

american epic reading the u s constitution

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American Epic

"The United States is the only nation in the world in which political leaders, judges and soldiers all swear allegiance not to a king or a people but to a document, the Constitution. The Constitution today, however, is much revered but little read. . Readers of AMERICAN EPIC will never think of the Constitution in quite the same way again. Garrett Epps, a legal scholar who is also a journalist and writer of prize-winning fiction, takes readers on a literary tour of the Constitution, finding in it much that is interesting, puzzling, praiseworthy, and sometimes hilarious. Reading the Constitution like a literary work yields a host of meanings that shed new light on what it means to be an American"--

United States Constitution, The

The Founding Fathers dreamed of a nation that protected the rights of its people. Today, the Constitution and Bill of Rights still promise freedom for all. In this book, beginning readers will learn the basics of the Constitution and its role in the formation of our government.

The U.S. Constitution and You

All elementary school students learn about the history of the U.S. Constitution when they begin social studies. This book tells them about the great American document itself--explaining exactly what the Constitution does as well as how it affects and protects people today.

Documents of Freedom

Audisee® eBooks with Audio combine professional narration and text highlighting for an engaging read aloud experience! What are the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the U.S. Constitution? They're important documents that helped to shape our country. But what's the story

behind how these documents were created? And what exactly do they say? Read this book to find out.

What Is the Constitution?

In this book, readers will learn about the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and how the delegates compromised on various issues so that all the colonies would ratify the Constitution. The checks and balances between the three branches of government are outlined, as well as the relationship between the federal and state governments. The amendment process, and the passage of the Bill of Rights are also explained.

The U.S. Constitution

Learn how the U.S. Constitution established the American government and what this document means for modern Americans. Additional features to aid comprehension include fact-filled captions and sidebars, detailed photographs, informational diagrams, a table of contents, a phonetic glossary, sources for further research, an index, and an introduction to the author.

The U. S. Constitution

"Focus on social studies"--Page 4 of cover.

Constitution Day

There is a day to celebrate being an American citizen and this book explains how and why the holiday came to be.

Wrong and Dangerous

The primary purpose of the United States Constitution is to limit Congress. There is no separation of church and state. The Second Amendment allows citizens to threaten the government. These are just a few of the myths about our constitution peddled by the Far Right—a toxic coalition of Fox News talking heads, radio hosts, angry “patriot” groups, and power-hungry Tea Party politicians. Well-funded, loud, and unscrupulous, they are trying to do to America’s founding document what they have done to global warming and evolution—wipe out the facts and substitute partisan myth. In the process, they seek to cripple the right of We the People to govern ourselves. In *Wrong and Dangerous*, legal scholar Garrett Epps provides the tools needed to fight back against the flood of constitutional nonsense. In terms every citizen can understand, he tackles ten of the most prevalent myths, providing a clear grasp of the Constitution and the government it established.

The Bill of Rights in Translation

The Bill of Rights wasn't named after some guy named Bill. So what does it really mean? Here's your chance to learn what the Bill of Rights really says.

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights

This informative book gives readers a look into the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Readers will learn about the three branches of government--executive, legislative, and judicial--as well as the way each of those branches works to keep order and the various aspects including Congress, the Supreme Court, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Featuring detailed images, stunning facts, and supportive text, this book will have readers interested, engaged, and eager to learn more about the development of the Constitution. Other featured topics include the Federalist Papers, "checks and balances"

Coming to America

America is a country that is filled with many immigrants. In this fascinating book, readers will learn some of the many reasons immigrants choose to become American citizens. The glossary, index, and table of contents help readers better understand the content as they make their way through this inspiring book.

The Bill of Rights

Carefully leveled text coupled with primary-source images will encourage young readers to take a closer look at the U.S. Constitution's first ten Amendments, known as the Bill of Rights. Citizens of the newly independent United States proposed several freedoms, including speech, assembly, and worship--many of which are still recognized and honored today. Curriculum-based content and fact-filled sidebars help define these rights, while allowing readers to draw connections between the Bill of Rights and their daily lives.

Constitutional Rights

Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press are three of the core American values outlined in the Constitution. *Constitutional Rights* explains these and other rights contained in one of America's key founding documents. Clear text, helpful sidebars, and color photographs give readers a compelling overview of this important subject. Features include fast facts, a table of contents, a glossary, additional resources, and an index. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Core Library is an imprint of Abdo Publishing, a division of ABDO.

