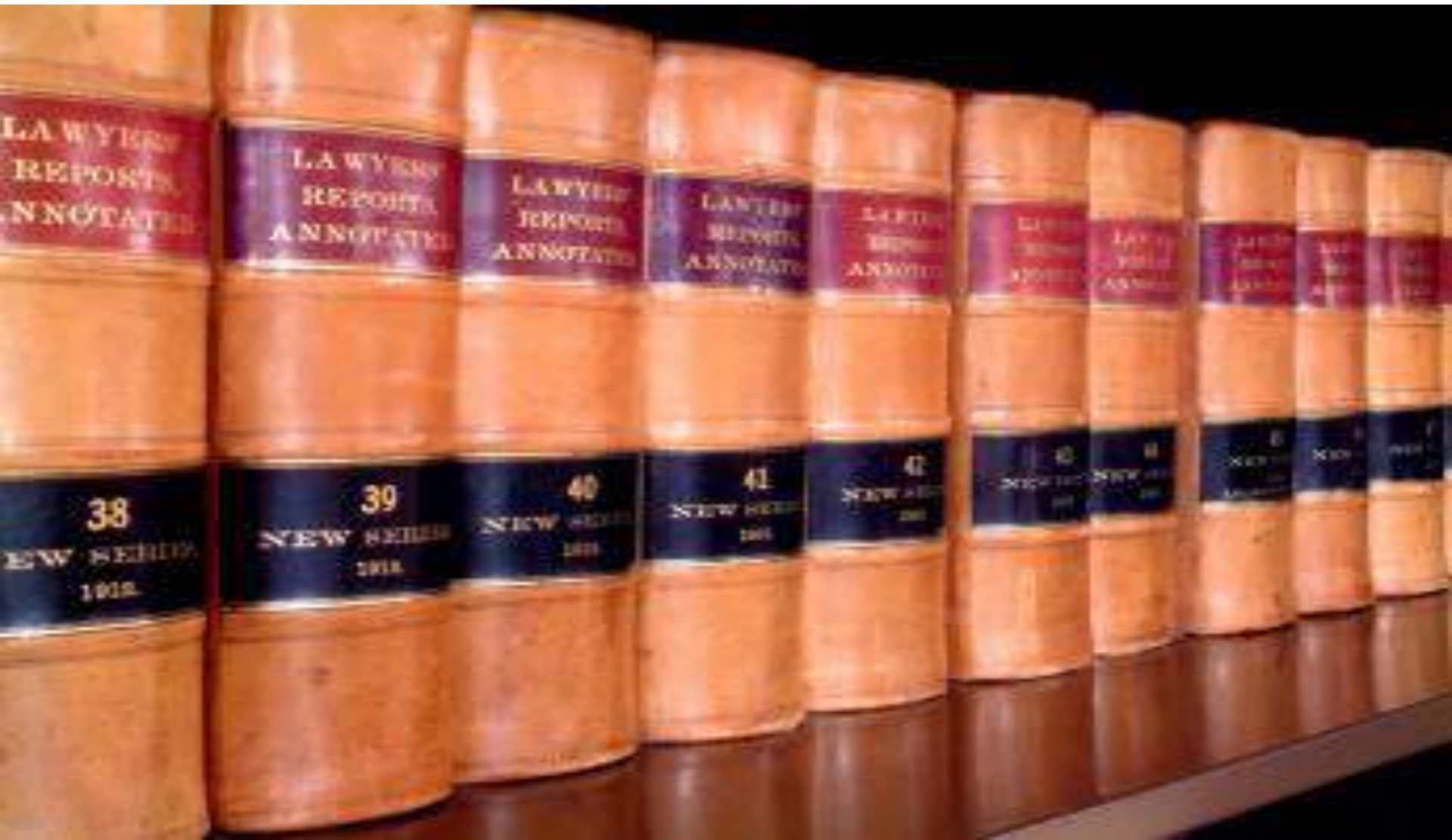


The Constitution is the nation's most important document.



The Constitution is the basic law of the United States.



The Constitution begins with an introduction, or Preamble.



The Preamble identifies ideas that the government stands for and states the purpose of the Constitution



The Preamble lists six goals for the United States' Government:



1. “Form a More Perfect Union”



(We needed something better than
the Articles of Confederation...)

