

WEEK FOUR

*The Seeds
of Liberty*

*[T]he virtue which had been infused into the Constitution of the United States ... was no other than the concretion of those abstract principles which had been first proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence.... **This was the platform upon which the Constitution of the United States had been erected.** Its virtues, its republican character, consisted in its conformity to the principles proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence and as its administration ... was to depend upon the ... virtue, or in other words, of those principles proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence and embodied in the Constitution of the United States.^{xviii}*

- John Quincy Adams, at "The Jubilee of the
Constitution"

In business terms, the Declaration of Independence is like the _____ of _____¹, telling who we are and what we are about, and the Constitution is like the _____², telling how the business will operate.

Before the formation of the Constitution, the Declaration was received and ratified by all the States in the Union and has never been disannulled.^{xix}

- Samuel Adams, Father of the
American Revolution

[The Constitution] is but the body and the letter of which the former is the thought and the spirit, and it is always safe to read the letter of the Constitution in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence.^{xx}

- U.S. Supreme Court

The Framers' Formula for Lasting Freedom

*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**...^{xxi}*

The Declaration of Independence includes four essential principles that hold our freedom firmly in place:

1. _____³ (The undeniable fact that moral absolutes exist.)

2. _____⁴ (Our unalienable right to individual freedom comes from God)
3. _____⁵ (We have a voice in our government.)
4. _____⁶ (The importance of free enterprise to our freedom.)

Self-evident Truths & Endowed by Our Creator

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness.... The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them.^{xxii}

- George Washington

The American Revolution was _____
 _____⁷ and it led to the most successful nation
 in the history of the world. The French Revolution was
 _____⁸ and it led to the
 guillotine and total chaos.

The normal model of government in 1776 was based on the idea that power flowed from _____ to the _____ to the _____⁹.

The American model of government reversed the last two so that power flows from _____ directly to _____ and then power is given to _____¹⁰ only as the people deem appropriate.

If government does not _____¹¹ us our freedom, then government cannot rightfully _____¹² it away.

Thomas Jefferson even noted that the firm _____¹³ was for people to remember that liberty is a gift from God.^{xxiii}

When delegates to the Constitutional Convention began to despair, _____¹⁴ Franklin, the elder statesman, spoke on June 28, 1787, in an attempt to get the delegates back on track.

Mr. President, the small progress we have made after four or five weeks close attendance & continual reasonings with each other—our different sentiments on almost every question, several of the last producing as many noes and ayes, is methinks a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the Human Understanding. We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. We have gone back to ancient history for models of Government, and examined the different forms of those Republics which having been formed with the seeds of their own dissolution now no longer exist. And we have viewed Modern States all round Europe, but find none of their Constitutions suitable to our circumstances.

In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings?

In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible to danger, we had daily prayer in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor... [H]ave we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?

We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writing, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel...

I therefore beg leave to move—that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business... ^{xxxiv}

**- Benjamin Franklin, Declaration and
Constitution Signer**

The real wonder is that the Constitutional Convention overcame so many difficulties. And to overcome them with so much agreement was as unprecedented as it was unexpected. It is impossible for the pious man not to recognize in it a finger of that Almighty Hand which was so frequently extended to us in the critical stages of the Revolution.^{xxxv}

- James Madison, Father of the Constitution

For my own part, I sincerely esteem a system which, without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests.^{xxxvi}

- Alexander Hamilton, Constitution Signer & co-author of the Federalist Papers

As to my sentiments with respect to the new Constitution, it appears to me little short of a miracle. It demonstrates as visibly the finger of Providence as any possible event in the course of human affairs can ever designate it.^{xxxvii}

- George Washington, Constitution Signer & Presiding Officer of the Convention

The Pursuit of Happiness

A wise and frugal government, which shall leave men free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor bread it has earned - this is the sum of good government.^{xxxviii}

- Thomas Jefferson

William Bradford and the Pilgrims tried socialism, which Governor Bradford said caused much _____ and _____¹⁵, and retard[ed] much employment, that would have been to their benefit, and comfort^{xxxix} and caused people to *allege weakness and inability*.

After starving literally to death (many of them), Bradford made two very important changes by implementing _____ and _____¹⁶.

They were soon exporting corn and thriving.

This had very good success; for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted, than otherwise would have been; by any means the Governor or any other could use, and saved him a great deal of trouble, and gave far better content.^{xxx}

- Gov. William Bradford

NOTE: Remember all this when we get to the Commerce Clause in Article 1, Section 8!

(Be sure to enjoy the bonus videos found in your free digital version of this workbook at BiblicalCitizens.com)

Consent of the Governed

It is a great mistake to suppose that the paper we are to propose will govern the United States. It is the men whom it will bring into the Government and interest in maintaining it that is to govern them. The paper will only mark out the mode and the form. Men are the substance and must do the business.^{xxxix}

**- John Francis Mercer, delegate
to the Constitutional Convention**

If we want to uphold the Constitution, we have to make _____¹⁷ in choosing our leaders, be part of the process, and be engaged in our government.

In our final class, we will discuss the proper, constitutional way to fulfill our duty in giving or refusing our consent.

The Six Immutable Principles in the Declaration of Independence:

1. There is a divine _____¹⁸.

Believing in a divine Creator is the first step toward _____¹⁹, because if government is all-supreme, there is nothing that can impose limits.

If God is not in the national equation, then _____²⁰ becomes god.

2. _____²¹ **come from God.**

Every person has a set of _____²² given by the Creator, not government, which government has no _____²³ to interfere with.

