

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF WORLD  
LANGUAGES**

**SELF-STUDY WORK ON COUNTRY STUDY**

**TOPIC: AMERICAN CONSTITUTION.  
CONSTITUTION OF THE USA AND ITS  
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND  
DONE BY:**

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2012

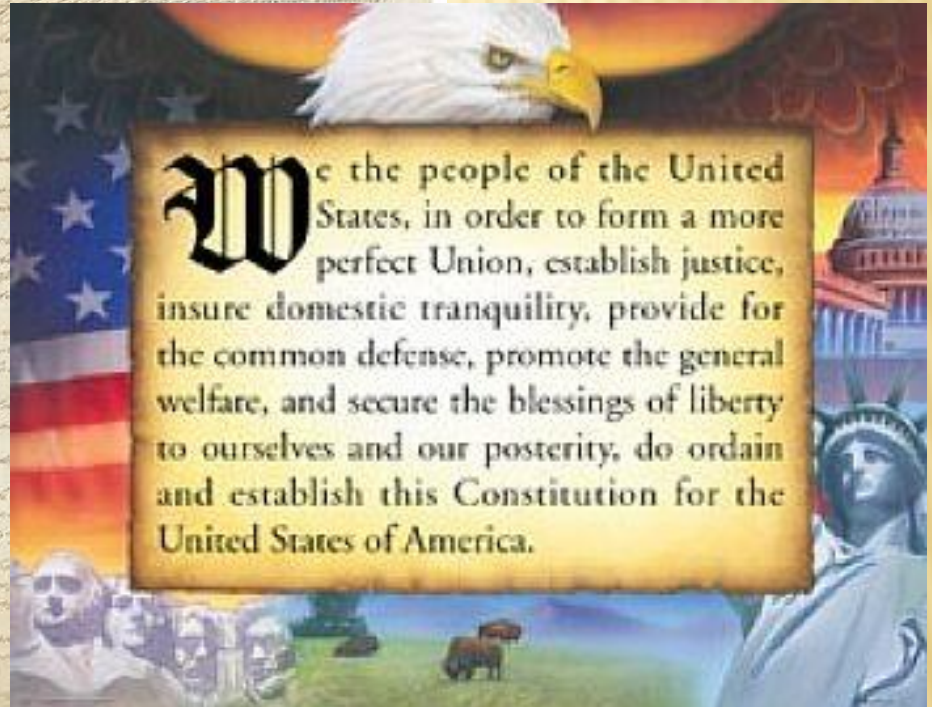
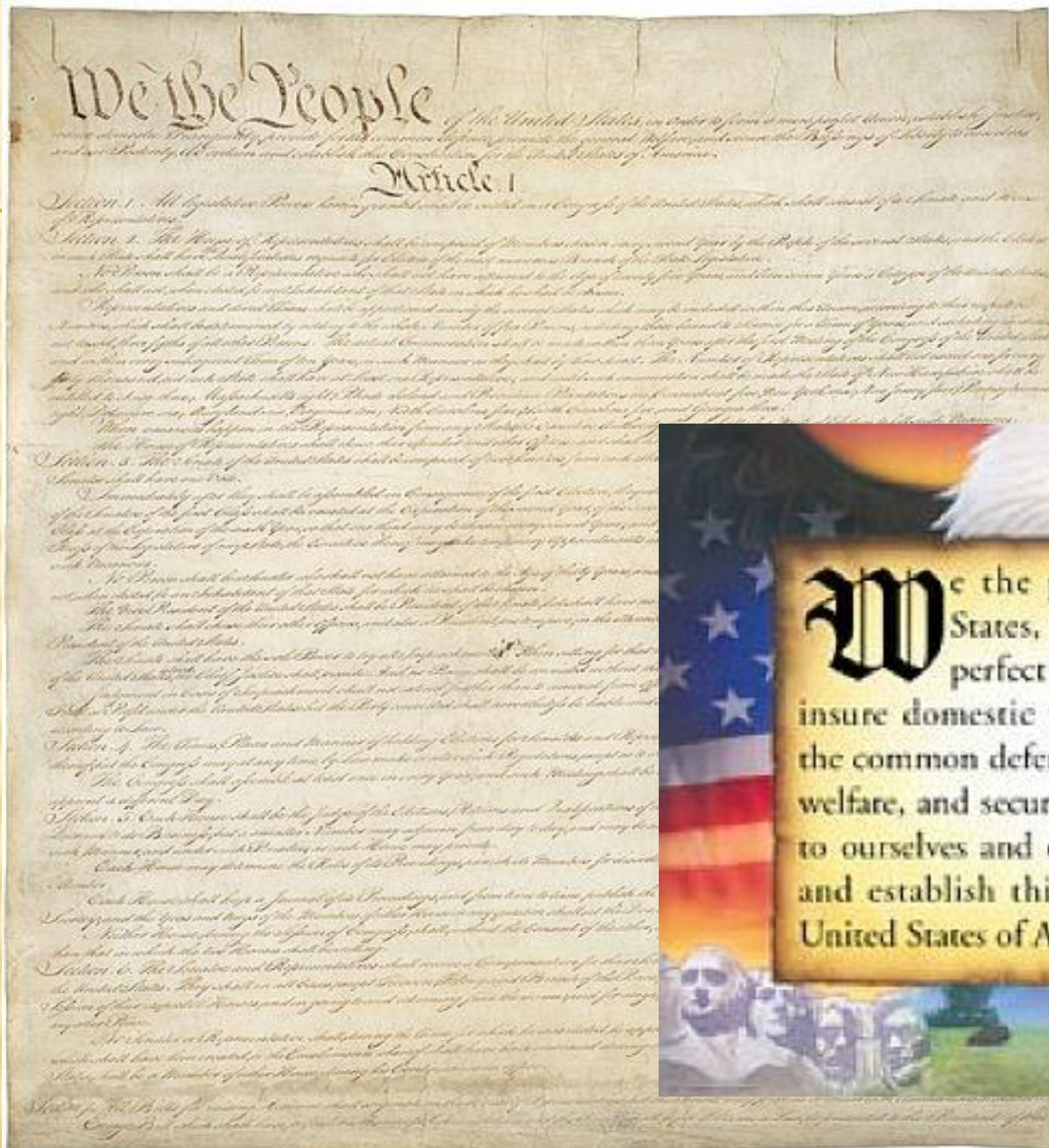
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# CONSTITUTION OF THE USA AND ITS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