Constitution Day

This non-fiction title supports and explains a child's world, reinforcing positive social messages around being a contributing family member, a good student, and a good citizen. When paired with its fiction title counterpart, it allows emerging readers to engage with both fiction and informational texts on the same subject matter, thus gaining different perspectives, new vocabulary, and new approaches to the same content.

The Oxford Handbook of the U.S. Constitution

The Oxford Handbook of the U.S. Constitution offers a comprehensive overview and introduction to the U.S. Constitution from the perspectives of history, political science, law, rights, and constitutional themes, while focusing on its development, structures, rights, and role in the U.S. political system and culture. This Handbook enables readers within and beyond the U.S. to develop a critical comprehension of the literature on the Constitution, along with accessible and up-to-date analysis. The historical essays included in this Handbook cover the Constitution from 1620 right through the Reagan Revolution to the present. Essays on political science detail how contemporary citizens in the United States rely extensively on political parties, interest groups, and bureaucrats to operate a constitution designed to prevent the rise of parties, interest-group politics and an entrenched bureaucracy. The essays on law explore how contemporary citizens appear to expect and accept the exertions of power by a Supreme Court, whose members are increasingly disconnected from the world of practical politics. Essays on rights discuss how contemporary citizens living in a diverse multi-racial society seek guidance on the meaning of liberty and equality, from a Constitution designed for a society in which all politically relevant persons shared the same race, gender, religion and ethnicity. Lastly, the essays on themes explain how in a globalized world, people living in the United States can continue to be governed by a constitution originally meant for a society geographically separated from the rest of the civilized world. Whether a return to the pristine constitutional institutions of the founding or a translation of these constitutional norms in the present is possible remains the central challenge of U.S. constitutionalism today.

The United States and Russia

After the U.S.S.R. formed, the United States found itself in a rivalry that has persisted for nearly a century. Readers are introduced to the complex history between the United States and Russia, which, for many years, was a conflict between democracy and communism. However, after the dissolution of the U.S.S.R., the relationship between the two countries remains strained, and readers also explore the reasons for this continued tension. Quotes from powerful leaders of both countries, striking photographs, and thoroughly researched text help readers understand why these two competing nations have maintained a cold relationship for so many years.

The Constitution

After the Revolutionary War established the independent United States of America, a different kind of revolution took place. Between Shays' Rebellion and the final flourish of a quill pen on the Constitution, the country's greatest leaders faced a challenge that would either keep the states together or tear them apart. From the roads of Boston to Independence Hall in Philadelphia, delegates battled out the

particulars of how the new country would be governed. In this inspiring story of leadership, discover how diplomacy and compromise created a document that would defend the nation's freedom at once and for the future.

America's Unwritten Constitution

Despite its venerated place atop American law and politics, our written Constitution does not enumerate all of the rules and rights, principles and procedures that actually govern modern America. The document makes no explicit mention of cherished concepts like the separation of powers and the rule of law. On some issues, the plain meaning of the text misleads. For example, the text seems to say that the vice president presides over his own impeachment trial -- but surely this cannot be right. As esteemed legal scholar Akhil Reed Amar explains in *America's Unwritten Constitution*, the solution to many constitutional puzzles lies not solely within the written document, but beyond it -- in the vast trove of values, precedents, and practices that complement and complete the terse text. In this sequel to *America's Constitution: A Biography*, Amar takes readers on a tour of our nation's unwritten Constitution, showing how America's foundational document cannot be understood in textual isolation. Proper constitutional interpretation depends on a variety of factors, such as the precedents set by early presidents and Congresses; common practices of modern American citizens; venerable judicial decisions; and particularly privileged sources of inspiration and guidance, including the Federalist papers, William Blackstone's *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. These diverse supplements are indispensable instruments for making sense of the written Constitution. When used correctly, these extra-textual aids support and enrich the written document without supplanting it. An authoritative work by one of America's preeminent legal scholars, *America's Unwritten Constitution* presents a bold new vision of the American constitutional system, showing how the complementary relationship between the Constitution's written and unwritten components is one of America's greatest and most enduring strengths.

