

AMDA Constitution Day fact sheet

6305 Yucca Street, Los Angeles, CA 90028

Rationale

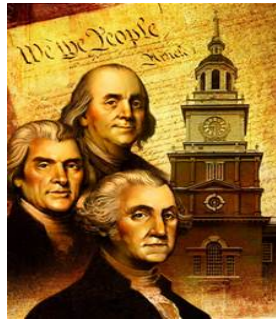
Very soon after the Treaty of Peace, by which the Independence of the United States was recognized by the Government ... the want of a general superintending power over commerce, with the correlative power of taxation, was almost universally felt, and very generally deplored by the inhabitants of all the States, though not to the same extent in all.

It was easier to see the defect, and to feel the evils which flowed from it, than to provide the remedy. Intelligent citizens, however, soon busied themselves in devising the means of forming a Union, which should possess the requisite authority, and become the foundation of certain and durable prosperity.
--*The Making of the Constitution*

September 17, 1787

"It is obviously impracticable in the Federal Government of these States to secure all rights of independent sovereignty to each, and yet provide for the interest and safety of all. Individuals entering into society must give up a share of liberty to preserve the rest. The magnitude of the sacrifice must depend as well on situation and circumstance, as on the object to be obtained."

-- President George Washington



Principles of the Constitution

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure 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."

--Introduction to the Constitution



Title: Congressional Pugilists (1798)

CONSTITUTION ARTICLES

Article One: Its ten sections state how the legislative powers are to be established, what decision-making powers each arm will have, its authority, and the requirements for elections.

Article Two: Describes the authority of the Executive Branch (the President and Vice President), their relationship to the two Houses, the qualifications for candidates, and their responsibilities within the office.

Article Three: Explains the powers of the Judicial Branch of the government.

Article Four: Is broken down into four sections covering the rights of all citizens within the governance of the country.

Article Five: Allows the Senate and House of Representatives to amend the Constitution, and how they will go about doing so.

Article Six: Outlines that agreements made prior to the Constitution will be honored, the laws and treaties will cover the entire country, and all elected officials shall be bound by an oath of loyalty.

Article Seven: Lists the representatives who signed the Constitution and the States that ratified it.

BILL OF RIGHTS

Of the original twelve proposed amendments, ten were ratified. Today there are twenty-seven amendments to the Bill of Rights.

1st Amendment: Freedom of speech, no set religion governing the country, the right to assemble peaceably, and the right to air grievances against the government.

2nd Amendment: The right of to bear arms.

3rd Amendment: In peacetime no soldier shall be housed without consent of the owner.

4th Amendment: All people are secure against unreasonable searches and seizures, and no warrants without probable cause.

5th Amendment: A grand jury is called for crimes, due process, and no one can be tried for the same crime twice.

6th Amendment: The right to a speedy trial and to confront witnesses against them.

7th Amendment: Trial by jury, and the right to appeal.

8th Amendment: Excessive bail and fines are prohibited.

9th Amendment: People's rights will not be denied over the Constitution.

10th Amendment: Individual states may create laws that do not conflict with