the region north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi River. It also provided a method whereby new states with the same rights and powers that other states had could be added to the Union. Significantly, this included the freedom of religion.

The Framers

Who were these men who were to change history? Did they have the kind of experience to write a constitution that would pull a nation together? What influenced them and how was this displayed in their public service? These fifty-five men were undertaking a seemingly impossible task — to have a country where they could live and die as free men. They had lived under tyranny and felt the results of a monarchy — a monarchy that had controlled the thirteen colonies with an iron hand.

Most of the Framers were experienced in governmental affairs. Almost four-fifths of them had served in the Congress. Several were leaders in their state governments, and many had played important roles in the Revolutionary War. Thirty-five were either lawyers or had an education in law. Some had become judges. They were men of intellect, responsibility and dedication. All

were well educated in political philosophy and brought with them ideas and inspiration from French and English philosophers.

Several had been involved in other founding documents of our country. Roger Sherman and Robert Morris helped write The Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. Eight of the fifty-five delegates including George Clymer (Pa.) Benjamin Franklin (Pa.) Elbridge Gerry (Mass.) Robert Morris (Pa.) George Read (Del.) Roger Sherman (Mass.) James Wilson (Pa.) and George Wythe (Va.) had signed the Declaration of Independence. Five others, Dickinson, Gerry, Gouverneur Morris, Robert Morris, and Sherman had signed the Articles of Confederation.

However, of the fifty-five delegates, few were long to survive. Five were captured by the British and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes sacked and looted, occupied by the enemy, or burned. Two lost their sons in the army. One had two sons captured. Nine of the fifty-five died in the war from its hardship or from its bullets. They were not wild-eyed radicals or poor men. They were men of means, rich men, most of them. They were wealthy, prosperous landowners and highly respected in their communities.



A copy of the signatures on the Declaration of Independence, verified by John Quincy Adams

Today, Thomas S. Winter, Editor-in-Chief of *Human Events* magazine¹⁹, reminds us:

- The Founders were conservatives by today's standards; they were for gun rights, limited government, and religion in public life.
- George Washington fervently believed that God himself saved the Revolution.
- Thomas Jefferson would have vetoed all federal domestic programs of the last 100 years.
- John Adams considered virtue, morality, and religion to be the bulwark of a free republic.
- Alexander Hamilton did not believe in direct taxation or a large government debt.
- John Taylor of Caroline County, Virginia, predicted the problems of modern state capitalism and central banking.

19 Limbaugh, David – The U.S. Constitution and Religious Liberty – <http://1ref.us/cd>

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- AMENDMENT I:** Guarantees freedom of religion, speech, and of the press. People are given the right to meet peaceably and to voice complaints to the government.
- AMENDMENT II:** Guarantees the right to keep and bear arms.
- AMENDMENT III:** Sets Conditions for housing soldiers in peace time.
- AMENDMENT IV:** Guarantees the right to privacy. Limits the power of the government to search and seize property.
- AMENDMENT V:** Provides protection from being held for committing a crime unless you have been indicted correctly by the police.
- AMENDMENT VI:** Guarantees a citizen to a fair trial, a fair jury, and an attorney, if desired by the accused.
- AMENDMENT VII:** Provides for the jury trial in civil lawsuits beyond a cost of twenty dollars.
- AMENDMENT VIII:** Prohibits excessive bail and fines, and cruel and unusual punishment.
- AMENDMENT IX:** People hold more rights than those listed in the Constitution.
- AMENDMENT X:** Powers that are not given by the Constitution to the central government, or forbidden by the states, are reserved for the states or the people.
- AMENDMENT XI, 1798:** A state cannot be sued by citizens of another state or foreign country.
- AMENDMENT XII, 1804:** Establishes Presidential election procedures.
- AMENDMENT XIII, 1865:** Abolishes slavery.
- AMENDMENT XIV, 1868:** Forbids laws that unfairly deny citizens' rights and guarantees equal protection under the law to all.
- AMENDMENT XV, 1870:** Forbids depriving citizens the right to vote because of race or color.
- AMENDMENT XVI, 1913:** Authorizes an income tax.
- AMENDMENT XVII, 1919:** Prohibits the manufacture or sale of liquor.
- AMENDMENT XVIII, 1919:** This amendment banned the sale and drinking of alcohol in the United States. The only amendment repealed from the Constitution.
- AMENDMENT XIX, 1920:** Gives women the right to vote

AMENDMENT XX, 1933: Sets time of Presidential and congressional terms to begin in January.

AMENDMENT XXI, 1933: Repeals the Eighteenth Amendment.

AMENDMENT XXII, 1951: Bars any President from serving more than two 4-year terms.

AMENDMENT XXIII, 1961: Gives residents of the District of Columbia the right to vote.

AMENDMENT XXIV, 1964: Outlaws the payment of taxes as a voting requirement.

AMENDMENT XXV, 1967: Rules for the succession of a President if he/she cannot complete the term.

AMENDMENT XXVI, 1971: Lowers the legal voting age to eighteen.

AMENDMENT XXVII, 1992: Establishes rules for varying compensation for senators and representatives.

To keep resources clean, concise, and easy to update, all Web addresses in this book have been assigned a shortened version using the YOURLS 1ref system. For instance: "http://this_is_an_example_of_a_very_long_url/192837/can-you-make-it-shorter.com" would be shortened to "http://1ref.us/mis" Please note that none of these addresses end with a period. Any periods at the end of a short address are there only to indicate that it is the end of a sentence.

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