America's Constitution

In *America's Constitution*, one of this era's most accomplished constitutional law scholars, Akhil Reed Amar, gives the first comprehensive account of one of the world's great political texts. Incisive, entertaining, and occasionally controversial, this "biography" of America's framing document explains not only what the Constitution says but also why the Constitution says it. We all know this much: the Constitution is neither immutable nor perfect. Amar shows us how the story of this one relatively compact document reflects the story of America more generally. (For example, much of the Constitution, including the glorious-sounding "We the People," was lifted from existing American legal texts, including early state constitutions.) In short, the Constitution was as much a product of its environment as it was a product of its individual creators' inspired genius. Despite the Constitution's flaws, its role in guiding our republic has been nothing short of amazing. Skillfully placing the document in the context of late-eighteenth-century American politics, *America's Constitution* explains, for instance, whether there is anything in the Constitution that is unamendable; the reason America adopted an electoral college; why a president must be at least thirty-five years old; and why--for now, at least--only those citizens who were born under the American flag can become president. From his unique perspective, Amar also gives us unconventional wisdom about the Constitution and its significance throughout the nation's history. For one thing, we see that the Constitution has been far more democratic than is conventionally understood. Even though the document was drafted by white landholders, a remarkably large number of citizens (by the standards of 1787) were allowed to vote up or down on it, and the document's later amendments eventually extended the vote to virtually all Americans. We also learn that the Founders' Constitution was far more slavocratic than many would acknowledge: the "three fifths" clause gave the South extra political clout for every slave it owned or acquired. As a result, slaveholding Virginians held the presidency all but four of the Republic's first thirty-six years, and proslavery forces eventually came to dominate much of the federal government prior to Lincoln's election. Ambitious, even-handed, eminently accessible, and often surprising, *America's Constitution* is an indispensable work, bound to become a standard reference for any student of history and all citizens of the United States.

Marque and Reprisal

"Letters of marque" might suggest privateers of the Elizabethan era or the American Revolution. But such conventions are duly covered in the US Constitution, and the private military instruments they

sanction are very much at work today in the form of mercenaries and military contractors. A history of such practices up to the present day, *Marque and Reprisal* by Kenneth B. Moss offers unique insight into the role of private actors in military conflicts and the reason they are increasingly deployed in our day. Along with an overview of mercenaries and privateers, *Marque and Reprisal* provides a comprehensive history of the “marque and reprisal” clause in the US Constitution, reminding us that it is not as arcane as it seems and arguing that it is not a license for all forms of undeclared war. Within this historical context Moss explains why governments and states have sought control over warfare and actors—and why private actors have reappeared in force in recent conflicts. He also looks ahead to the likelihood that cyberwar will become an important venue for “private warfare.” Moss wonders if international law will be up to the challenges of private military actors in the digital realm. Is international law, in fact, equipped to meet the challenges increasingly presented in our day by such extramilitary activity? A government makes no more serious decision than whether to resort to military force and war; and when doing so, Moss suggests, it should ensure that such actions are accountable, not on the sly, and not decided in the marketplace. *Marque and Reprisal* should inform future deliberations and decisions on that count.

Cyberformalism

Linguistic forms -- Search -- Studies -- "Was it for this?" and the study of influence -- Act as if and useful fictions -- WWJD? and the history of imitatio christi -- Milton's depictives and the history of style -- Conclusions -- Shakespeare's constructicon -- God is dead, long live philology

The Oxford Guide to United States Supreme Court Decisions

The Supreme Court has been the site of some of the great debates of American history, from child labor and prayer in the schools, to busing and abortion. The Oxford Guide to United States Supreme Court Decisions offers lively and insightful accounts of the most important cases ever argued before the Court, from *Marbury v. Madison* and *Scott v. Sandford* (the Dred Scott decision) to *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Roe v. Wade*. This new edition of the Guide contains more than 450 entries on major Supreme Court cases, including 53 new entries on the latest landmark rulings. Among the new entries are *Bush v. Gore*, *Nixon v. United States*, *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood Federation of America*, and *Rumsfeld v. Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights*. Four decisions (*Hamdi v. Bush*, *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, *Rasul v. Bush*, and *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*) are considered in a single essay entitled "Enemy Combatant Cases." Arranged alphabetically and written by eminent legal scholars, each entry provides the United States Reports citation, the date the case was argued and decided, the vote of the Justices, who wrote the opinion for the Court, who concurred, and who dissented. More important, the entries feature an informative account of the particulars of the case, the legal and social background, the reasoning behind the Court's decision, and the case's impact on American society. For this edition, Ely has added an extensive Further Reading section and revised the Case Index and Topical Index. For anyone interested in the great controversies of our time, this invaluable book is a must read primer on the epic constitutional battles that have informed American life.

The Court of Justice of the European Union as an Institutional Actor

Uses the EU Treaty framework to (re)assess the legitimacy of the Court of Justice's institutional role in European integration.

The Epic of America

Originally published in 1931 by Little, Brown, and Company.

Born in Blood

This important and timely book explains the political culture of violence that has shaped the United States from its inception. It will engage students, scholars and general readers interested in American history, African American history, and American studies.

