

American Government - The Bill of Rights Part I



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The Constitution of the United States was written in 1787, but the government it created couldn't rule over people's lives until one more step was taken. Each state had to vote to ratify, or approve of it.

By 1789, eleven states had ratified the new government. Their votes were enough to put the Constitution into effect. Two states, however, refused to sign it— North Carolina and Rhode Island. Critics in these states objected that a Bill of Rights had not been included. They worried that without a Bill of Rights the government might eventually become too strong. It might be unjust and put people in jail without a reason. It might take away a person's ability to speak freely, or keep some books from being written. They wanted people's rights spelled out so the government could never take them away.

The "founding fathers," who created the Constitution, knew the document would have to be flexible in order to survive over time. They knew they would have to allow amendments. In their first session of Congress in 1789, they agreed to add a Bill of Rights. James Madison led the way. Of the 15 amendments he suggested, 10 were eventually ratified by the states. They were made a permanent addition to the Constitution. These first 10 amendments are known as the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights became part of the Constitution on December 15, 1791. Some rights, such as freedom of speech and the press, support democracy. Others, such as the right to a trial by jury, are important for justice. The ideas for these rights are very old. They date back to ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. Without them, we wouldn't enjoy the freedom we do as a nation today.

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美国政府-权利法案 第一部分

美国的宪法是在 1787 年写的，但是它所创立的政府直到采取进一步的措施之前都无法统治国家。每一个州都必须投票批准或通过。

到 1789 年为止十一个州通过了新政府。他们投的票足够让宪法生效。但是两个州拒绝签它-北卡和罗德岛州。这些州批评这个宪法没有包括权利法案。他们担心如果没有权利法案政府会最后变得太强大。它可能会不公平地把人民没有理由地关进监狱。它可能阻碍一个人的言论自由，或者阻止写一些书。他们想明确规定出人民的权利。这样的话政府就永远不会把他们的权利夺走。

创造宪法的“国父”知道这个文件必须是灵活的才能长期有效。他们知道他们必须允许修正。在 1789 年他们的第一次国会上，他们同意加上权利法案。James Madison 带的头。在他建议的 15 条修改草案中，有 10 条被联邦通过了。他们被永久地加到宪法里。这头 10 条修改法案就是今天的权利法案。

权利法案在 1791 年 12 月 15 日就成为宪法的一部分。有些权利，比如言论和新闻自由是支持民主的。其他的，比如作为陪审团上法庭的权利，对于申张正义是很重要的。为争取这些权利的想法是很古老的。它们可追溯到古希腊和罗马的文明。没有它们，我们不可能享受我们今天国家的自由。

