



Constitution Compendium

Suggested Reading

- 1) **The Words That Made Us: America's Constitutional Conversation 1760-1840** by Akhil Reed Amar (Basic Books, 2021). The story of the Constitution from 1760-1840.
- 2) **American Epic: Reading the U.S. Constitution** by Garrett Epps (Oxford). Epps leads a fascinating literary explanation of the 7,500 words of the document itself.
- 3) **The Summer of 1787: The Men Who Invented the Constitution** by David O. Stewart (Simon and Shuster). A compelling narrative of the brilliant though sometimes angry and scheming personalities who produced the first written charter for a republic.
- 4) **The Federalist Papers** by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay (various). First published as newspaper advocacy pieces, these 85 essays on the new American government have never been surpassed.
- 5) **Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788** by Pauline Maier (Simon and Schuster). Once the U.S. Constitution was written, the state still had to ratify it, which proved to be a difficult, dramatic, and enlightening process.
- 6) **James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights** by Richard Labunski (Oxford). The framers of the U.S. Constitution forgot to include most protections for individual rights, so Madison and the First Congress undertook that essential effort in 1789.
- 7) **The Heritage Guide to the Constitution** by David F. Forte (4 Patriots). A unique line-by-line analysis explaining every clause of America's founding charter and its contemporary meaning.
- 8) **Foundation for Freedom: A Study of the United States Constitution—Workbook** by Lars R. Johnson (Christian Liberty Press). Explores the historical background of the Constitution, then examines it in detail and addresses its fundamental principles.
- 9) **Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787** by Gordon S. Wood (Chirp Books). Identifies, traces, and explains the changes that took place in American constitutional thinking between independence and the writing of the federal constitution.
- 10) **Plain, Honest Men: The Making of the American Constitution** by Richard Beeman (Random House). Opens in the final days of the Revolution with a bankrupt Congress, a mutinous army, and 13 quarrelsome, suspicious states.