Democracy's Chief Executive

Legal scholar Peter M. Shane confronts U.S. presidential entitlement and offers a more reasonable way of conceptualizing our constitutional presidency in the twenty-first century. In the eyes of modern-day presidentialists, the United States Constitution's vesting of “executive power” means today what it meant

in 1787. For them, what it meant in 1787 was the creation of a largely unilateral presidency, and in their view, a unilateral presidency still best serves our national interest. Democracy's Chief Executive challenges each of these premises, while showing how their influence on constitutional interpretation for more than forty years has set the stage for a presidency ripe for authoritarianism. Democracy's Chief Executive explains how dogmatic ideas about expansive executive authority can create within the government a psychology of presidential entitlement that threatens American democracy and the rule of law. Tracing today's aggressive presidentialism to a steady consolidation of White House power aided primarily by right-wing lawyers and judges since 1981, Peter M. Shane argues that this is a dangerously authoritarian form of constitutional interpretation that is not even well supported by an originalist perspective. Offering instead a fresh approach to balancing presidential powers, Shane develops an interpretative model of adaptive constitutionalism, rooted in the values of deliberative democracy. Democracy's Chief Executive demonstrates that justifying outcomes explicitly based on core democratic values is more, not less, constraining for judicial decision making—and presents a model that Americans across the political spectrum should embrace.

The U.S. House of Representatives

In the United States, ours is a government "of the people, by the people, for the people," according to Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address. But how did the federal and state branches of government get to be so complex—and why did a separation of powers evolve in the first place? Aiming to demystify many of these issues in terms modern students can understand, *By the People* examines the history of American government, making use of maps, charts, call-outs, and other infographic-packed features to spotlight memorable facts and bolster the surrounding narrative. "We the People" sidebars provide biographical sketches of key figures, from senators and presidents to justices and mayors. A historical survey of the United States House of Representatives, from its beginnings to present struggles, including its role in Congress and influential members.

The Framers' Coup

Flaws in the Articles of Confederation -- Economic turmoil in the states and the road to Philadelphia -- The Constitutional Convention -- Slavery and the Constitutional Constitution -- Critics of the Constitution: the Antifederalists -- The ratifying contest -- The Bill of Rights -- Conclusion

The U.S. Constitution

Teaching Students About What A Democracy Is And How Our Country Was Founded On The Constitution, Which Protects Our Rights And Freedoms, Is The Main Focus In This Title. Filled With Democracy Fact Boxes Which Include Information To Reinforce The Text.

What Are The Branches of Democracy?

Cover -- Title Page -- Credits -- Contents -- Chapter One: The Reluctant President -- Chapter Two: Unexplored Ground -- Chapter Three: The Nation's Economy -- Chapter Four: Home and Abroad -- Important Dates -- Stop and Think -- Glossary -- Learn More -- Index -- About the Author

New Nation Through the Eyes of George Washington

One of the half dozen most important books ever written about the American Revolution.--New York Times Book Review "During the nearly two decades since its publication, this book has set the pace, furnished benchmarks, and afforded targets for many subsequent studies. If ever a work of history merited the appellation 'modern classic,' this is surely one.--William and Mary Quarterly "[A] brilliant and sweeping interpretation of political culture in the Revolutionary generation.--New England Quarterly "This is an admirable, thoughtful, and penetrating study of one of the most important chapters in American history.--Wesley Frank Craven

The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787

From Kennebunkport to Kauai, from the Rio Grande to the Northern Rockies, ours is a vast republic. While we may be united under one Constitution, separate and distinct states remain, each with its own constitution and culture. Geographic idiosyncrasies add more than just local character. Regional understandings of law and justice have shaped and reshaped our nation throughout history. America's Constitution, our founding and unifying document, looks slightly different in California than it does in

Kansas. In *The Law of the Land*, renowned legal scholar Akhil Reed Amar illustrates how geography, federalism, and regionalism have influenced some of the biggest questions in American constitutional law. Writing about Illinois, "the land of Lincoln," Amar shows how our sixteenth president's ideas about secession were influenced by his Midwestern upbringing and outlook. All of today's Supreme Court justices, Amar notes, learned their law in the Northeast, and New Yorkers of various sorts dominate the judiciary as never before. The curious *Bush v. Gore* decision, Amar insists, must be assessed with careful attention to Florida law and the Florida Constitution. The second amendment appears in a particularly interesting light, he argues, when viewed from the perspective of Rocky Mountain cowboys and cowgirls. Propelled by Amar's distinctively smart, lucid, and engaging prose, these essays allow general readers to see the historical roots of, and contemporary solutions to, many important constitutional questions. *The Law of the Land* illuminates our nation's history and politics, and shows how America's various local parts fit together to form a grand federal framework.

