



AMERICA'S

FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

SCHOLAR EXCHANGE

We

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People

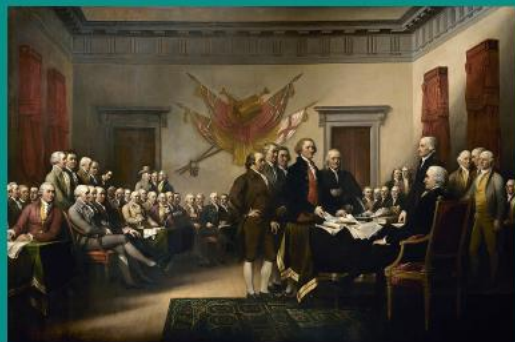
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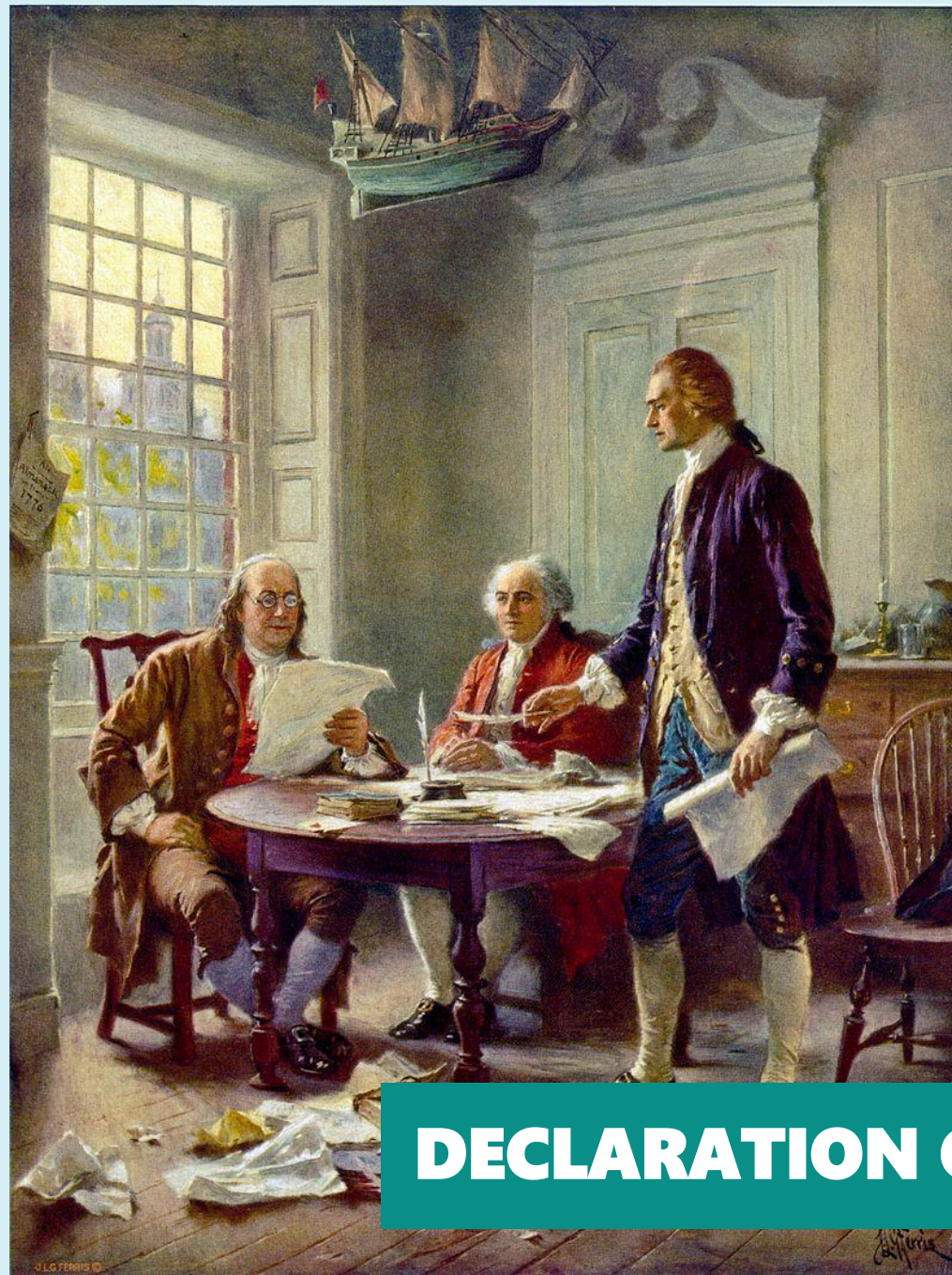
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DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation. We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are 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, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all experienced Men have viewed with Suspicion, the Experiments of a new Form of Government. But when a long Train of abuses and Usurpations pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Tyranny, it is their Duty, it is their Right, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. — Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. — The History of the present King of Great Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. — To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them and formidable to Tyrants only. — He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the seat of Government, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People. — He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large, for the Exercise of which no Provision was made in the mean Time agreed to in the Compact between us and the Crown. — He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Trade for Intercourse with the Indians; refusing to assent to any Act to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance. — He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislature. — He has endeavored to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quartering large Bodies of armed Troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these Colonies: — For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many Cases of the Benefits of Trial by Jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences: — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an Example and a Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Harbours, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Terms of our Contracts: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the Works of Death, Desolation and Tyranny, already begun, with Circumstances of Cruelty and Partiality scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Warriors of their Brethren, to fight their Brethren, to become the Executioners of their Friends, and to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic Contentions among us, and has endeavored to bring in the Divisions of our Brethren, the mercenary Indian Savages, whose known-Indiscretions, is an unextinguishable Destruction of all Life, Peace and Condition. — In every Stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Relief in the most humble Terms: — Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated Injury. — A Prince whose Character is thus marked by every Act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People. — Nor have We been wanting in Attention to our British Brethren. — We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarlike Jurisdiction over us. — We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. — We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. — They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Amity. — We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends. — We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of Right do. — And for the Support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