Drafting the Articles of Confederation

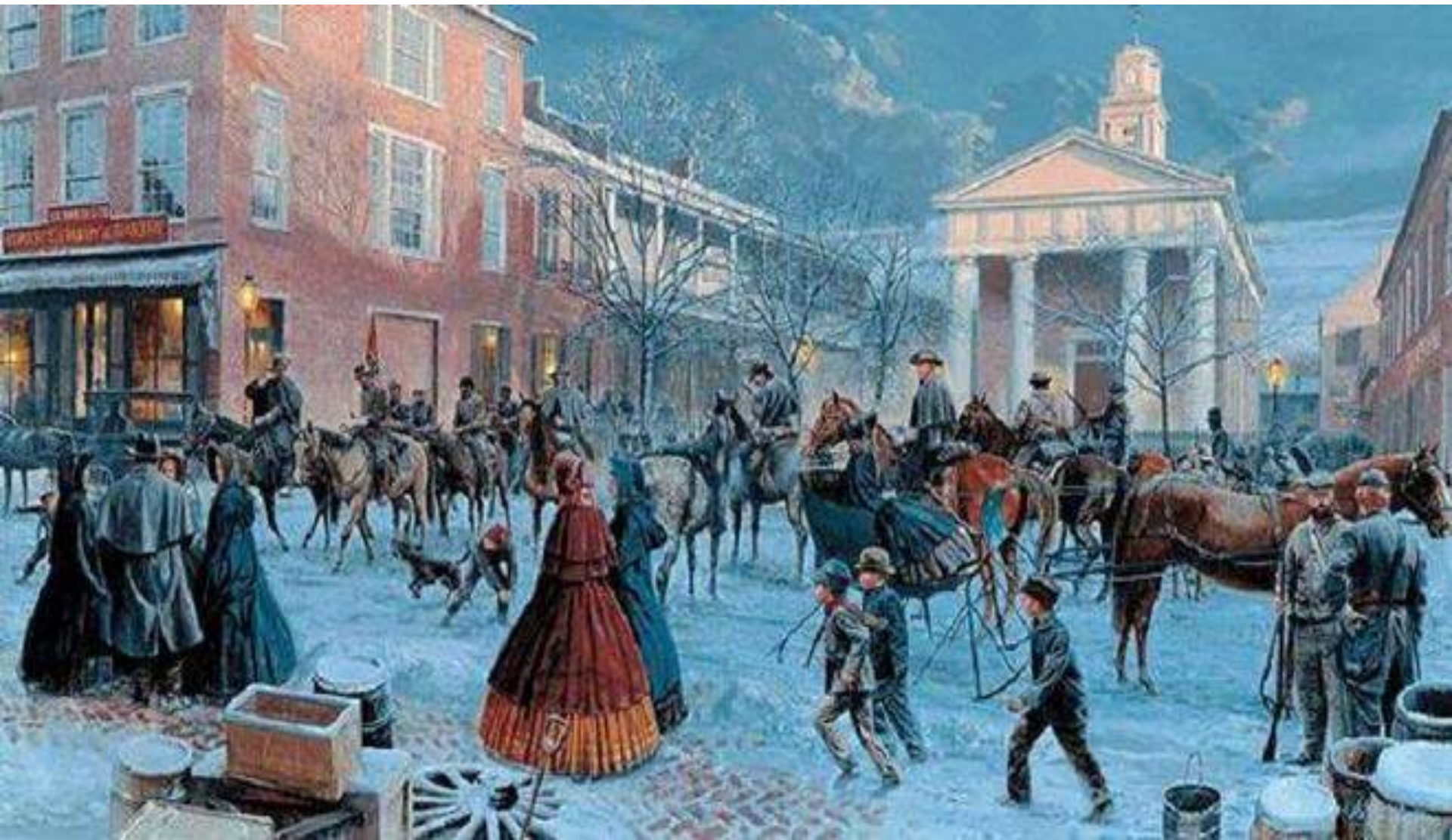


York Town, Pennsylvania 1777 **13**^{USA}_C

2. “Establish Justice”



3. “Insure Domestic Tranquility”



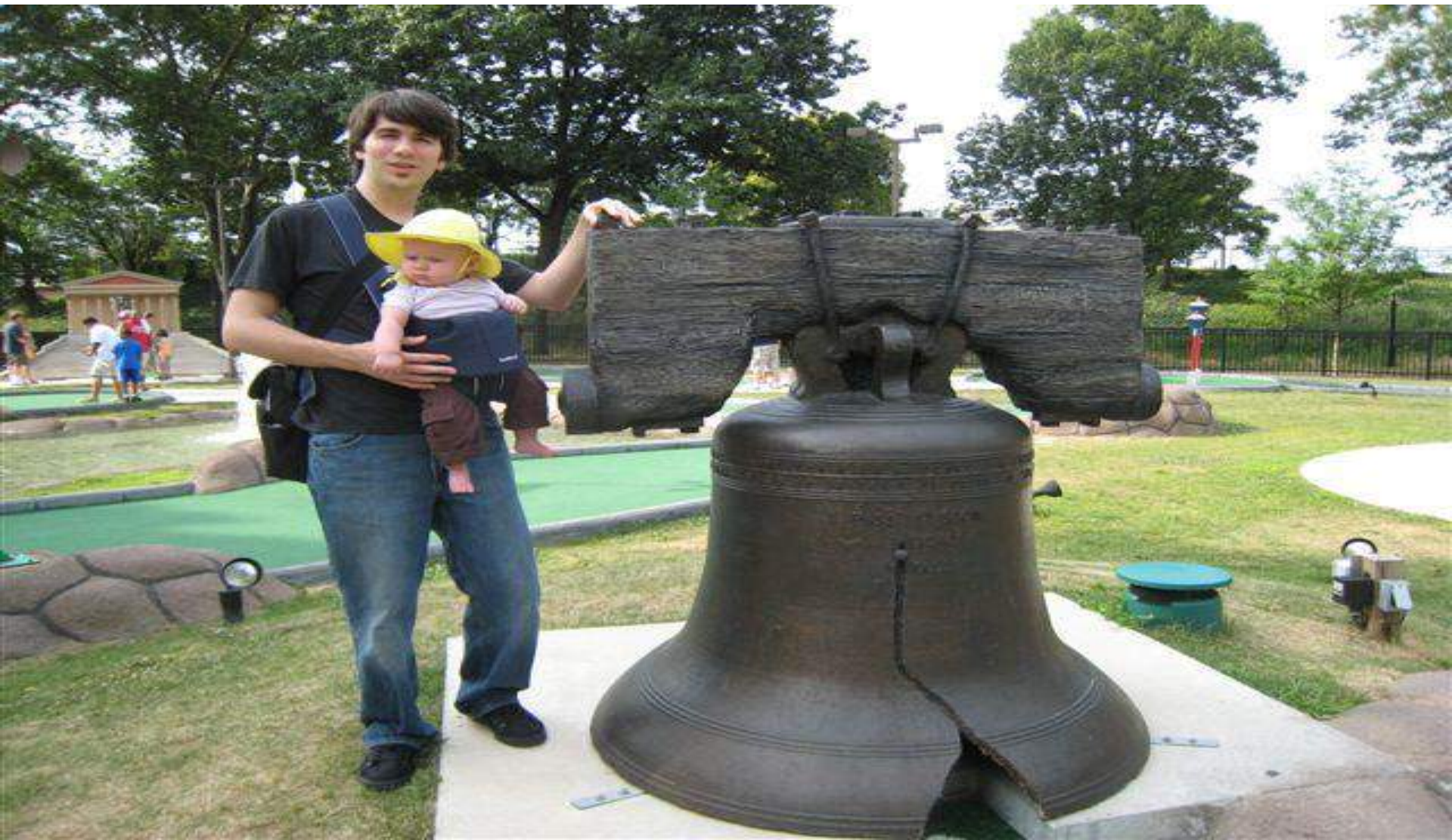
4. “Provide for the Common Defense”



