



Devotion: Deuteronomy 7

Attendance: Did you review your syllabus?

Reading: Ch. 2-3

Topics: Ch.2 Transition from colonies to United States, Mayflower Compact, cost of British protection during French and Indian Wars (1754-63), First and Second Continental Congresses,

Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview
W 1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution, parts, and significance. Key terms: Articles, Amendments, clauses, centralized versus decentralized government, separation of powers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities, Assignments and/or Exams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch. 2 (p.29-58) and ONE relevant <i>current event</i> article (within last 3 months) • Write: Choose <i>two</i> concepts/key terms in the Chapter that are new to you. Explain each and how you see they have an impact on American politics/experience today? • Apply ONE of the CTD by giving some detail/facts related to your two points. • Number your 2 points to make your statements clearly understood (total 300 words). • ALWAYS include in-text citations (see LP Plagiarism) and Reference to your post, work. • Respond to another post (50 words)
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview
W 2/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federalism Key terms: the concept of overarching governmental authority. Key terms: 10th Amendment, enumerated powers, supremacy clause, jurisdiction, concurrent powers, <i>McCullough v. Maryland</i> (1819), interstate commerce, block grant.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities, Assignments and/or Exams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch. 3 (p.59-85) and ONE relevant <i>current event</i> article (within last 3 months) • Write: Choose <i>two</i> concepts/key terms in the Chapter that are new to you. Explain each and how you see they have an impact on American politics/experience today? • Apply ONE of the CTD by giving some detail/facts related to your two points. • Number your 2 points to make your statements clearly understood (total 300 words). • ALWAYS include in-text citations (see LP Plagiarism) and Reference to your post, work. • Respond to another post (50 words)

Events leading to the formation of a new nation.

- **The establishment of the 13 independent colonies (1630-1732). Massachusetts (first), Georgia (last).**
- **British armies** formally protected the colonies during the French and Indian Wars (1754-63). British leadership held the position that colonies should carry the weight of the support, leading to increased taxation. The Sugar Act (1764), and The Stamp Act (1765) and other forms of taxes/duties led to increased calls for colonial autonomy.
- **Continental Congresses (1774, 1775)** – Meetings attended by representatives of the 13 colonies drafted resolutions/statements declaring greater autonomy including raising local armies. These armies were increasingly considered as threats by the British, leading to skirmishes across the colonies.
- **Declaration of Independence** – document formally signed by representatives of the 13 colonies, declaring their independence and their ideological position of government.
- **War of Independence (1776-1781)** – the surrender of British GEN. Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown, PA.
- **1783 Treaty of Paris** – England recognizes independence of the Colonies at signing of treaty in Paris, France.
- **John Locke** –articulates the concept of the “social contract” (1690) whereby the people establish social boundaries. Locke is instrumental in developing expectations as well for the individual in society.
- **Development of republicanism** – minimal centralized government with preference for colony autonomy and representation in a central government.
- **Articles of Confederation (1781)** – loose but *formal* connection and agreement between the States, including government representation and one military. The document was later replaced by the ratified U.S. Constitution.
- **Constitutional Convention (1786-87) Key concerns:** Could the centralized government control local economies or void local laws? Would Large population States having greater representative power than lesser populated States? Would the enumeration of populations include slaves? The debate about slavery resulting in the three-

fifths compromise to count slaves as 3/5ths of a person for that State. The issue of slavery was avoided entirely, the 3/5ths compromise never intended to represent the slaves' interest.

- **Separation of Powers** – The single most powerful concept implemented to **preclude tyranny within or by the centralized government** was the separation of power across the federal government branches: The Presidency, Congress, and Judiciary. James Madison is highly credited for promoting the concept of separation of powers.
- **Ratification of the Constitution** –
 - The ratification process was most challenged by the tension between *Federalists* (persons preferring a strong central government) and *Anti-federalists* (persons who did not want any central government able to impose restrictions on the sovereignty of any State).
 - The ratification discussion included the strong argument by *Anti-federalists* to include more statements ensuring individual liberties/protections. The promise to follow-through with *Amendments* led to the ratification of the initial Constitution.
 - Conventions (central meetings for discussion and voting) were held in each of the States with representatives having a final vote over the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. A simple majority (50 percent plus one) was required for passage. See pg. 49 for each State's ratification vote ending in 1790.
- **The constructs and powers of the branches are spelled out in the Articles of the Constitution.** See pg. 47, 52. Do you consider these powers as critical to your experience and future in the country?
- **The Bill of Rights** – The 17 Amendments stating rights/protections afforded to individuals was ratified in 1791. Amendments that followed the first ratification of the "Bill of Rights" must have the vote/support of 2/3 of both chambers of Congress; the House of Representatives and the Senate. More than 11,000 amendments to the U.S. Constitution have been considered by Congress (Bardes, Shelley, Schmidt, 2022, p. 52), only 27 have been adopted (U.S. Constitution.org, 2023).

DEF: Preclude: *Preclude* is often used in legal writing, where it usually refers to making something legally impossible. A new law may be passed by Congress to *preclude* any suits of a certain kind against a federal agency, for example. Some judges have found that the warnings on cigarette packs preclude any suits against the tobacco companies by lung-cancer sufferers. But there are plenty of *nonlegal uses* as well. Bad weather often precludes trips to the beach, and a lack of cash might preclude any beach vacation at all. (Merriam Webster, 2023)

Reference

Merriam Webster (2023). *Definition: preclude*. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/preclude> Merriam Webster, Inc.

The concern for limiting government abuse of citizens – The Amendments

The concept of articulating/legalizing **rights/liberties** was intended to *preclude government abuse of its authority*, this was a primarily a concern of the colonists. The writers/framers of the U.S. Constitution were privileged, wealthy, usually well-educated, white male property owners. This group experienced direct impositions and threats to their status at the hands of British rule. The application of these Constitutional protections is often at the heart of debates and tensions about rights, liberty and legal status.

Example of the debate: Nine states asked a federal judge in Texas on Tuesday to **block the DACA program**, which provides protections to nearly 600,000 undocumented immigrants who were brought to the US as children, a group often described as "Dreamers." The Republican-led states specifically called on a judge to block a rule released last year by the Biden administration to "preserve and fortify" the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) program. In the Tuesday filing, the states called the program "unlawful and unconstitutional" and urged the court to "vacate it in its entirety." The case now sits before Judge Andrew Hanen, of the Southern District of Texas, **who ruled in 2021** that DACA was unlawful and blocked the government from approving new applications for the program.

GQ: What is the *legal basis* of challenging a Presidential decree/Executive order?
What is the role of judicial review?

According to Abraham Lincoln, "The assertion that all men are created equal' was of no particular use in effecting our separation from Great Britain; and it was placed in the Declaration, not for that, but for future use" (Armitage, 2007, p. 26).

Declaration of Independence (1776)

"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;

that whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

Week 3 - Quiz on Syllabus, LP Plagiarism, Critical Thinking Domains, APA

Review the bulleted items on page 1 of the lesson plan (LP).