John Hancock, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, etc. (Signatures of the signatories to the Declaration of Independence)

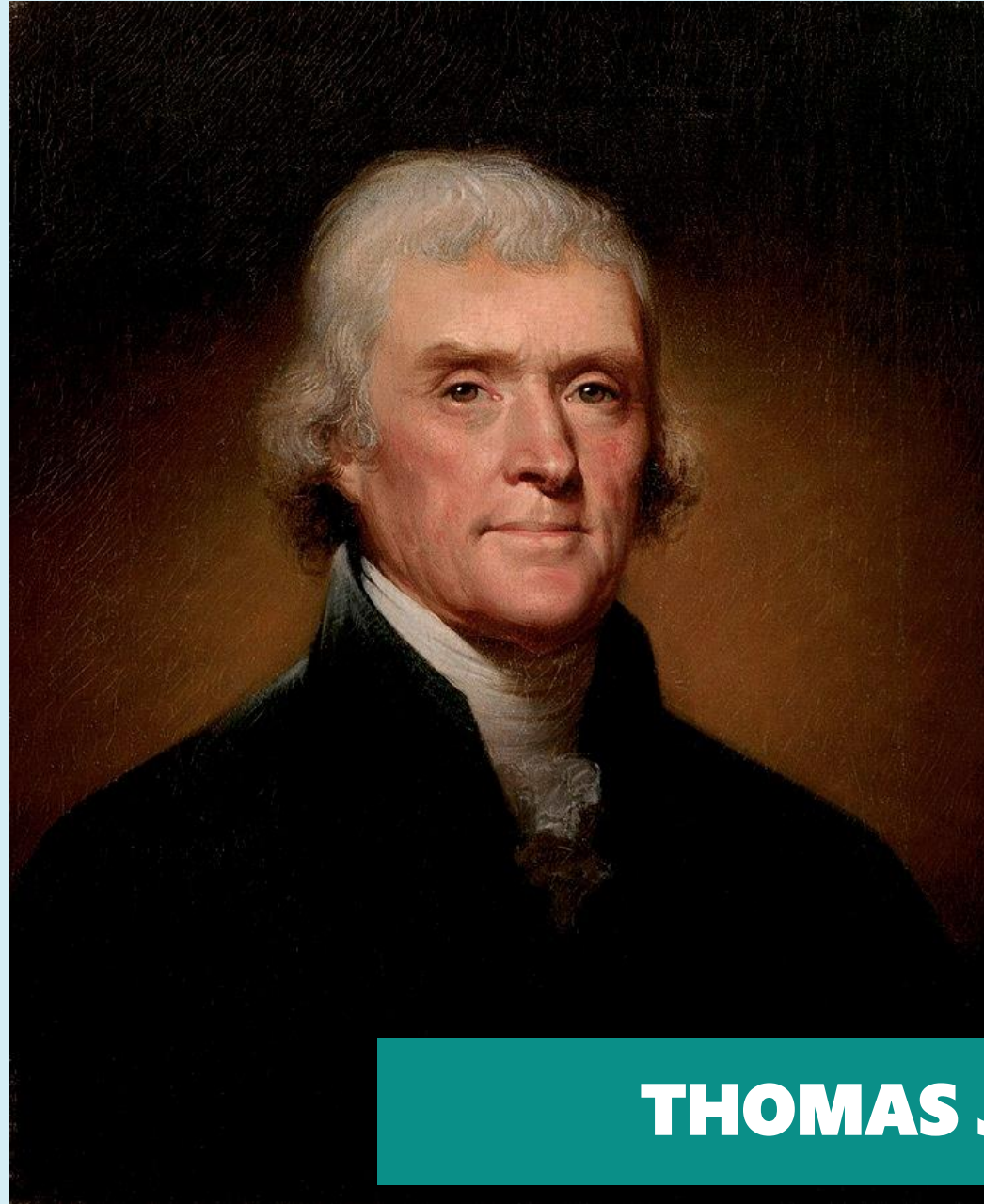