5. “Promote the General Welfare”



6. “Secure the Blessings of Liberty to Ourselves and our Posterity”



After the Preamble, the Constitution is broken into seven parts or Articles (Page 297)

The Constitution

We the People

of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defence, 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.

Article I.

SECTION 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

SECTION 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty-five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

[Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.] The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

SECTION 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one-third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

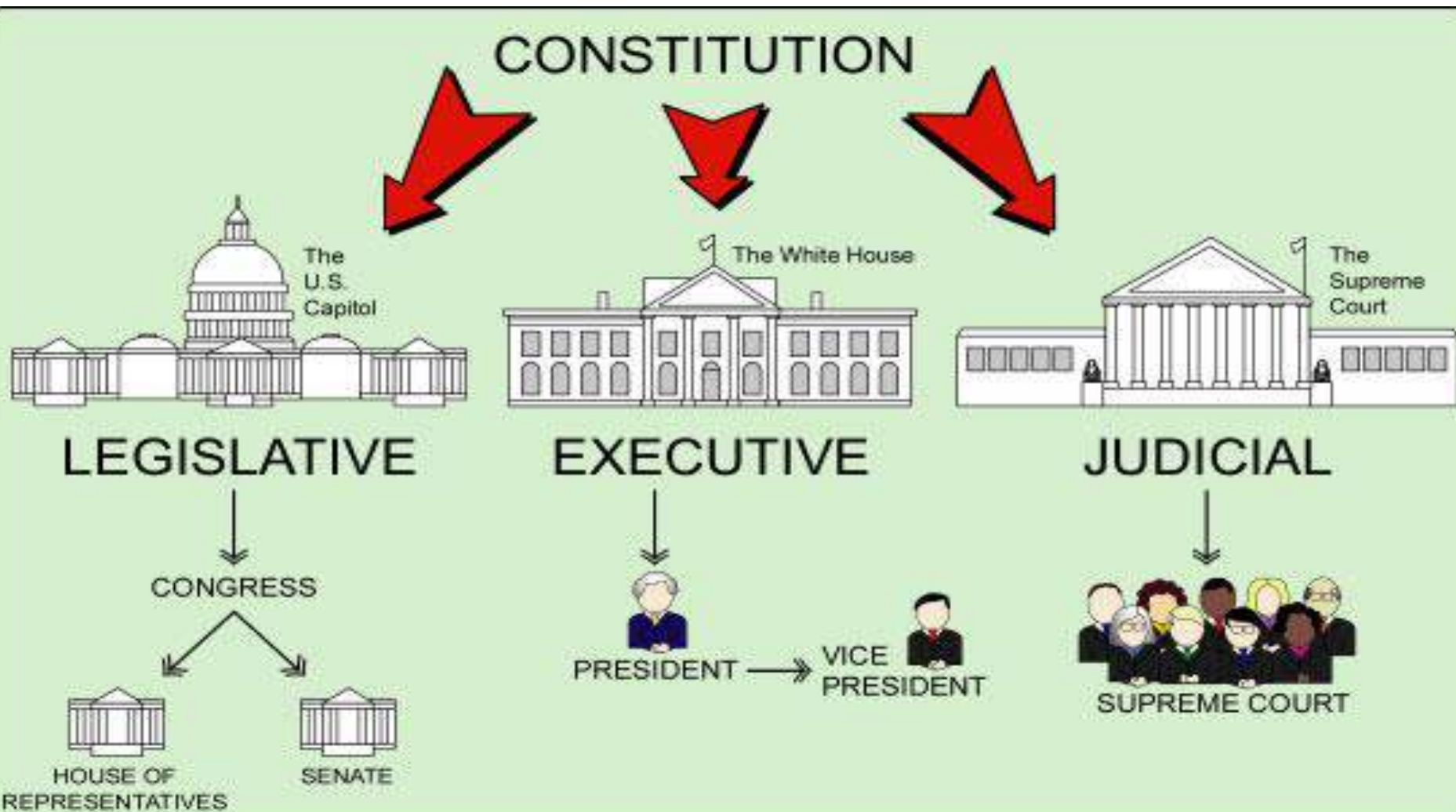
The Founders saw the Constitution as a contract between the people and their government.



The Constitution is divided into seven parts (articles) that set forth the terms of that contract.



The first three articles describe the powers and responsibilities of the three branches of government.



Article I (pp. 297-302) states that a Congress was made up of two houses.



The Legislative Branch makes laws.



Article II (pp. 302-304) Deals with the Executive Branch



The Executive Branch carries out and enforces laws



Article III (p. 304) Talks about the
Judicial Branch, the courts.



