

**1607**

In this **year**, representatives of the Virginia Company of London established the first permanent English settlement in North America. The settlement was called Jamestown in honor of King James I of England.

**1776**

On July 4 of this **year**, fifty-six representatives from the thirteen colonies unanimously approved the Declaration of Independence.

**1787**

Between May 25 and September 17 of this **year**, delegates gathered in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation. Instead they drafted, debated, compromised, and finally approved for ratification the Constitution of the United States.

**1803**

The United States, under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson, acquired the Louisiana Territory from France during this **year**. The purchase more than doubled the area of the United States.

**1861-1865**

The American Civil War was fought during these **years**. It began with the firing on Fort Sumter and ended with the Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House almost four years later.

**Articles of  
Confederation**

This **document**, the nation's first constitution, was adopted by the Second Continental Congress in 1781 during the Revolution. The document was limited because states held most of the power, and Congress lacked the power to tax, regulate trade, or control coinage.

## **Bill of Rights**

the first ten  
amendments to the  
Constitution  
(ratified in 1791)

## **Civic Virtue**

People who exemplify  
this quality go beyond  
their obligations by taking  
an active role in  
improving the community  
and the experiences of  
other members of the  
community.

## **Declaration of Independence**

This **document** was adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. It established the 13 colonies as independent states, free from rule by Great Britain. Thomas Jefferson wrote the majority of this document.

## **Quote from: Declaration of Independence**

“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 power 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 abolish it, and to institute new government...”

## **English Bill of Rights**

King William and Queen Mary accepted this **document** in 1689. It guaranteed certain rights to English citizens and declared that elections for Parliament would happen frequently. By accepting this document, they supported a limited monarchy, a system in which they shared their power with Parliament and the people.

## **Federalism**

the distribution of power between a federal government and the states within a union

## **Federalist Papers**

a series of **essays** written  
by three leading  
Federalists—  
James Madison,  
Alexander Hamilton, and  
John Jay  
(they supported a form of  
government that divided  
power between a strong  
central government and  
the states)

## **Federalists**

those favoring  
ratification of the  
Constitution and the  
federalist form of  
government

## **Anti-Federalists**

those opposed to the Constitution because they feared the power of the national government in the new federal system

## **Founding Fathers**

This term applies to those individuals who played a major role in declaring U.S. independence, fighting the Revolutionary War, or writing and adopting the U.S. Constitution. They include Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and James Madison.



## **French and Indian War**

This struggle between the British and the French in the colonies of North America was part of a worldwide war known as the Seven Years' War.

## **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut**

This **document** was the first written constitution in the American colonies. It was prepared as the covenant for the new Puritan community in Connecticut, established in the 1630s. This document described a system of government for the new community.

## **Industrial Revolution**

During this rapid period of industrial growth more and more countries adopted mass production. Handmade goods were quickly replaced by machine-made goods. Factory laborers replaced craftsmen and home production.

## **Limited Government**

In this type of government everyone, including all authority figures, must obey laws. Constitutions, statements of rights, or other laws define the limits of those in power so they cannot take advantage of the elected, appointed, or inherited positions.

## **Magna Carta**

This **document**, signed by King John of England in 1215, is the cornerstone of English justice and law. It declared that the king and government were bound by the same laws as other citizens of England. It contained the antecedents of the ideas of due process and the right to a fair and speedy trial that are included in the protection offered by the U.S. Bill of Rights.

## **Manifest Destiny**

This **expression** was popular in the 1840s. Many people believed that the United States was destined to secure territory from “sea to sea,” from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. This rationale drove the acquisition of territory.

## **Mayflower Compact**

This **document** was drafted in 1620 prior to settlement by the Pilgrims at Plymouth Bay in Massachusetts. It declared that the 41 males who signed it agreed to accept majority rule and participate in a government in the best interest of all members of the colony. This agreement set the precedent for later documents outlining commonwealth rule.

## **McCulloch v. Maryland**

In 1819, Chief Justice John Marshall continued to define the limits of the U.S. Constitution and of the authority of the federal and state governments. One side in the case was opposed to the establishment of a national bank and challenged the authority of the federal government to establish one. The Supreme Court ruled that the power of the federal government was supreme over that of the states and that the states could not interfere.