1776

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



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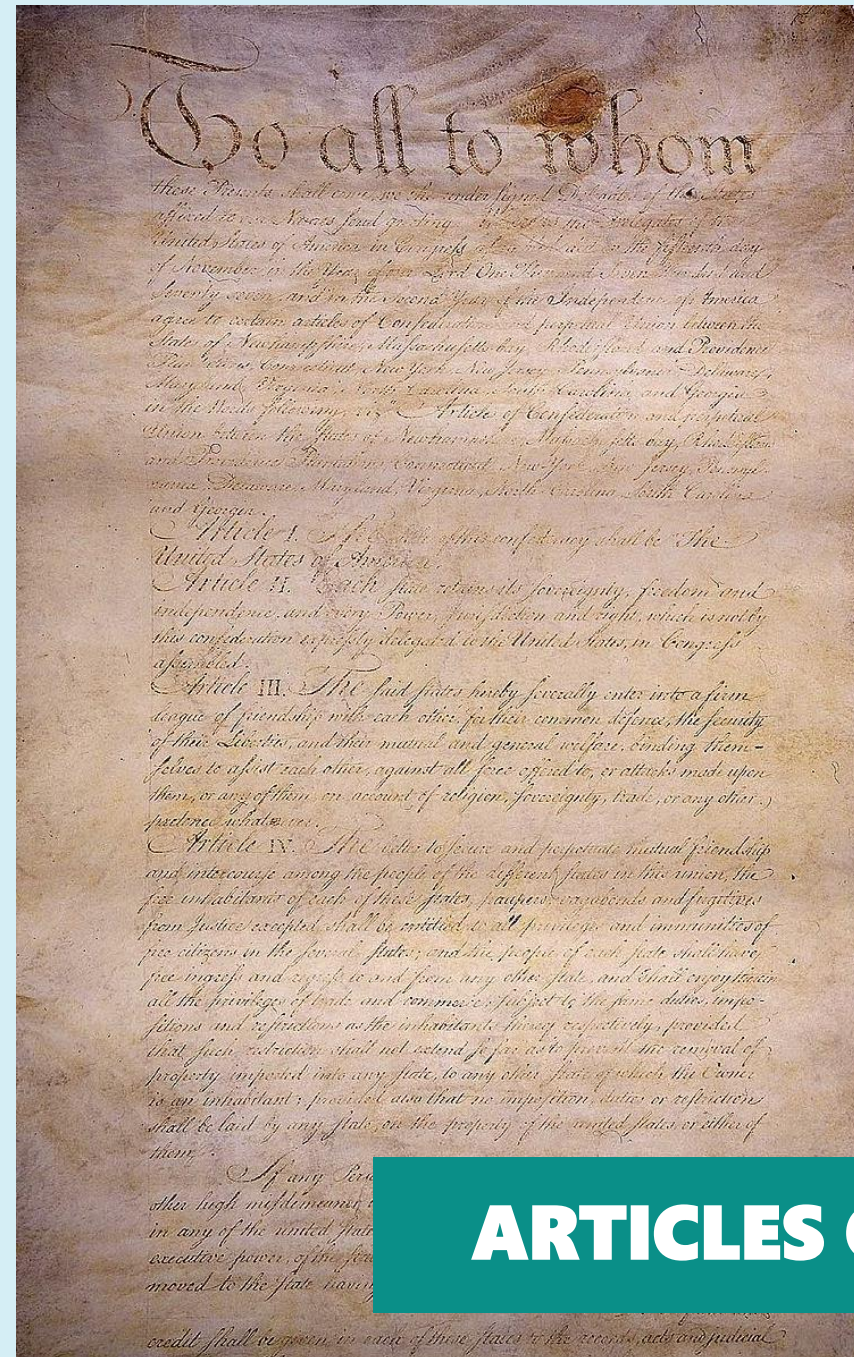