3. **Government exists to _____²⁴ inalienable rights.**

Government is not there to _____²⁵ for us, but to protect us while we go out and produce. The more government provides for us, the less _____²⁶ we are because the less initiative we have.

4. **There is a _____²⁷ law.**

A lack of a fixed moral law leads to _____²⁸, where every person gets to decide for themselves what is right and wrong and the powerful control the weak. John Quincy Adams called this “the law of the tiger and the shark.”

5. **The _____²⁹ of the governed, or the will of the majority.**

This principle only follows the principles stating that there are inalienable _____³⁰ and a fixed _____³¹. The consent of the governed does not overrule these basic truths.

6. The people's right to _____ their _____³².

Because government comes _____³³, we can change our government in any way needed if the first five principles are violated.

Richard Henry Lee said that Thomas Jefferson "_____"³⁴ the Declaration of Independence from John Locke's book "The Two Treatises of Government," which cites the Bible over _____³⁵ times to show the proper operation of civil government.

Every right set forth in the Declaration had been _____³⁶ from the American _____³⁷ prior to 1763.

Many phrases in the Declaration of Independence were originally preached by Rev. _____³⁸, whose sermons were reprinted and published by the Founding Fathers before the Revolution.

In George Washington's day, "duty" meant a _____³⁹ contractual obligation.

It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.^{xxxii}

- George Washington

Assignments:

In your own words, why is it important to study the *Declaration of Independence* in a class on the *Constitution*?

Using the full text of both documents in Appendix C and E of this book, compare *Declaration* grievance #3 to Article 1, Section 2 of the *Constitution*. Then find the Clause in the *Constitution* that is connected to the following Grievances in the *Declaration*:

Grievance #4: Article 1, Section 5, Clause _____⁴⁰

Grievance #5: Article 1, Section 4, Clause _____⁴¹

Grievance #7: Article 1, Section _____⁴², Clause 4

Grievance #8: Article _____⁴³, Section 8, Clause 9

Grievance #11: Article 1, Section _____, Clause _____⁴⁴

Grievance #12: Article _____, Section _____, Clause _____⁴⁵

Grievance #14: The _____⁴⁶ Amendment

Grievance #18: The _____ and _____⁴⁷ Amendments

As I have traveled across the country, I have been astounded just how many of our fellow citizens feel strongly about their constitutional rights but have no idea what they are, or for that matter, what the Constitution says. I am not suggesting that they become Constitutional scholars -- whatever that means. I am suggesting, however, that if one feels strongly about his or her rights, it does make sense to know generally what the Constitution says about them. It is at least as easy to understand as a cell phone contract -- and vastly more important.^{xxxiii}

- Clarence Thomas, U.S. Supreme Court Justice

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, 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.

- Preamble to the Constitution

General Welfare: *Exemption from any unusual evil or calamity; the enjoyment of peace and prosperity, or the ordinary blessings of society and civil government; applied to states.*
(emphasis added)

- Webster's 1828 Dictionary

“General welfare” is not “_____”⁴⁸,” it only applies to the states and the system in general.

If not from _____⁴⁹, where do the *Blessings of liberty*’ come from?

The _____⁵⁰ Amendment limited any person to serve as president to no more than two full terms, thereby curbing the power of the executive branch. This was ratified after _____⁵¹ was elected to a fourth presidential term, and the American people had decided that was too long and too much power.

The District of Columbia was designed by Article 1, Section 8, Paragraph 17 not to be a _____⁵² or within a _____⁵³, but rather a special place for the seat of the federal government.

The 23rd Amendment gives citizens in D.C. the right to _____ for _____⁵⁴ by granting D.C. the same number of electors in the electoral college as the smallest state.

*The 1800 rematch election between Adams and Jefferson also created confusion when the old process created a tie in the electoral college between Jefferson and his running mate Aaron Burr due to there being no distinction between electoral votes cast for President or Vice-President. The tie threw the election to Congress, which finally chose Jefferson after several dozen ballots.

U.S. CONSTITUTION AT A GLANCE

ARTICLES

I	=		55
II	=		56
III	=		57
IV	=		58
V	=		59
VI	=		60
VII	=		61

AMENDMENTS

1-10	=		62
12*, 20, 22, 23, 25	=		63
11	=		64
17, 20, 27	=		65
13, 14, 15	=		66
15, 19, 24, 26	=		67
16	=		68
18, 21	=		69

BILL OF RIGHTS

1 st	=		70
2 nd	=		71
3 rd	=		72
4 th	=		73
5 th	=		74
6 th	=		75
7 th	=		76
8 th	=		77
9 th	=		78
10 th	=		79

NOTE: The filled in *Constitution at a Glance* is in Appendix A

The _____⁸⁰ Amendment changed the way _____⁸¹ are elected, removing the check and balance of states' ability to curb federal encroachment upon state jurisdictions.

The 14th Amendment _____⁸² the Constitution to the states, not just the Federal government.

For a detailed description of the history of the 14th Amendment, read Justice Clarence Thomas' Concurring Opinion in McDonald v. Chicago and his argument for why the 14th guarantees all citizens the same privileges and immunities. You can view the opinion online here:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/08-1521.ZC1.html>

The "voting" amendments were significant because the majority was giving the _____⁸³ the ability to _____⁸⁴, which is rarely seen in other countries.

The _____⁸⁵ Amendment was necessary for Congress to ban alcohol because the people had never given them, through the Constitution, the authority to do so.
