

Introduction to the Constitution

Lesson 1: The Connection Between the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence

URL: [Introduction to the Constitution Lesson 1](#)

A free government requires that many people (the governed) _____ in the government.

There must be an _____ for the people to participate in the government. If there is not an established way for this participation, it will constantly be changed until only a _____ run it.

Our Constitution is the most successful _____ of its kind in human history.

What is the relationship between the Constitution and Declaration of Independence? One is the _____ cause and one is the _____ cause.

What is a country? Modern political thought states that government is a _____.

“Whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of 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...” – Declaration of Independence

We have a right to _____ the government.

What is the first complaint against the king?

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most _____ documents in all of human history.

It gives a picture of the whole order of nature. It proceeds from that whole order down finally to what the classics call the “_____”, the definite thing to be done right now.”

The Declaration of Independence can be applied _____.

*“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”
– Declaration of Independence*

They pledge everything to each other under the name of _____ (God).

It begins universally and ends with the _____.

You always have some sense of _____ when you make a choice. This document moves from this ultimate sense of right that we all carry down to the particular _____ in which they are going to act right now.

This is exactly the process that every one of us goes through whenever we make a hard _____.

What is in the middle that connect the very beginning (universal) with this final conclusion (specific application)?

There is an outline of the _____ of the United States in the middle of the Declaration of Independence.

The chief _____ of the Constitution are listed here in the negative sense that the King _____ them.

Summarize the main thoughts of this video in your own words in paragraph form below.

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Lesson 2: *The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God*

URL: [Lesson Two | The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God - YouTube](#)

What is the first authority cited in the Declaration of Independence?

“That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain _____.” – Declaration of Independence

“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of _____.” – Declaration of Independence

“appealing to the _____ of the world for the rectitude of our intentions.” – Declaration of Independence

How is God reflected in the founding of the government and in each branch of government in the Declaration of Independence?

1. Legislative –
2. Judicial –
3. Executive –
4. As a Founder –

Another accusation levied against the king is that he tried to be all three branches of government. The only Person who can be trusted to be all three branches of government is _____.

From what language does the word nature come?

What is the first meaning?

What is a second meaning?

The final meaning?

The Founders recognized that _____ is responsible for the order of all things.

It was a _____ of the United States of America to be the first country to make a complete, full, and happy home for people who _____ both ways.

(cont.)

Summarize the main thoughts of this video in your own words in paragraph form below.

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Lesson 3: Freedom and Equality

URL: [Lesson Three | Freedom and Equality - YouTube](#)

The most important comparison in the entire academic work, key to understanding all nature, is to compare _____ and _____.

What is the major difference between the children and the dogs?

What two things did Aristotle claim were identical?

Animals use their voices to indicate _____ and _____. People speak to distinguish the _____ from the _____.

What does it mean all men are created equal? You are the King of England, and you ride in a golden carriage, and everybody salutes you and all _____ you. But you know when you were a year-and-a-half old you started doing something that no _____ has ever done. Not because you were born royal, but because you were born _____. And so were we!

“Some are not born with saddles on their backs nor others booted and spurred to ride them. By the grace of God, the Kind can rightly put a harness on the _____ that pull his carriage, but he can’t do that to _____ unless they volunteer.” – Thomas Jefferson

The ultimate source of human freedom is found within the fact that humanity is unlike anything else in Creation.

Summarize the main thoughts of this video in your own words in paragraph form below.

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Lesson 4: *Consent of the Governed*

URL: [Lesson Four | Consent of the Governed - YouTube](#)

The _____ of the _____ is the precursor in the Declaration of Independence.

There is such a thing as a _____. All humans are _____ in some respect. This equality sets them up rightly to be governed only by their _____. This give rise to the _____ to the Constitution.

Consent – a social _____

Term and Conditions – we as the people being governed are _____ those who are in _____ to look over and provide the necessary _____ so we can pursue our happiness.

If we are equal, you would not have the _____ to do something to me unless I say so.

The King of England’s response to the Declaration of Independence essentially stated, “I was born to be the _____, and you were born to be the _____.”