THOMAS JEFFERSON



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Approved 1777
Ratified 1781

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION



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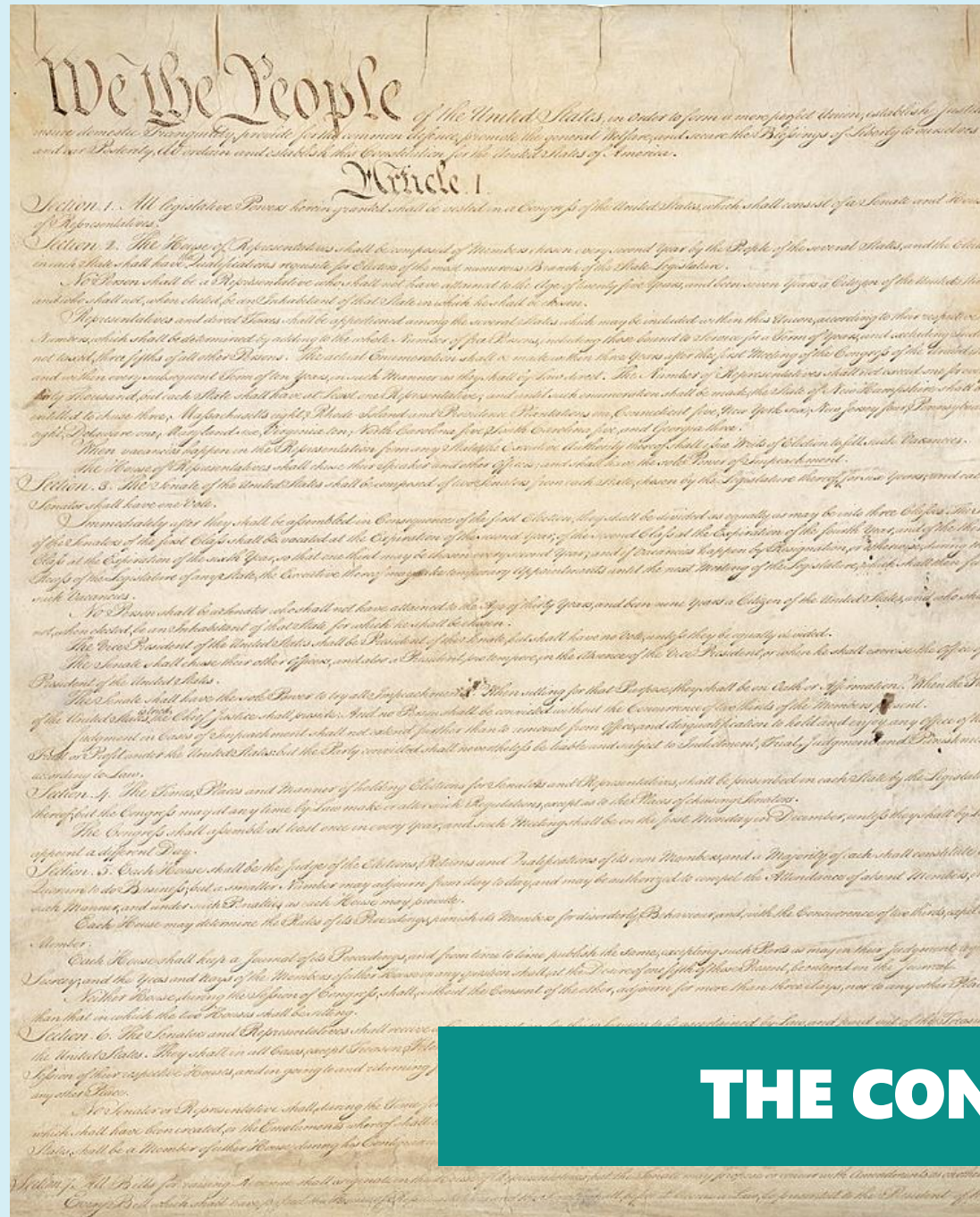