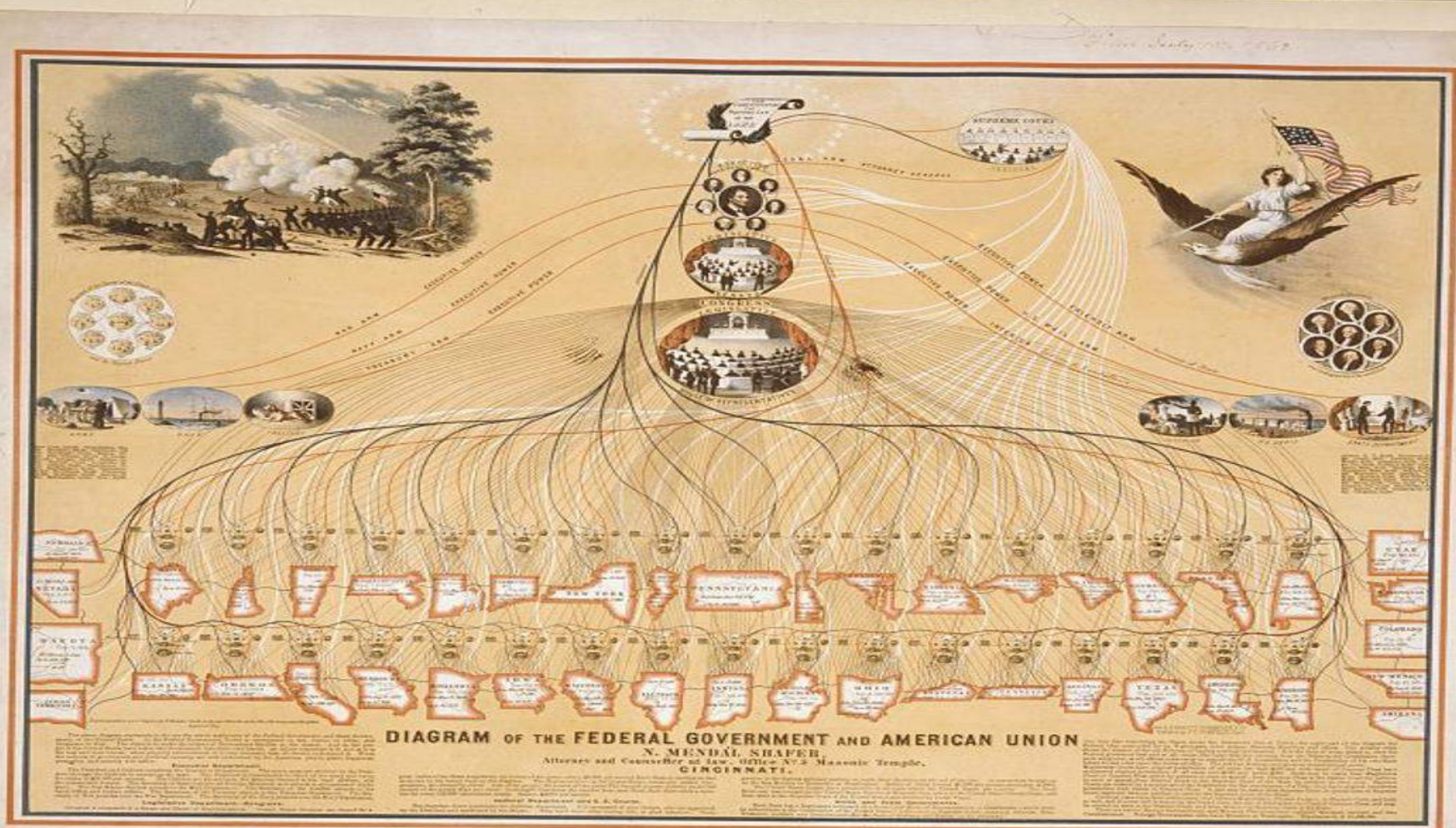
Nine Justices sit on the United States Supreme Court



The Judicial Branch decides if laws
are Constitutional



Articles IV-VII (pp. 306-307) explain
the relationship between the states
and the national government



Some thought that the Constitution should be changed or amended as needed.

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

The first 10 Amendments (pp. 308-309) are known as the “Bill of Rights.”

Bill of Rights

Congress OF THE United States,

*begun and held at the City of, New York, on
Wednesday, the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.*

The Conventions of a number of the States having, at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best insure the beneficent ends of its institution:

Resolved, by the SENATE and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, That the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; all, or any of which articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, viz.

Articles in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the Original Constitution.

Article the first After the first enumeration required by the first Article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representative for every thirty thousand, until the number shall amount to one hundred, after which, the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall be not less than one hundred Representatives, nor less than one Representative for every forty thousand persons, until the number of Representatives shall amount to two hundred, after which, the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall not be less than two hundred Representatives, nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons. [Not Ratified]

Article the second No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened. [Not Ratified]