“Let those flatter, who fear: it is not an American art.”

Thomas Jefferson

A Summary View of the Rights of British America

The Founders essentially said to the king, “You get your carriage since you already got it. You just don’t get to _____ us what to do.” Consent is _____ in equality in this way.

Americans traditionally have accepted since birth that humans are born _____.

The principle of consent was a very _____ thing to think. The King of England certainly didn’t think that was right.

The principle of the consent of the governed was a new _____ that was a remarkable development in human _____.

(cont.)

Summarize the main thoughts of this video in your own words in paragraph form below.

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Lesson 5: Representation

URL: [Lesson Five | Representation - YouTube](#)

One of the key problems in politics is how to give some people power and, since you don't want them to abuse it, how to _____ and _____ this power at the same time.

The Founders wanted a powerful government, but it did not want the government to _____ them.

Every use of human power should be required to be _____ and directed toward the _____ as opposed to self-interest or the bad. One of the ways the Founders set out to achieve this goal was to make the government purely _____. This means we get to pick the _____, but we do not _____.

Consent gives rise to _____.

According to the Founders, even though the government has a _____ of force, it can't really do anything unless _____ say it can.

The King of England's conception of government was not grounded in _____ of either the king or the people.

What was the first step in the establishment of the American government?

The second step was to give _____.

The third step was to create a _____.

Hitler's constitution was Hitler's _____.

A constitution was necessary so that the Founders could indicate _____ was they agree to. If you going to involve a lot of _____ in the government, you're going to have to have a _____.

Consent requires representation. Representation requires a _____ _____ for that to happen.

The Founders believed that _____ fails because the majority starts to rule, no protection of the minority, and becomes tyrannical.

(cont.)

*“By a faction I understand a number of citizens, whether amounting to a minority or minority of the whole, who are united and actuated by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adverse to the rights of other citizens, to the _____ and _____
_____ of the community.”*

Publius, Federalist 10

This is a _____ thing from the particular or temporary interest of any one of us or group.

Representation stops the government from doing things to the governed that the governed don't like. If you have a Constitution, you can spread the decisions over _____.

The Constitution does not allow someone to _____ it just they believe they are wiser than others.

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Lesson 6: *The People Rule, But They Do Not Govern*

URL: [Lesson Six | The People Rule, But They Do Not Govern - YouTube](#)

Sovereignty answers the question, “Who _____?”

“The true distinction between these and the American governments, lies in the total exclusion of the people, in their collective capacity, from any share in the latter, and not in the total exclusion of the representatives of the people from the administration of the former.”

Publius, Federalist 63

The “something” that the collective people are entirely excluded from the _____ of the government.

America is different because unlike Athens, England, or Sparta all the _____ is ours. We may not be governed except by our _____.

Majorities rule and representation gives rise to something new and _____. The sovereign is the _____.

“A _____ majority is the only true sovereign of a free people.”

Abraham Lincoln

First Inaugural Address-First Editions and Revisions.

The first check on the government is that we must _____. The second check on the government is that we who have the power to consent, do not run the _____. The second check is a check on _____.

The anti-federalist argue that _____ is more trustworthy.

The federalist counter is that every human exercise of power must be restrained by _____. There are constitutional forms that have to be implemented to provide this. The first is _____ (the method by which we give our ongoing consent), and the second is the _____ between sovereignty and power.

There is a fierce battle for public _____ out in the open in America.

You give _____, and that gives rise to _____. Which in turns gives rise to a _____ between the sovereign and the government.

(cont.)

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Lesson 7: A Constitution that Encourages Reason to Rule the Passions

URL: [Lesson Seven | A Constitution that Encourages Reason to Rule the Passions - YouTube](#)

How do you reconcile what you might want at any given moment with what the _____ is?

What is the longest surviving Constitution in human history?

The American Constitution

1. Gives effect to consent through _____.
2. Locates all the sovereignty in the _____, not in the government.
3. Excludes the sovereign from the ordinary _____ of the government.

This is all stated to be in the interest of us being ruled by our _____ through _____.