THE CONSTITUTION



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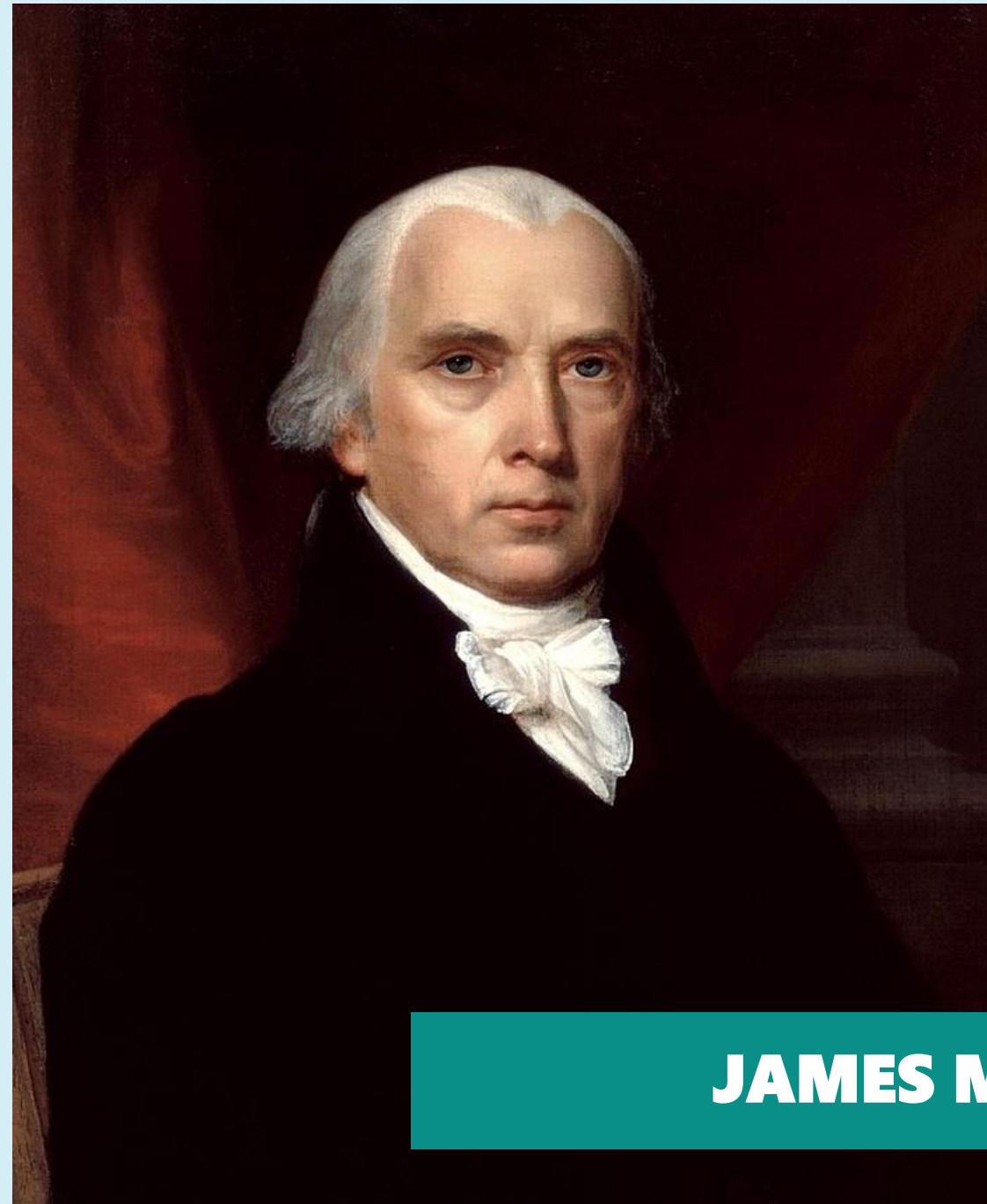
Written and Signed 1787
Ratified 1788