Article the third Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

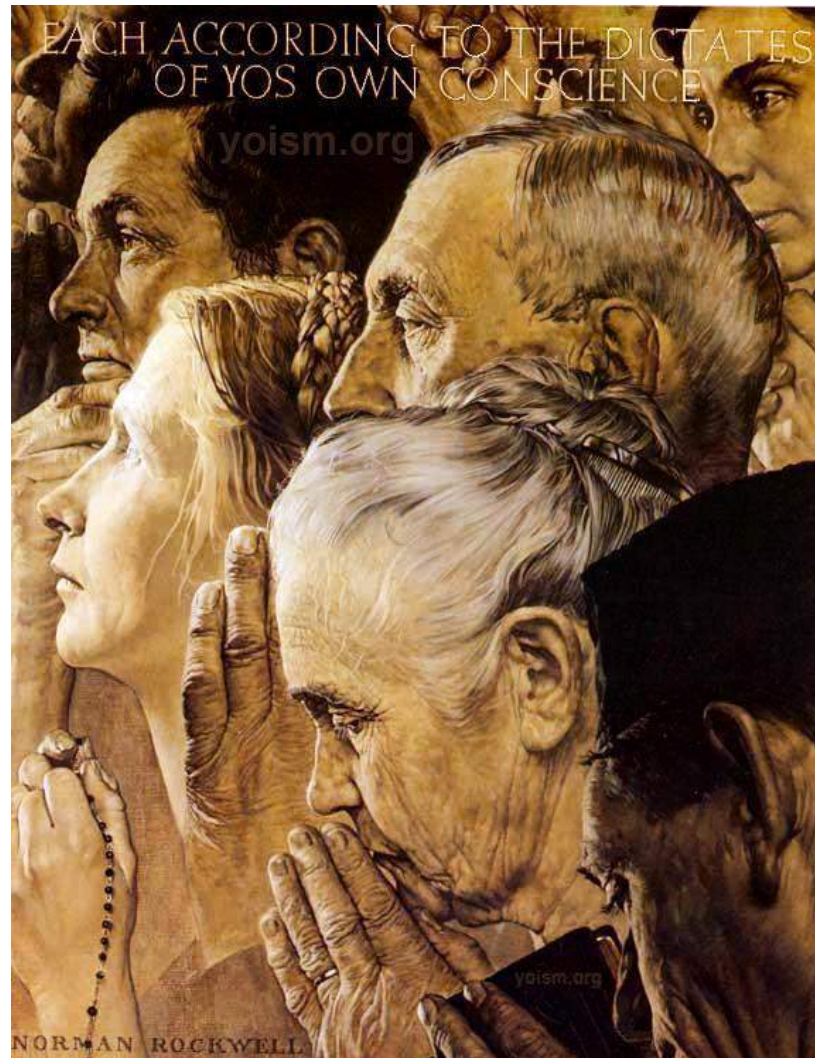
Article the fourth A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

The First Amendment protects five basic freedoms:

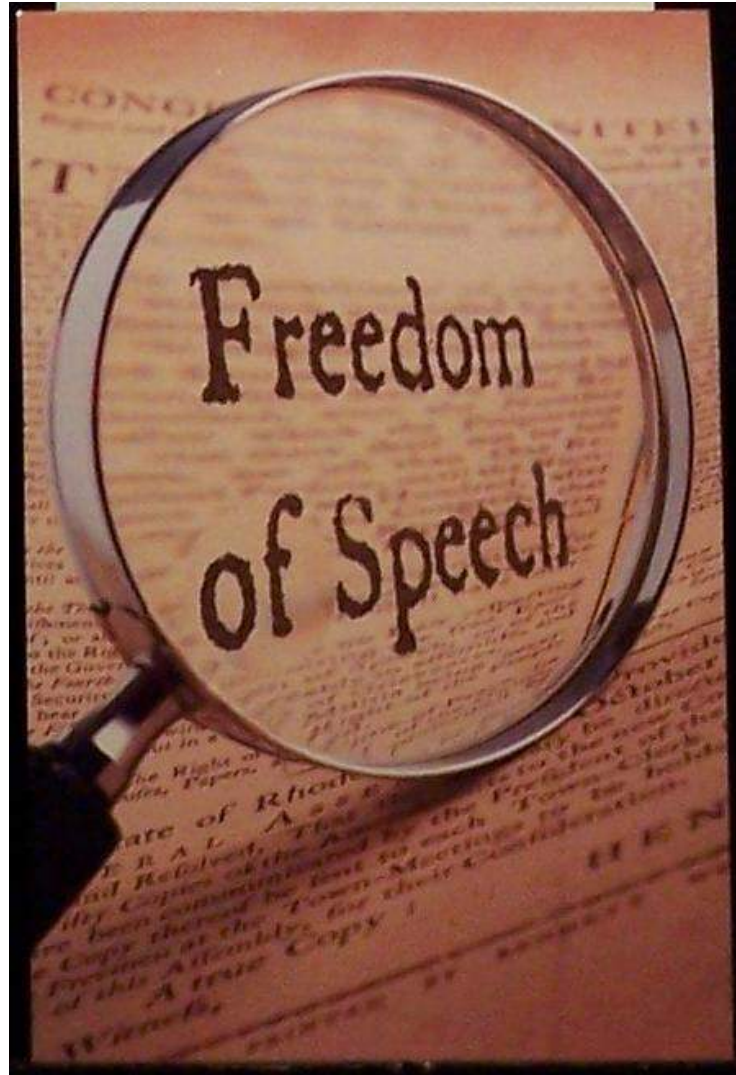
The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

First Amendment: Freedom of Religion...



First Amendment: Freedom of Speech...



First Amendment: Freedom of the Press...



First Amendment: Freedom of Assembly...