We should talk things through _____ we do them.

You cannot achieve larger _____ if you don't commit to them for a very long time. _____ speaks to long term purposes. _____ tend to come and go. It takes six years to fully change a government. Passions do not last that long, _____ do.

If the sovereign were in the government, whatever part of the government was in would become the _____ part of the government.

If you separate the powers, they can be stronger but still _____.

The Founders believed that this government, because it's in accord with human nature (the nature above the beasts and below God), this government can last a _____.

Our government has lasted a long time through all kinds of different _____.

The Declaration of Independence itself arranges the government so that we can _____ it and it can protect our _____ with sufficient power to do that very difficult work.

(cont.)

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Lesson 8: *The People are the Most Powerful and the Most Dangerous*

URL: [Lesson Eight | The People are the Most Powerful and the Most Dangerous - YouTube](#)

Separation of powers means that the kinds of powers in government are divided into different branches and the same _____ don't hold them at the same _____. This means more than _____ person and more than one _____ of people is running the government _____ the time in its different functions.

The Constitution is the fruit of those _____ seen in the Declaration of Independence.

You will have unanimous consent to _____ the republic and then majority rule to _____ things.

You have many ways to govern but it turns out this is the best way, and the Founders are even claiming it is the _____ really good way.

We will always have laws, and laws are built upon some _____.

The final cause of our nation makes the _____ strong. The final cause of an absolute monarchy or any strong monarchy makes the eldest _____ of the oldest and strongest family powerful.

All men are created _____.

Therefore, they may be governed only with their _____.

Therefore, the _____ will be sovereign.

Therefore, the majority will be the most _____ thing.

Right and _____ that the people be sovereign, but dangerous.

Because the sovereign is outside, it is harder for them to become _____ of others.

You know if you give absolute power over you, they are likely to _____ that power.

This government is in an amazing situation because all the power is out here, and it can be delegated in a variety of _____ to a variety of _____ who accomplish a variety of _____. This could not be done unless all the sovereignty was on the outside.

Separation of powers is the biggest single _____ given by the Constitution.

(cont.)

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Lesson 9: *A Virtuous People is Necessary for Good Government*

URL: [Lesson Nine | A Virtuous People is Necessary for Good Government - YouTube](#)

Many people think that founding of the American government is kind of crass in that it understands that people are _____ and sets them off against each other so that they can't _____ each other.

If people are going to be self-governing, run the government and hold the sovereignty they need to be _____.

If we become better people, we will be _____ people.

What was the occupation of many of the Founders?

Because the Founders fought the war and won, the implication is that they are going to _____ and be the _____.

King George's alleged response to defeat in the War of Independence was, "George Washington will not know how to be king. They will want me back." The _____ concerning Washington was since he conquered he is the king. The minister is reported to responded, "I understand that he has resigned his office and hone home." The King replied, "If that is true, he is the _____ man in the world."

Who was the chairman of the Constitutional Convention?

Who convinced George Washington to be a part of the Constitutional Convention?

What does James Madison say is the most important thing about the Constitution and the chief way it will protect our liberties?

Every choice you make is a combination of _____ and _____. If you practice making choices well, you will come not only to _____ better about how to get the right thing, but you will also _____ the right thing.

What are Aristotle's three prime "doing virtues?"

In this lecture, we are talking a structure that channels public control of the government in a way that encourages good _____ in the people. The person the Founders picked to be the chief _____ was the person everyone thought had the greatest character.

(cont.)

Summarize the main thoughts of this video in your own words in paragraph form below.

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Lesson 10: *Ballots Rather Than Bullets*

URL: [Lesson Ten | Ballots Rather Than Bullets - YouTube](#)

Unlike a king asserting he is the sovereign, now there is a _____ vote.

In 1861, Lincoln said, “That is the first time _____ ever replaced _____ as the way to change the government.”

The colonies won the war with all of the _____ that we are reading (in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution).

What three actions/inactions of the states did Madison identify in his Vices of the Political System?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The moment of the calling of the Constitutional Convention was an _____ moment. It appeared that all would be _____.

