

# A DESCRIPTION OF THE BILLS OF RIGHTS WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR TWO REASONS

*Supporter Overview* <sup>1</sup> · *Donate* *Bill of Rights of the United States of America* ( ) *Rights was strongly influenced by the Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by that the Constitution did not need a bill of rights, because the people and the describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.*

That in article 1st, section 9, between clauses 3 and 4, be inserted these clauses, to wit: The civil rights of none shall be abridged on account of religious belief or worship, nor shall any national religion be established, nor shall the full and equal rights of conscience be in any manner, or on any pretext, infringed. There is, of course, sharp debate over Supreme Court interpretation of specific provisions, especially where social interests such as the control of traffic in drugs seem to come into tension with provisions of the Bill of Rights such as the Fourth Amendment. Acts of Congress in conflict with them may be voided by the U. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. They wanted to go home, so they took a pass. After ratification by the ninth state, New Hampshire, followed shortly by Virginia, it was clear the Constitution would go into effect with or without New York as a member of the Union. As late as , the U. The Fifth Amendment requires grand jury indictment in prosecutions for major crimes and prohibits double jeopardy for a single offense. It largely responded to the Constitution's influential opponents, including prominent Founding Fathers, who argued that the Constitution should not be ratified because it failed to protect the basic principles of human liberty. Antifederalists no doubt knew that a debate over the content of a Bill of Rights could delay the adoption of the Constitution indefinitely, so initial advocacy for the Bill of Rights was not necessarily made in good faith. Democracy means that people ought to be able to vote for public officials in fair elections, and make most political decisions by majority rule. For the first 78 years after it was ratified, the Constitution protected slavery and legalized racial subordination. Following contentious battles in several states, the proposed Constitution reached that nine-state ratification plateau in June While the Bill of Rights created no deep challenge to federal authority, it did respond to the central Anti-Federalist fear that the Constitution would unleash an oppressive central government too distant from the people to be controlled. Amendment X The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. The "consent of the governed" meant propertied white men only. Numbers three through twelve were adopted by the states to become the United States U. The House of Representatives narrowed those down to 17; then the Senate, with the approval of the House, narrowed them down to Limited Government Early American mistrust of government power came from the colonial experience itself. That in article 3d, section 2, the third clause be struck out, and in its place be inserted the clauses following, to wit: The trial of all crimes except in cases of impeachments, and cases arising in the land or naval forces, or the militia when on actual service, in time of war or public danger shall be by an impartial jury of freeholders of the vicinage, with the requisite of unanimity for conviction, of the right with the requisite of unanimity for conviction, of the right of challenge, and other accustomed requisites; and in all crimes punishable with loss of life or member, presentment or indictment by a grand jury shall be an essential preliminary, provided that in cases of crimes committed within any county which may be in possession of an enemy, or in which a general insurrection may prevail, the trial may by law be authorized in some other county of the same State, as near as may be to the seat of the offence. Amendment VI In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense. Led by Melancton Smith, they were inclined to make the ratification of New York conditional on prior proposal of amendments or, perhaps, insist on the right to secede from the union if amendments are not promptly proposed. The last two amendments, respectively, spell out that this list of individual protections is not meant to exclude other ones, and, by contrast, set forth that all powers claimed by the federal government had to be expressly stated in the Constitution. And why wasn't the Bill of Rights really put into

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practice for the first years of its existence? In the end, popular sentiment was decisive. Freedom of Speech, Press, Petition, and Assembly Even unpopular expression is protected from government suppression or censorship. He urged the legislators, whilst you carefully avoid every alteration which might endanger the benefits of an united and effective government, or which ought to await the future lessons of experience; a reverence for the characteristic rights of freemen, and a regard for public harmony, will sufficiently influence your deliberations on the question, how far the former can be impregably fortified or the latter be safely and advantageously promoted. The legislatures in New York and Virginia passed resolutions calling for the convention to propose amendments that had been demanded by the States while several other states tabled the matter to consider in a future legislative session. It certainly ought. Congress commissioned 14 official copies of the Bill of Rights—one for the federal government and one for each of the original 13 states, which President George Washington dispatched to the states to consider for ratification. Amendment X 10 : Powers retained by the states and the people The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. Although the Convention was purportedly intended only to revise the Articles, the intention of many of its proponents, chief among them James Madison of Virginia and Alexander Hamilton of New York , was to create a new government rather than fix the existing one. Understanding the Bill of Rights The Bill of Rights remains an active force in contemporary American life as a major element of Constitutional law. Rights granted in the Constitution shall not infringe on other rights. On their face, it is obvious that the amendments apply to actions by the federal government, not to actions by the states. Thomas Jefferson , who was Minister to France during the convention, characterized the delegates as an assembly of "demi-gods. A bill of rights was overruled. Legal immigrants were deported for their political views, the police used physical coercion to extract confessions from criminal suspects, and members of minority religions were victims of persecution. Madison, then an opponent of a Bill of Rights, later explained the vote by calling the state bills of rights "parchment barriers" that offered only an illusion of protection against tyranny. Stay Updated! Today, those achievements are being heavily challenged by a movement dedicated to rolling back the reach and effectiveness of the Bill of Rights and to undermining the independence of our courts. The Full Text of the Bill of Rights Amendment I Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. It would take four more years of intense debate before the new government's form would be resolved. The Declaration of Independence and the original, unamended Constitution were written and signed in Philadelphia. Enormous progress was made between and , when many rights long dormant became enforceable.