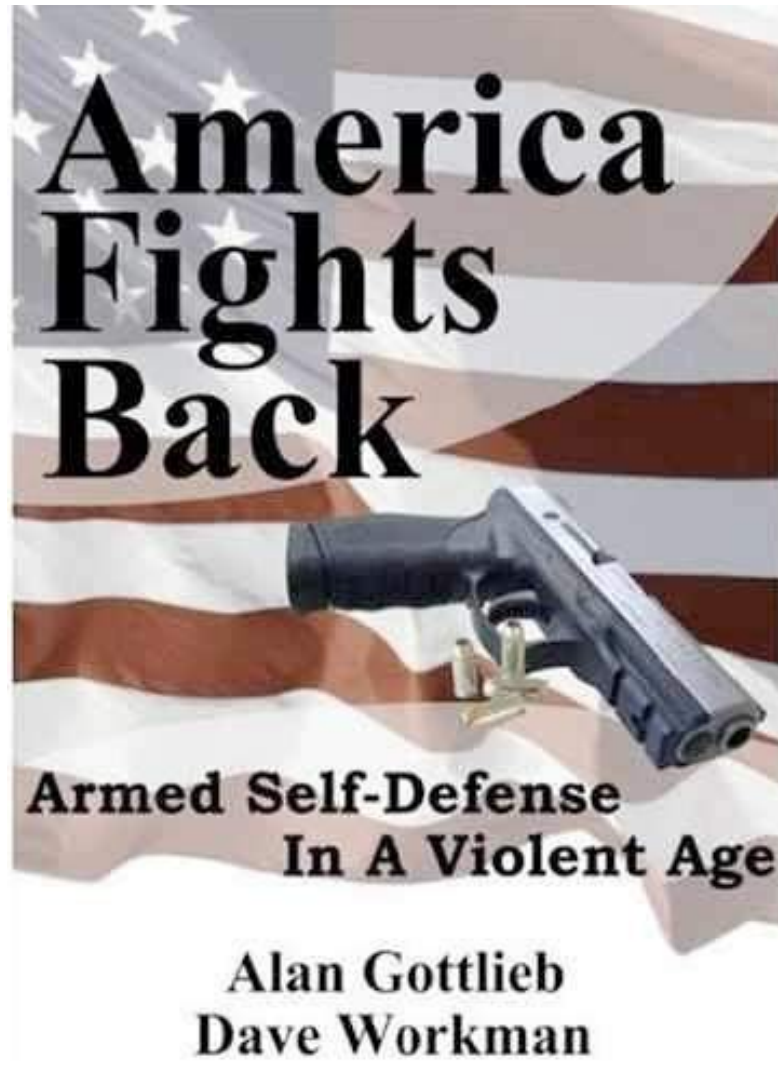
First Amendment: Right to Petition the Government...



Second Amendment: Right to serve in a State Militia...



Second Amendment: Right to Bear Arms.



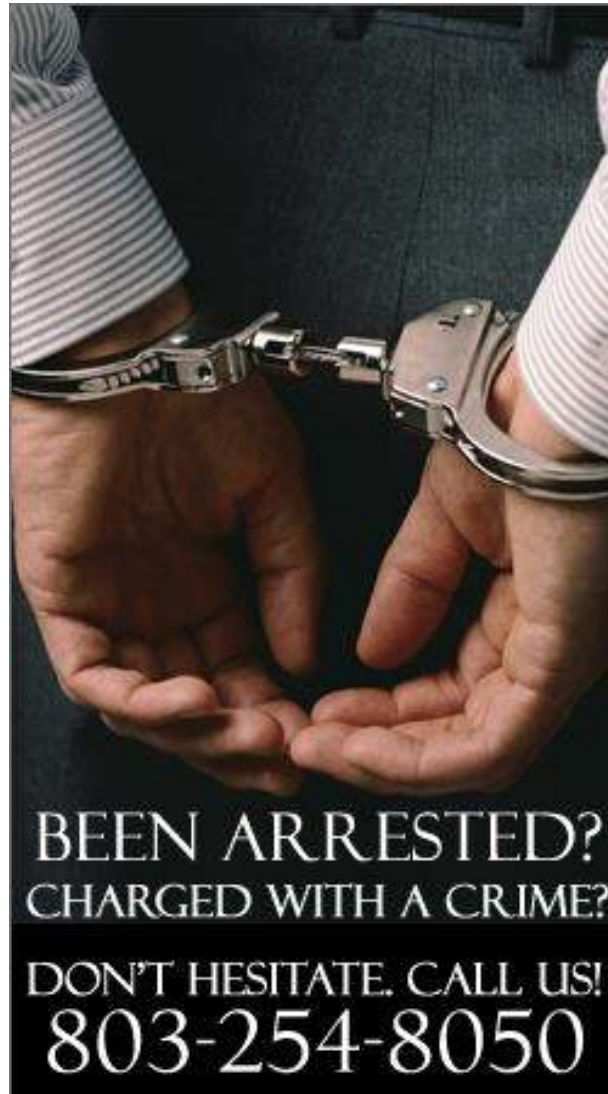
Third Amendment: No Quartering of Soldiers except in time of War...



Fourth Amendment: No Searches and Seizures without a Warrant.



Fifth Amendment: Rights of Accused Persons, such as:



Fifth Amendment: No accused person can be held without an indictment...



Fifth Amendment: Nobody can be tried twice for the same crime (double jeopardy)...



Fifth Amendment: Members of the armed services are subject to military law...



Fifth Amendment: Nobody is forced to
testify against themselves.

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Sixth Amendment: Right to a Speedy and Fair Trial...

