

Resources for The Constitution: Fulfilling Democracy's Promise?

Annenberg Center – Constitution Day Civics Survey results

<https://cdn.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Civics-survey-Sept-2017-complete.pdf>

A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation. Library of Congress. Collection of primary source materials from the first 100 years. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>

This site may be easier to use: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/federalist.html>

National Archives – America's Founding Documents

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/charters.html>

Benjamin Franklin's Closing Speech at the Constitutional Convention

https://archive.csac.history.wisc.edu/assessments_64.pdf

Primary source materials on Colonial and Revolutionary Era America

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook12.asp>

Federalist Papers Written by John Jay, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, these were a series of essays in support of ratifying the newly created Constitution. It would become law when 9 states ratified.

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1404/1404-h/1404-h.htm>

Anti-Federalist Papers <http://resources.utulsa.edu/law/classes/rice/Constitutional/AntiFederalist/antifed.htm>

Annenberg Classroom Video "Key Constitutional Concepts". First part is about creation of Constitution.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=CKy2ri4q1So&feature=emb_logo

Articles of Confederation. History Channel. 9/2019. Good background. Includes video.

<https://www.history.com/topics/early-us/articles-of-confederation>

American Indian Constitutions and Their Influence on the United States Constitution. Miller. Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society. [via SSRN] 3/2016.

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2739936

Interactive Constitution Interesting approach; discusses different aspects of Amendments and then has two views of each from legal experts.

https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution?gclid=EA1aIQobChMllbq7hNy42gIVLrvtCh0qsgMnEAYASAAEgKAHfD_BwE

Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

<http://www.idea.int> Online publications include A Practical Guide to Constitution Building; Constitutional Reform Processes and Political Parties; Electoral Systems; New International IDEA Handbook et al.

Constitutions of the World

<https://www.constituteproject.org/>

Democracy

Democracy Maybe: Attitudes on Authoritarianism in America. Drutman et al. Democracy Fund. Voter Study Group. 6/2020

<https://www.voterstudygroup.org/publication/democracy-maybe>

Democracy Index. Highlights. Economist Intelligence Unit. 1/2020. [A yearly report on the state of democracy worldwide].

<https://www.democracywithoutborders.org/12764/eiu-report-2019-a-year-of-democratic-setbacks-and-popular-protest/>

Global democracy in retreat. 2019 Democracy Index report. Economist Intelligence Unit. 1/2020. Links to the report.

<https://www.eiu.com/n/global-democracy-in-retreat/>

Democracy – History

Democracy in Ancient Greece

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/democracy-ancient-greece/>

History of Democracy. Dahl.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/democracy>

Books

The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution by Joseph Ellis. 2015. Great book.

Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Framers, Their Fights and the Flaws That Affect Us Today. Levinson. 2019.

Fighting over the Founders: How we remember the American Revolution

Andrew M. Schocket. 2015.

The Crisis of the Middle-Class Constitution. Sitaraman. 2017.

How Democratic is the American Constitution? By Robert Dahl. 2001.

The Jefferson Rule: How the Founding Fathers Became Infallible and Our Politics Inflexible by David Sehat 2015

American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America by Colin Woodard. 2011.

[Also, many articles about this book.]

Issue of Representation in Congress

Fixing the Senate: Equitable and Full Representation for the 21st Century. Rand Corp. March, 2019.

<https://rooseveltinstitute.org/publications/fixing-the-senate-equitable-full-representation-21st-century/>

The Senate is a much bigger problem than the Electoral College. Ladd. 4/9/2019

<https://www.vox.com/mischiefs-of-faction/2019/4/9/18300749/senate-problem-electoral-college>

The Tyranny of the Minority, from Iowa Caucus to Electoral College. Corey Robin. 2/20/20

https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2020/02/21/the-tyranny-of-the-minority-from-iowa-caucus-to-electoral-college/?fbclid=IwAR1--DhmgfxC5r8UBg8_YYPdbiDkcia6zPdwOFnKt10ZLXwHIYH7NT0HFzI

Perspective against changing representation in the Senate:

Why States Still Matter. J.J. McCullough. 9/11/2018

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/09/states-key-to-senate-legitimacy/>

Bill of Rights

Rights in the Modern Era: Applying the Bill of Rights to the States Wermiel. 1992

Discusses the “incorporation” of the Bill of Rights to apply to the states

<http://scholarship.law.wm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1554&context=wmborj>

Bill of Rights “Incorporation” [applying the federal Bill of Rights to the states]. Lists the key Supreme Court cases which led to the incorporation of specific Amendments.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incorporation_of_the_Bill_of_Rights

James Madison on having a Bill of Rights [and some other things]

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-11-02-0218>

Government Printing Office

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>

Search for federal government documents

“Perspectives on the Constitution: A Republic, If You Can Keep It” by Richard R. Beeman, PhD.

