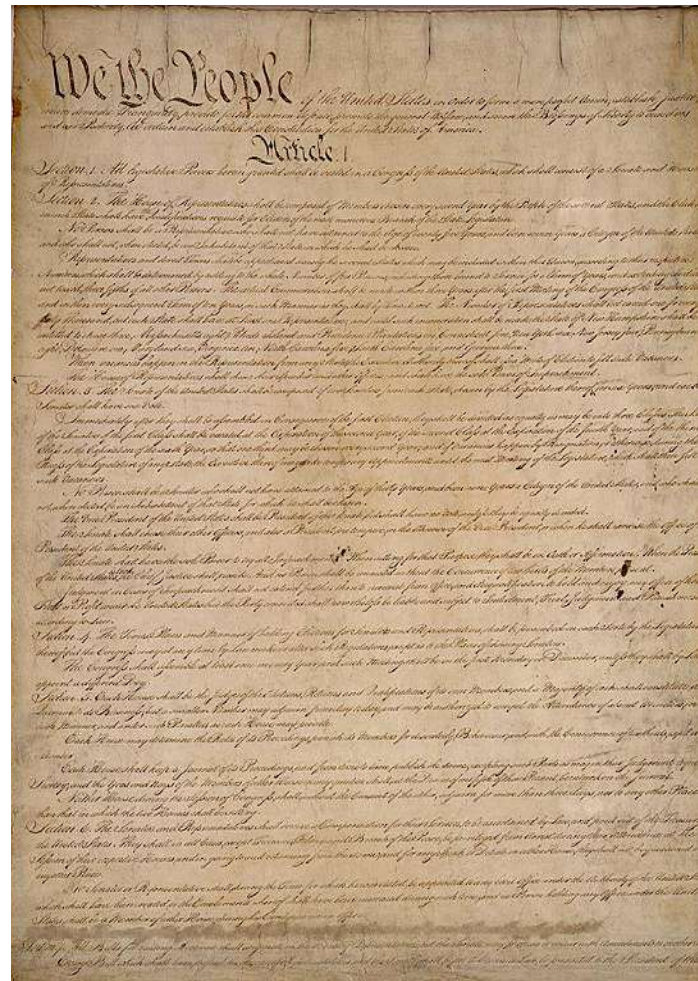


Origins of Constitution

Magna Carta

English Bill of Rights

Mayflower Compact



Founding Fathers



Washington

The framers of the Constitution wanted a written document that stated the power and limitations of a government; protected the rights of people; and was the highest law of the land.



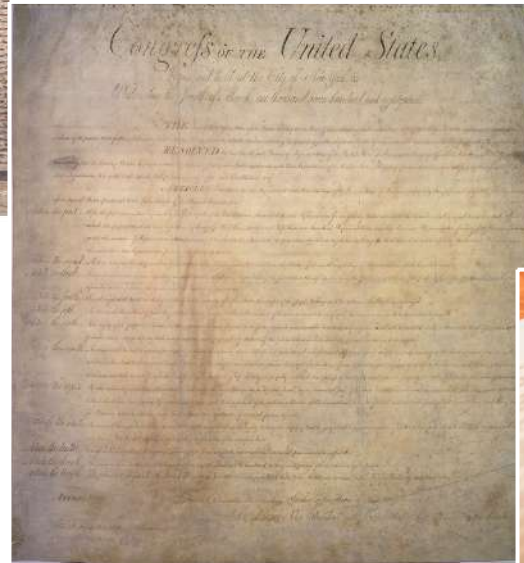
JOHN ADAMS
The 2nd U.S. President
1797-1801

Constitutional Ideas

- Liberty
- Justice
- Personal Freedoms
- Rule of Law
- Government's Responsibilities

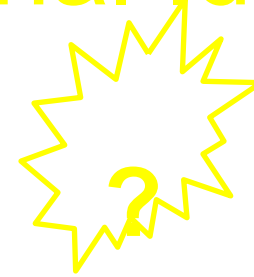


Bill of Rights



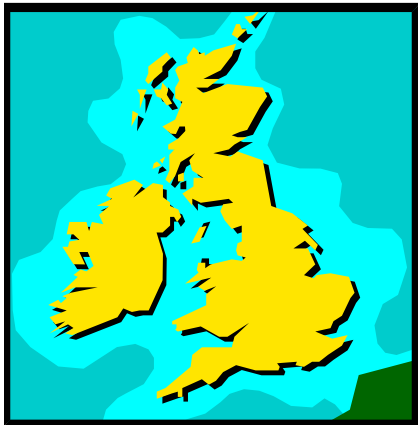
The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution as a list of basic freedoms of people. Sometimes these freedoms are called “natural rights”. A few of these rights appeared in earlier English documents.