SIXTH

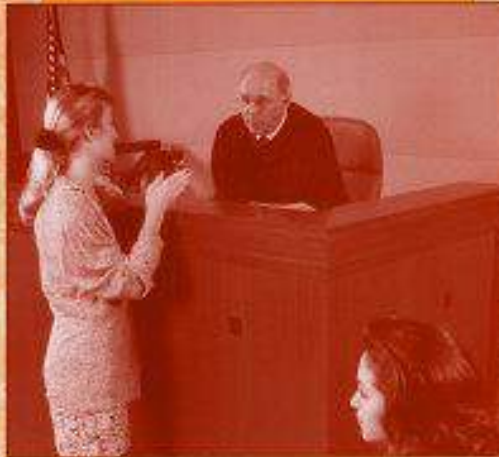
The Sixth Amendment

IN ALL CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS, THE ACCUSED SHALL ENJOY THE RIGHT TO A SPEEDY AND PUBLIC TRIAL, BY AN IMPARTIAL JURY OF THE STATE AND DISTRICT WHEREIN THE CRIME SHALL HAVE BEEN COMMITTED, WHICH DISTRICT SHALL HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY ASCERTAINED BY LAW, AND TO BE INFORMED OF THE NATURE AND CAUSE OF THE ACCUSATIONS, TO BE CONFRONTED WITH THE WITNESSES AGAINST HIM, TO HAVE COMPULSORY PROCESS FOR OBTAINING WITNESSES IN HIS FAVOR, AND TO HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL FOR HIS DEFENSE.

This amendment says a person accused of a crime has a right to be brought to trial quickly. That trial must be public — in other words, it must not be held in secret. Accused persons must be told what crimes they have supposedly committed. They must be allowed to see and hear all witnesses used to prove them guilty. And they have a right to make witnesses come to court who can help them. Finally, the SIXTH AMENDMENT says any accused person has a right to the help of a lawyer during his or her trial.

AMENDMENT

OTHER TRIAL RIGHTS OF PERSONS ACCUSED OF CRIMES.



A photograph of a courtroom scene. A judge in a black robe sits on a bench. A woman in a patterned dress stands and speaks to the judge. A man in a dark sweater sits at a desk in front of the judge. A woman is visible in the foreground, looking towards the judge.

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Sixth Amendment: Cannot hold accused person for a long time without having a trial in order to punish them...



Sixth Amendment: Fair Trial means the Trial is Open to the Public...



Sixth Amendment: Fair Trial Means that a Jury will hear evidence from both sides...



Sixth Amendment: If you cannot afford a lawyer,
one will be appointed for you.



Seventh Amendment: When one person sues another for more than \$20, a jury trial is provided.



Eighth Amendment: Bail and Punishment



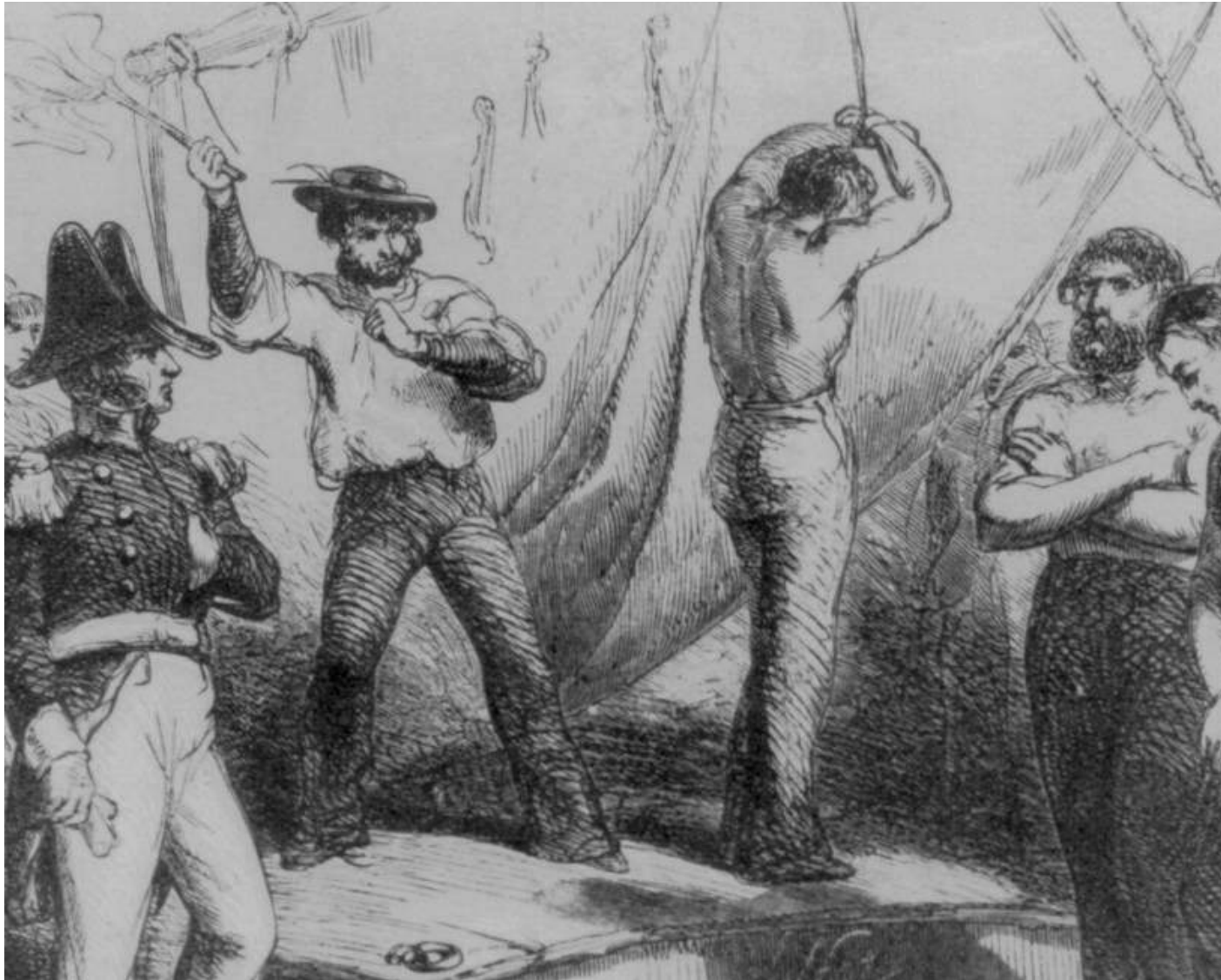
Eighth Amendment

**Excessive bail shall
not be required, nor
excessive fines imposed,
nor cruel and unusual
punishments inflicted.**

Eighth Amendment: Bail for a crime will not be
unreasonably severe



Eighth Amendment: Punishment for a crime will not be unreasonably severe



Ninth Amendment: People's rights are not limited by those mentioned in the Constitution.

