

# Fully Annotated Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Amendments

The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Amendments are the three foundational documents of the United States of America. They set forth the principles upon which the country was founded and the framework for its government. This fully annotated edition provides a comprehensive understanding of these historic documents.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. It declared the thirteen American colonies to be independent from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence is a powerful and eloquent statement of the principles of liberty and self-government.

## Notable Annotations:



### The Penguin Guide to the United States Constitution: A Fully Annotated Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Amendments, and Selections from

**The Federalist Papers** by F. Ellen Netting

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 399 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 154 pages  
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



- **"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..."** This is the fundamental principle of the Declaration of Independence. It means that all people are born with certain inherent rights, such as the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- **"That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..."** This principle establishes the idea of popular sovereignty. It means that the government derives its power from the consent of the people.
- **"That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it..."** This principle is known as the right of revolution. It means that the people have the right to change or overthrow a government that is not protecting their rights.

The Constitution was adopted by the Constitutional Convention in 1787. It established the framework for the United States government. The Constitution is a complex and detailed document that has been amended many times over the years.

### **Notable Annotations:**

- **Article I** establishes the legislative branch of government. It creates the Congress, which is composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

- **Article II** establishes the executive branch of government. It creates the presidency and the vice presidency.
- **Article III** establishes the judicial branch of government. It creates the Supreme Court and the other federal courts.
- **Article IV** establishes the relationship between the states and the federal government. It guarantees the states a republican form of government and protects their rights.
- **Article V** establishes the process for amending the Constitution. It requires a two-thirds vote of Congress and ratification by three-fourths of the states.

The Amendments to the Constitution are changes that have been made to the original document. The first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, were adopted in 1791. The Bill of Rights protects individual rights, such as the freedom of speech, religion, and assembly.

### **Notable Annotations:**

- **Amendment I** protects the freedom of speech, religion, and assembly. It also protects the right to petition the government.
- **Amendment IV** protects against unreasonable searches and seizures. It requires the government to obtain a warrant before searching a person or their property.
- **Amendment V** protects against self-incrimination. It also guarantees the right to due process of law.
- **Amendment XIV** guarantees equal protection under the law. It prohibits the states from denying any person life, liberty, or property

without due process of law.

- **Amendment XIX** grants women the right to vote. It was adopted in 1920.

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