Where Do Constitutional Ideas Come From



The origins of the Constitution and American government are partially found in the following two areas:

1



1. British ideas and prior governing documents

2. The American experience up to 1781

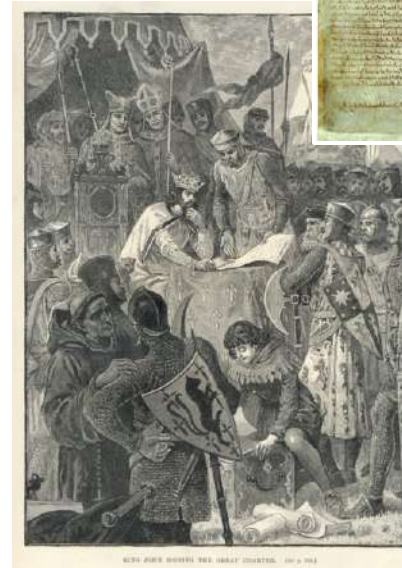
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Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact

- Two British documents, Magna Carta and The English Bill of Rights, provided the founding fathers with good examples about limiting government power and extending personal rights.
- The Mayflower Compact was the first American document of self-government.

Magna Carta 1215



King John of England

By 1215, King John had severely irritated his Barons. It was believed that he had killed a relative to ascend to the throne; lost a large chunk of English-owned land in France; and gotten into an argument with the Church. Finally, King John tried to raise taxes to pay for all of his problems!



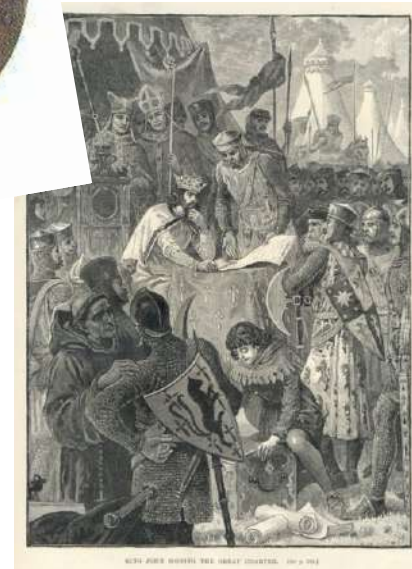
English Barons

The English Barons took over London in 1215 and forced King John to sign the Magna Carta. They wanted the king to admit that he was not above the law and that the Barons had certain rights that the king needed to recognize.



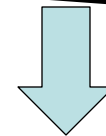
Runnymede

Runnymede was the meadow outside of London, where King John was forced to affix his “Great Seal” to the Magna Carta.



Edmund Coke

Edmund Coke, the Attorney General for Queen Elizabeth I of England, used the Magna Carta against the Stuart Kings of Scotland. Coke said, “Magna Carta...will have no sovereign” meaning that no king was above the law.



Coke included the Magna Carta as basis for English Common Law.

Institutes of the Laws of England

- This book was written by Edmund Coke and it is about English Common Law.
- John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Patrick Henry were all readers of the book. Each man quoted Coke's book to support their revolutionary and Constitutional ideas.

1776 Revolution

The founding fathers of America used the Magna Carta as a justification for the revolution. The English Barons were mad at King John over taxation and the Americans were mad at King George III, for the same reason.



+ TAXES =



+ TAXES

Seal of Massachusetts

The first seal of Massachusetts was a militiaman with a sword in one hand and a copy of the Magna Carta in the other hand. This seal was adopted at the start of the American Revolution. The seal was an example of how serious the Americans took the Magna Carta.



Constitution & Magna Carta

A Comparison

Magna Carta

- Protects a Baron's rights
- Kings are not above the law
- Kings can't tax without the Great Council's permission

Constitution

- Protects a person's rights
- No one is above the law
- Presidents can not tax without Congress's permission

English Bill of Rights

- In 1689, Parliament passed into law, “The English Bill of Rights”. It became one of the foundations of English Common Law which is England’s Constitution.
- It was originally called the “Declaration of Rights”.

Glorious Revolution

The English Bill of Rights came about because of the Glorious Revolution which overthrew James II and replaced him with William and Mary.