NINTH

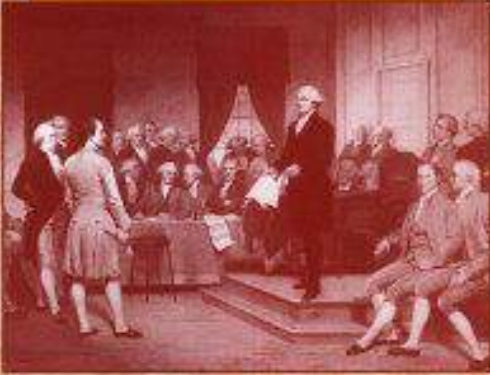
The Ninth Amendment

"THE ENUMERATION IN THE CONSTITUTION, OF CERTAIN RIGHTS, SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO DENY OR DISPARAGE OTHERS RETAINED BY THE PEOPLE."

The Constitution was written by 55 people in 1787. This painting depicts that group of famous American leaders. The states later ratified — that is, agreed to — the Constitution, and it went into effect in 1789. The Bill of Rights amendments were added to the Constitution in 1791. Those who wrote the Constitution and the Bill of Rights worried that many specific individual rights were not mentioned in either document. With the NINTH AMENDMENT, they tried to protect these rights — and new ones that might be needed as the nation changed and grew in the decades or centuries to come. The amendment simply says that no individual right can be taken away simply because it is not specifically listed in the Constitution.

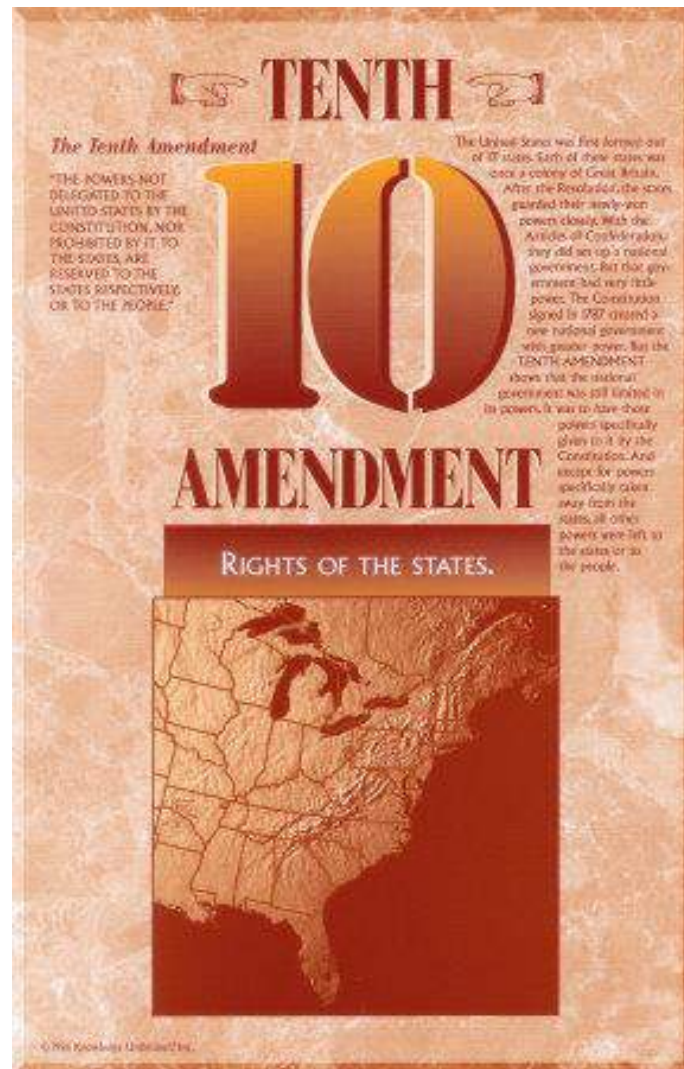
AMENDMENT

RIGHTS KEPT BY THE PEOPLE.



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Tenth Amendment: States and the People shall have all powers not specifically granted to the federal/national government.



There are now 27 Amendments to
the U.S. Constitution (pp. 304-317)



You will create a poster on which of the first 10 amendments (or part of an amendment) that you think is important/interesting.



Your Poster of which of the first 10 Amendments or part of an amendment that you think is the most interesting will include the following:

Your Name and Period

Name of the Amendment

No more than 12 other written words

Your Drawing will show an example of that amendment (or part of an amendment) being used in “real life.”

Graphics must be Acceptable to Myself and the South Western School District

Poster must be attractive in terms of design, layout and neatness. It will be colorful (you know, like full of color).

Graphics must be able to be easily viewed from six feet away

If you need help remembering what is in an amendment...



... they are posted around the room
in numerical order.



Your Poster of which of the first 10 Amendments or part of an amendment that you think is the most interesting will include the following:

Your Name and Period

Name of the Amendment

No more than 12 other written words

Your Drawing will show an example of that amendment (or part of an amendment) being used in “real life.”

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