National Constitution Center <http://constitutioncenter.org/learn/educational-resources/historical-documents/perspectives-on-the-constitution-a-republic-if-you-can-keep-it> “our Constitution is neither a self-actuating nor a self-correcting document. It requires the constant attention and devotion of all citizens”

Congress – Current Demographics

Profile of Members of 116th Congress. Congressional Research Service. July, 2020.

<https://fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R45583.pdf>

116th Congress by Party, Race, Gender, and Religion. Hanson. 12/19/29

<https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/slideshows/116th-congress-by-party-race-gender-and-religion>

Supreme Court

Landmark Cases C-Span. Series of programs focused on the most important Supreme Court cases. Includes some discussed in the workshop.

<http://landmarkcases.c-span.org/default.aspx>

Gun Law History in the United States and Second Amendment Rights Spitzer. Duke U. Law School. 2017

<https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4825&context=lcp>

Full issue on the Second Amendment <https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/lcp/vol80/iss2/>

Misc.

Against Presentism. Hunt. 5/1/2002. Essay from the past President of the American Historical Assn.

<https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/may-2002/against-presentism>

Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom. Thomas Jefferson. The precursor to the 1st Amendment.

“The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom is a statement about both freedom of conscience and the principle of separation of church and state. Written by Thomas Jefferson and passed by the Virginia General Assembly on January 16, 1786, it is the forerunner of the first amendment protections for religious freedom...”

<https://www.virginiahistory.org/collections-and-resources/virginia-history-explorer/thomas-jefferson>

The Curious History of Slavery in Africa. Swift.

[https://research.cornell.edu/news-features/curious-history-slavery-west-](https://research.cornell.edu/news-features/curious-history-slavery-west-africa?fbclid=IwAR33tojimJDjQKi4BVpSSvZ4lyOoDut1bm2tJn2SvPbKTIVpLqigxqSdo1g)

[africa?fbclid=IwAR33tojimJDjQKi4BVpSSvZ4lyOoDut1bm2tJn2SvPbKTIVpLqigxqSdo1g](https://research.cornell.edu/news-features/curious-history-slavery-west-africa?fbclid=IwAR33tojimJDjQKi4BVpSSvZ4lyOoDut1bm2tJn2SvPbKTIVpLqigxqSdo1g)

Of the Liberty of Thought and Discussion John Stuart Mill 1869. The classic essay on freedom of speech.

<http://www.bartleby.com/130/2.html>

Wealth and Labor

Divided We Fall: The Founders knew that economic inequality would destroy America's democracy. So why can't the Constitution save us? Ganesh Sitaraman. New Republic. 4/10/17. Very good.

[https://newrepublic.com/article/141644/divided-fall-trump-symptom-constitutional-crisis-](https://newrepublic.com/article/141644/divided-fall-trump-symptom-constitutional-crisis-inequality?fbclid=IwAR3CyyJJ97YO61QrLwAFjwCKa3xzYtXwCY0iUxEyODp_PqLmQckXa4stTB4)

[inequality?fbclid=IwAR3CyyJJ97YO61QrLwAFjwCKa3xzYtXwCY0iUxEyODp_PqLmQckXa4stTB4](https://newrepublic.com/article/141644/divided-fall-trump-symptom-constitutional-crisis-inequality?fbclid=IwAR3CyyJJ97YO61QrLwAFjwCKa3xzYtXwCY0iUxEyODp_PqLmQckXa4stTB4)

The Emergence of American Labor. Richard B. Morris. U.S. Dept. of Labor.

<https://www.dol.gov/general/aboutdol/history/chapter1>

You Can't Take It With You Oct 14th 2010 [free registration]. Concern about concentrated wealth.

<https://www.economist.com/lexingtons-notebook/2010/10/14/you-cant-take-it-with-you>

Major dates in the founding era:

Revolutionary War. 1775-1783.

1776 - Declaration of Independence.

1781-1789 - Articles of Confederation.

1787 - Constitutional Convention, ostensibly to revise the Articles of Confederation.

1789 - Constitution ratified.

1791 - Bill of Rights amended to Constitution during first Congress

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