PAGE ONE OF THE ORIGINAL COPY OF THE CONSTITUTION

# INTRODUCTION TO THE U.S CONSTITUTION

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- The Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787, by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, ratified June 21, 1788
- The first ten constitutional amendments ratified by three-fourths of the states in 1791 are known as the Bill of Rights.
- James Madison was “the father” of the Constitution

# JAMES MADISON "THE FATHER" OF THE CONSTITUTION



# GEORGE WASHINGTON AT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1787, SIGNING OF U.S. CONSTITUTION.



# AN OUTLINE OF THE CONSTITUTION

- The Constitution sets out the basic principles upon which government in the United States was built.
- The Constitution sets out the basic principles upon which government in the United States was built.
- The Constitution is organized into eight sections: the Preamble and seven articles. The original document is followed by 27 amendments.



<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Time Required for Ratification</b>
1st–10th	Bill of Rights	1791	2 years, 2 months, 20 days
11th	Immunity of States from certain lawsuits	1795	11 months, 3 days
12th	Changes in electoral college procedures	1804	6 months, 6 days
13th	Abolition of slavery	1865	10 months, 6 days
14th	Citizenship, due process, equal protection	1868	2 years, 26 days
15th	No denial of vote because of race, color, or previous enslavement	1870	11 months, 8 days
16th	Power of Congress to tax incomes	1913	3 years, 6 months, 22 days
17th	Popular election of U.S. Senators	1913	10 months, 26 days
18th	Prohibition of alcohol	1919	1 year, 29 days
19th	Woman suffrage	1920	1 year, 2 months, 14 days
20th	Change of dates for start of presidential and Congressional terms	1933	10 months, 21 days
21st	Repeal of Prohibition (18th Amendment)	1933	9 months, 15 days
22nd	Limit on presidential terms	1951	3 years, 11 months, 6 days
23rd	District of Columbia vote in presidential elections	1961	9 months, 13 days
24th	Ban of tax payment as voter qualification	1964	1 year, 4 months, 27 days
25th	Presidential succession, vice presidential vacancy, and presidential disability	1967	1 year, 7 months, 4 days
26th	Voting age of 18	1971	3 months, 8 days
27th	Congressional pay	1992	202 years, 7 months, 12 days

# ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>Preamble</b>	States the purpose of the Constitution
<b>Article I</b>	Legislative branch
<b>Article II</b>	Executive branch
<b>Article III</b>	Judicial branch
<b>Article IV</b>	Relations among the States and with the National Government
<b>Article V</b>	Amending the Constitution
<b>Article VI</b>	National debts, supremacy of national law, and oaths of office
<b>Article VII</b>	Ratifying the Constitution

# CONSTITUTION



The U.S. Capitol



The White House



The Supreme Court

## LEGISLATIVE

CONGRESS



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



SENATE

## EXECUTIVE



PRESIDENT



VICE PRESIDENT

## JUDICIAL



SUPREME COURT

# BASIC PRINCIPLES

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- The principle of **popular sovereignty** asserts that the people are the source of any and all government power, and government can exist only with the consent of the governed.
- The principle of **limited government** states that government is restricted in what it may do, and each individual has rights that government cannot take away.
- **Separation of powers** is the principle in which the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government are three independent and coequal branches of government.

# BASIC PRINCIPLES

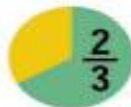
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- **Checks and balances** is the system that allows the legislative, executive, and judicial branches to check, or restrain, the actions of one another.
- The principle of **judicial review** consists of the power of a court to determine the constitutionality of a governmental action.
- **Federalism** is a system of government in which the powers of government are divided between a central government and several local governments.

# THE FOUR DIFFERENT WAYS BY WHICH AMENDMENTS MAY BE ADDED TO THE CONSTITUTION ARE SHOWN HERE.

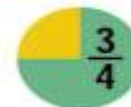
## Step 1 Amendment Is Proposed

Proposed by Congress by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote in both houses

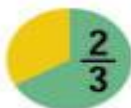


## Step 2 Amendment Is Ratified

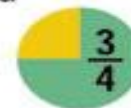
Ratified by the State legislatures of  $\frac{3}{4}$  (38) of the States



Proposed at a national convention called by Congress when requested by  $\frac{2}{3}$  (34) of the State legislatures



Ratified by conventions held in  $\frac{3}{4}$  (38) of the States



## REFERENCES:

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- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United States Constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Constitution)
- <http://beta.photobucket.com/images/us%20constitution/>
- <http://www.history.com/topics/constitution>