## **Marbury v. Madison**

This was the first judgment by the Supreme Court which supported the federal system of government. In 1803, Chief Justice John Marshall, a Federalist, upheld and strengthened the authority of the federal judiciary. He established the principle of judicial review, the power of the judiciary to determine that a law can be declared unconstitutional.

## **Monroe Doctrine**

A statement of foreign policy which proclaimed that Europe should not interfere in affairs within the United States or in the development of other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

## **Northwest Ordinance**

Enacted in 1787, it is considered one of the most significant achievements of the Articles of Confederation. It established a system for setting up governments in the western territories so they could eventually join the Union on an equal footing with the original 13 states.

## **Philadelphia Convention of 1787**

This meeting was held “for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation.”

Instead the attendees decided to scrap the Articles of Confederation and create a new plan for government.

Of the 55 delegates who attended, 39 signed the document they created-- the U.S. Constitution.

## **15<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

This amendment granted black men the right to vote.

## **13<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

This amendment freed all slaves without compensation to the slaveowners. It legally forbade slavery in the United States.

## **14<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

This amendment declared that all persons born or naturalized in the United States were entitled equal rights regardless of their race, and that their rights were protected at both the state and national levels.

## **Abolitionist Movement**

The movement concentrated on ending slavery in the United States



## **Bessemer Steel Process**

The process of removing impurities from iron to make steel by blasting the melted iron with hot air

## **Checks and Balances**

A system that allows each branch of government to limit the powers of the other branches in order to prevent abuse of power

## **Civil Disobedience**

**Henry David Thoreau advocated this process of defying codes of conduct within a community or ignoring the policies and government of a state or nation when the civil laws are unjust.**

## **Gettysburg Address**

Speech given by Abraham Lincoln which captured the spirit of liberty and morality ideally held by citizens of a democracy. That ideal was threatened by the Civil War.

## **Gibbons v. Ogden**

Supreme Court decision that ruled that the Constitution gave control of interstate commerce to the U.S. Congress, not the individual states through which a route passed.

## **Individual Rights**

These are protected by the Bill of Rights and include economic rights related to property, political rights related to freedom of speech and press, and personal rights related to bearing arms and maintaining private residences.

## **Judicial Review**

Provides for the judicial branch of the government to determine if laws are constitutional.

## **Mercantilism**

A set of economic principles based on policies which stress government regulation of economic activities to benefit the home country

## **Emancipation Proclamation**

Issued by Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862, it declared that all slaves in the rebellious Confederate states would be free.

## **Nullification Crisis**

Southerners favored freedom of trade and believed in the authority of states over the federal government. Southerners declared federal protective tariffs null and void.

## **Plantation System**

A system of agricultural production based on large-scale land ownership and the exploitation of labor and the environment. This system focused on the production of cash crops and utilized slave labor.

## **Popular Sovereignty**

The concept that political power rests with the people who can create, alter, and abolish government. People express themselves through voting and free participation in government.

## **Protective Tariff**

A tax on an imported product instituted to protect local industries

## **Reform Movements**

Work to change society for the better. Focused on improving conditions for the poor, enslaved, imprisoned, women, and disabled.

## **Representative Government**

Power is held by the people and exercised through the efforts of representatives elected by the people.

## **Republicanism**

A philosophy of limited government with elected representatives serving at the will of the people. Government is based on consent of the governed.



## **Separation of Powers**

The division of a central government into two or more branches, each having its own responsibilities and authorities.

## **Unalienable Rights**

These rights are fundamental or natural rights guaranteed to people naturally instead of by the law. They include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

## **Dred Scot v. Sandford**

A landmark Supreme Court decision which confirmed that status of slaves as property rather than citizens.

## **Free Enterprise System**

An economic system in which individuals depend on supply and demand and the profit margin to determine what to produce, how to produce  
how much to produce, and for whom to produce. The quest for improvement financially and materially motivates consumers and producers.