THE CONSTITUTION



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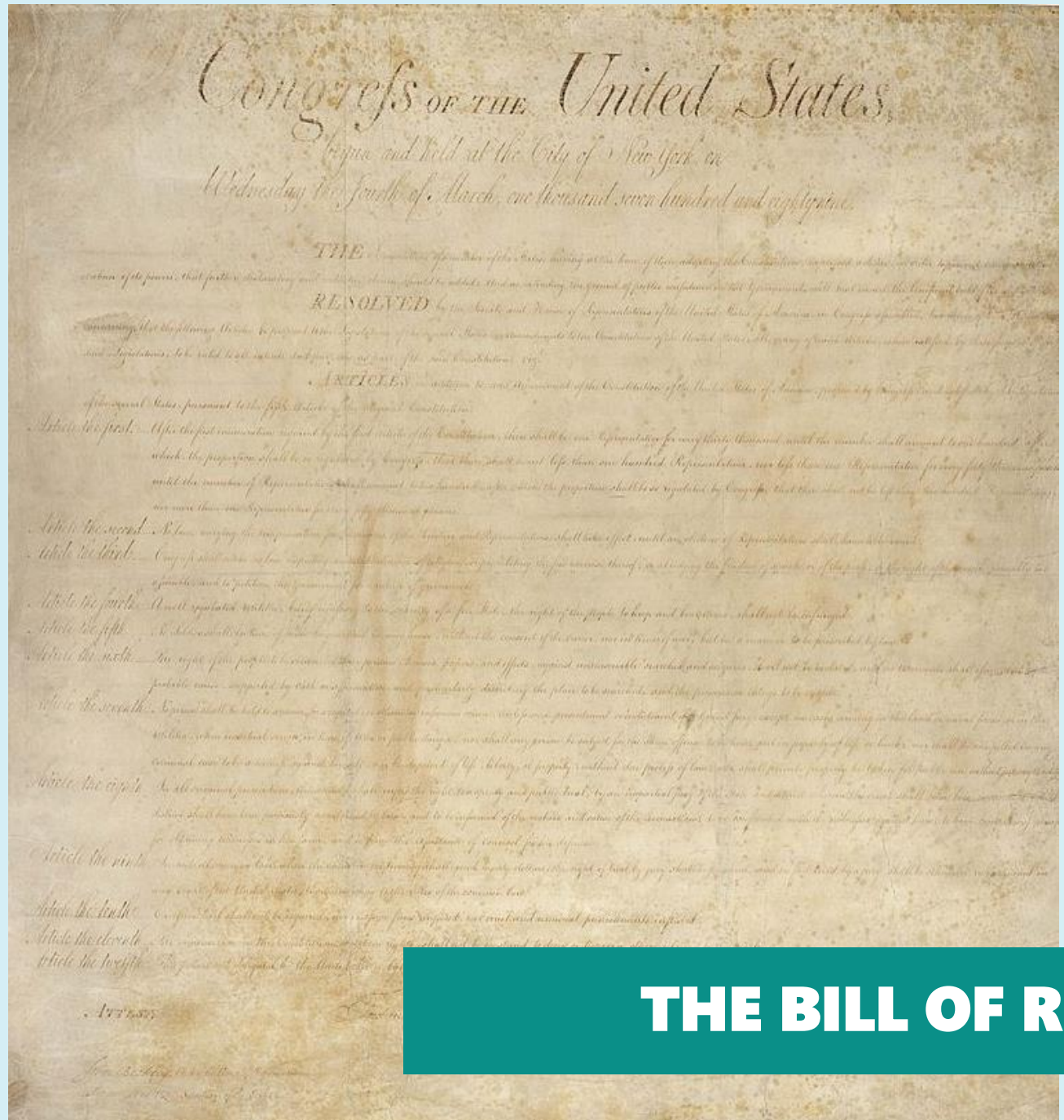
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JAMES MADISON



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Ratified 1791

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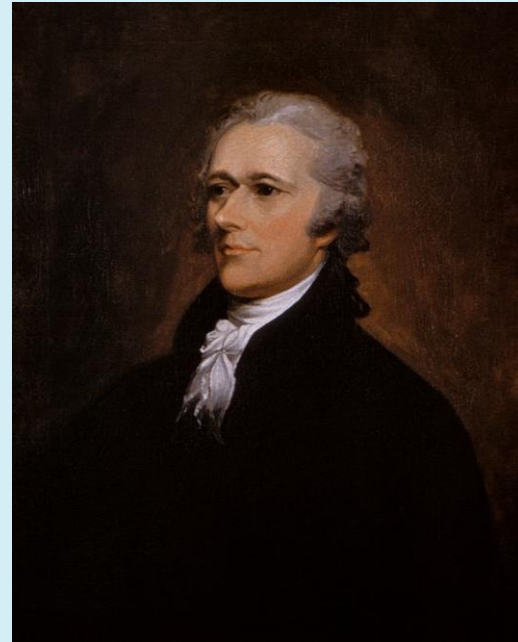