OUT

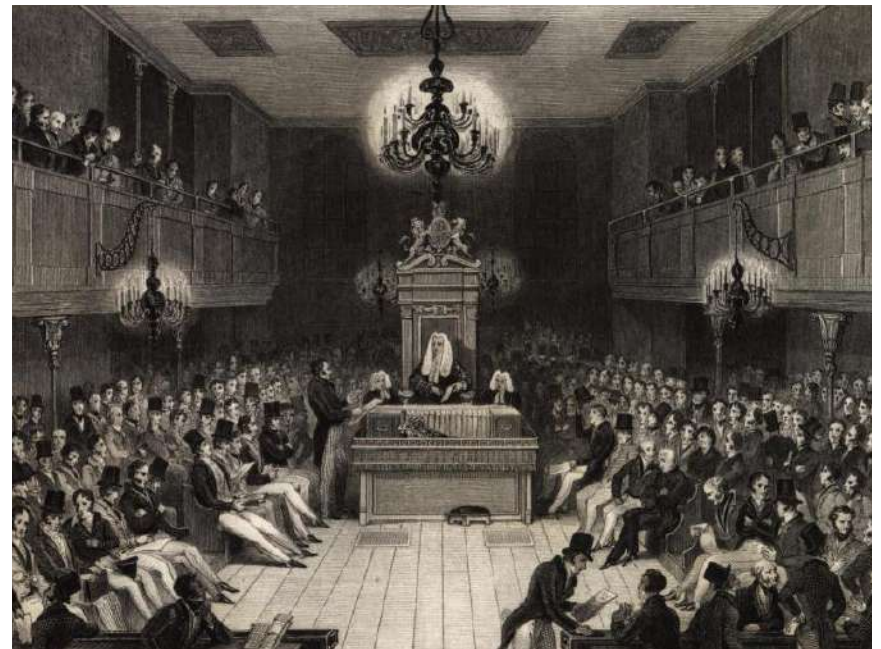


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Parliament to William and Mary

- Before William and Mary of Orange (the Netherlands) could become king and queen, they had to agree to the English Bill of Rights.
- Parliament said that Englishmen had certain civil and political rights that could not be taken away.



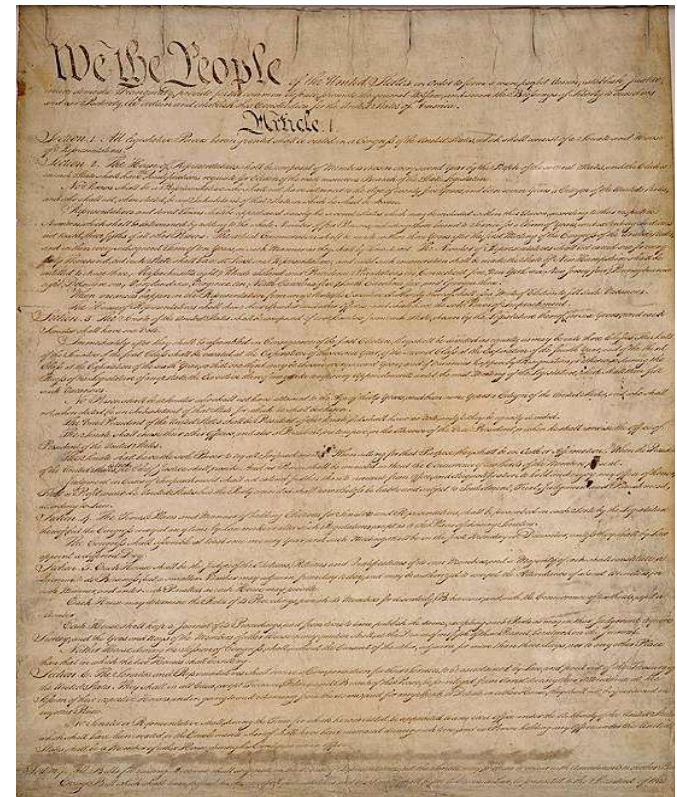
Freedom's Guaranteed by The English Bill of Rights

- Jury trials
- No excessive bail
- Free elections to Parliament
- Free speech in Parliament
- Right to arms
- Free to petition the king
- No taxation without Parliament's approval
- No cruel or unusual punishment

Constitution & English Bill of Rights

Constitutional ideas similar to the English Bill of Rights

- Individual rights protected
- Congress controls taxation
- Congress raises & supports an army
- No quartering of troops
- Sets up rules for regular elections
- Right to a jury trial
- Limits powers of the government/president



Mayflower Compact

November 11, 1620

Provincetown Harbor

Cape Cod, Massachusetts



Pilgrims

Mayflower Compact

In 1620, the Pilgrims left England and intended to go to the Virginia Colony. Instead, they ended up in New England. To stop the arguing that had been occurring on the ship, the 41 Pilgrim men signed the Mayflower Compact. It became their first government.



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Mayflower Compact

- Was a constitution for the colony
- Agreed to set up just and equal laws
- Set up a way to add to or change laws
- Had cooperation of all to follow the ideas of the document



Constitution & Mayflower Compact

- Each was a supreme law
- Both set up a civil government based on “just and equal laws”
- Each provided a way to amend the document
- Both became the basis for other colonial charters or state constitutions

The Constitution



Magna
Carta

English
Bill of Rights

Mayflower
Compact