The Law of the Land

In this provocative and insightful book, constitutional scholar and journalist Garrett Epps reviews the key decisions of the 2013-2014 Supreme Court term through the words of the nation's nine most powerful legal authorities. Epps succinctly outlines one opinion or dissent from each of the justices during the recent term, using it to illuminate the political and ideological views that prevail on the Court. The result is a highly readable summary of the term's most controversial cases as well as a probing investigation of the issues and personalities that shape the Court's decisions. Accompanied by a concise overview of Supreme Court procedure and brief case summaries, *American Justice 2014* is an engaging and instructive read for seasoned Court-watchers as well as legal novices eager for an introduction to the least-understood branch of government. This revealing portrait of a year in legal action dramatizes the ways that the Court has come to reflect and encourage the polarization that increasingly defines American politics.

American Justice 2014

Discusses the people of the United States, including their history, traditions, and education.

United States

No matter who you identify with—Democrat or Republican, Tea Party or Green Party, Independent or something else altogether—we the people should read: *The Constitution of the United States of America*. The Bill of Rights and all of the Amendments. The Declaration of Independence. The Articles of Confederation. Take a moment or two to reflect on the words of our forefathers, as these are the documents that literally created America. The Constitution set up a system of government that remains centuries later. The eloquent words of *The Declaration of Independence* are an enduring statement of human rights. Written and signed by Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and other great lights of our historical past, these documents define our freedoms and promise us our futures. And while they are often quoted, they are seldom actually read. Here is an opportunity to reach a new audience, with a fresh design and the same inspiring words. This collection will be a welcome addition to any American who believes in the dream.

The U.S. Constitution and Related Documents

"*From Colony to Superpower: The American Epic*" is an insightful and meticulously researched book penned by the talented writer Asif Ahmed Srabon. This captivating work delves deep into the remarkable journey of the United States, tracing its evolution from a fledgling colony to a global superpower. Through vivid storytelling and a keen historical perspective, Srabon explores the pivotal moments, key figures, and enduring ideals that have shaped the nation's destiny. This book is an essential read for anyone seeking a comprehensive understanding of America's extraordinary rise on the world stage.

From Colony to Superpower

A bold call to reclaim an American tradition that argues the Constitution imposes a duty on government to fight oligarchy and ensure broadly shared wealth. Oligarchy is a threat to the American republic. When too much economic and political power is concentrated in too few hands, we risk losing the Republican form of government the Constitution requires. Today, courts enforce the Constitution as if it has almost nothing to say about this threat. But as Joseph Fishkin and William Forbath show in

this revolutionary retelling of constitutional history, a commitment to prevent oligarchy once stood at the center of a robust tradition in American political and constitutional thought. Fishkin and Forbath demonstrate that reformers, legislators, and even judges working in this tradition understood that the Constitution imposes a duty on legislatures to thwart oligarchy and promote a broad distribution of wealth and political power. These ideas led Jacksonians to fight special economic privileges for the few, Populists to try to break up monopoly power, and Progressives to fight for the constitutional right to form a union. During Reconstruction, Radical Republicans argued in this tradition that racial equality required breaking up the oligarchy of slave power and distributing wealth and opportunity to former slaves and their descendants. President Franklin Roosevelt and the New Dealers built their politics around this tradition, winning the fight against the economic royalists and industrial despots. But today, as we enter a new Gilded Age, this tradition in progressive American economic and political thought lies dormant. The Anti-Oligarchy Constitution begins the work of recovering it and exploring its profound implications for our deeply unequal society and badly damaged democracy.

The Anti-Oligarchy Constitution

A history of the American Constitution's formative decades from a preeminent legal scholar When the US Constitution won popular approval in 1788, it was the culmination of thirty years of passionate argument over the nature of government. But ratification hardly ended the conversation. For the next half century, ordinary Americans and statesmen alike continued to wrestle with weighty questions in the halls of government and in the pages of newspapers. Should the nation's borders be expanded? Should America allow slavery to spread westward? What rights should Indian nations hold? What was the proper role of the judicial branch? In *The Words that Made Us*, Akhil Reed Amar unites history and law in a vivid narrative of the biggest constitutional questions early Americans confronted, and he expertly assesses the answers they offered. His account of the document's origins and consolidation is a guide for anyone seeking to properly understand America's Constitution today.

The Words That Made Us