Principle and _____ are very different things – it’s going to have to actually happen.

Which states were the hardest (most reluctant) to give ratification?

A constitution had to be written that achieved the _____ of sovereignty from the operation of the government, which is the _____ of the labor and the government among levels, and the separation of powers between _____ at each level.

What was remarkable about Thomas Jefferson’s election as President of the United States?

The seed planted in the Declaration of Independence gave rise to a structure for them all to _____ in producing government.

With this structure, there is a way for government to go on always with the _____ of the governed and under their ultimate _____.

(cont.)

Summarize the main thoughts of this video in your own words in paragraph form below.

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Lesson 11: *The Importance of Limited Government*

URL: [Lesson Eleven | The Importance of Limited Government - YouTube](#)

If you are a person who admires the Constitution of the United States and want to _____ it as I do, we face a really hard _____ and we should understand the weight of it. The Food and Drug Administration and the National Institute for Health are, by the plain reading of the Constitution, _____.

The _____ argument is that these institutes are permitted because it is for the general welfare.

If this is true, what _____ are there and why did the Founders put a _____ of things the federal government can do?

For most of the history of the United States the government was about _____ of the economy and most of it stayed local not federal. Now, if you count the cost of the regulatory state, the government comprises more than _____ of the economy.

The argument for big government is that there are “_____ needs” that must be addressed by the government.

James Madison and Alexander Hamilton debated whether or not the “general _____” phrase in the Constitution was an extra _____ that was given to the government or whether it was a _____ of the previously named powers.

Transformation of the Government:

Regulatory agencies:

_____ most laws,

_____ those laws,

and adjudicate _____ concerning those laws.

In this way, all three branches of government are _____ in the single hand. This form is a problem.

When you have _____ of lawmaking bodies, as we do now, they start making these really technical complex laws and nobody knows what they are. It is so large that now it has become a factor in the _____ of the country.

(cont.)

Summarize the main thoughts of this video in your own words in paragraph form below.

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Lesson 12: *The Problem with Progressivism*

URL: [Lesson Twelve | The Problem with Progressivism - YouTube](#)

Progressivists believed that things were always getting _____, and they also believed that change was a characteristic phenomenon. Every age is _____ from the age before. Every age has its own thoughts, and we should accept that and seize the _____ that come from that.

The progressives say that the Declaration of Independence is _____.

Is this new _____ kind of government designed to serve the same principles as the old kind, or is it after something different?

What are “negative” rights?

What are “positive” rights?

Local churches and community groups of various kind tend to look out more generally for the _____ of people whereas entitlement programs might breed _____.

What is John Dewey’s argument for progressivism?

Who predicted that humans would be unrecognizable in 100-200 years?

What is the old idea? We are capable of really _____ things and we are capable of really _____ things. Therefore, we should arrange the government so that there is a bias in favor of the _____ things we can do and the government should be _____ just strong enough to protect us from one another.

What is the new idea? Look how much more we can do with these _____. Let’s solve these problems. Let’s get rid of these of checks and balances out of the way so that the government is not _____.

The fundamental principle in the Declaration of Independence is that all men are created _____. Yet when we yoke the sovereignty and the power again, we _____ that very thing.

Even if we are not still an agrarian society anymore, we are still a society of _____ and human nature does not _____.

The Declaration of Independence is based upon timeless, universal _____. If the Declaration of Independence was true now, then it must have been true then. If it is false now, it must have been false then.

The term nature begins with babies (birth) but also includes the _____ of human beings.

If you can design your child or your society any way you want to, what _____ will you use to design it?

What was Hitler's standard?

If we have a project like that (progressivism) and we exclude nature, or for that matter God, and we say we are going to take _____ because we can make everything better, a very serious question arises. What do you mean by _____?

We do need to make things better in society and we need to treat people as well as we can treat them, but we also have to a little suspicious of _____ power because what will be left of our ability to live our _____ when everything is arranged for us according to the precepts of _____.

Summarize the main thoughts of this video in your own words in paragraph form below.