THE BILL OF RIGHTS

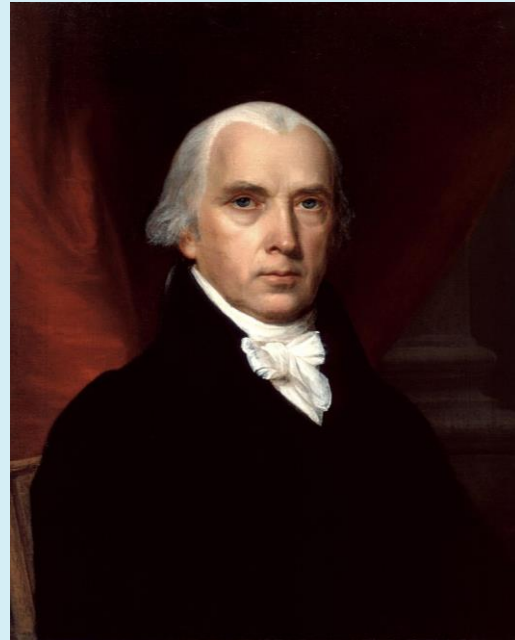


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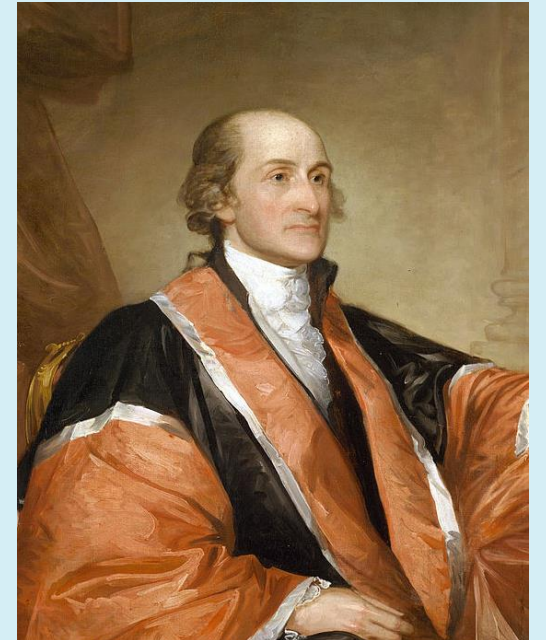
THE FEDERALIST PAPERS



Alexander Hamilton



James Madison



John Jay





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New-York, Nov. 22.

The Madisonian printed this week, a copy of that patriotic writer, Mr. No. 10. The Madisonian printed this week, a copy of that patriotic writer, Mr. No. 10. The Madisonian printed this week, a copy of that patriotic writer, Mr. No. 10.

L O N D O N .
Sept. 17. Mr. Gougeon writes to the Madisonian, with full powers for executing the expedition now on the rocks, because it is with the assistance of the British, which is essential to animal life, because it is essential to animal life, because it is essential to animal life.

The following is the 17th article in the Declaration of Independence, which the Convention announced in the Chamber of Deputies, on the 4th of July, 1776. It is in the following words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

THE FEDERALIST, No. X.
To the People of the State of New-York.
AMONG the numerous advantages, presented by a well-ordered Union, one deserves to be more accurately developed than its tendency to break and control the violence of faction. The chief of popular governments, even the best, are in such manner affected by the弊 of faction, as to be more accurately developed than its tendency to break and control the violence of faction.

On the 20th of August, at 10 o'clock, A. M. the British fleet, consisting of the British ships, which arrived at Liverpool on the 19th inst. from Grenada, being about a mile above a French East-India man, which was bound for Oporto, perceived a vessel floating on the water towards him, on which he threw an anchor and an empty cask overboard, for better anchorage, and got his boat out as soon as possible, with which he was fortunate enough to get him on board his vessel. On approaching him, he perceived that he was one of those men, who, for some months past, had been detained in the Irish jails, to be sent to the Continent, and there to be sent to the Continent, and there to be sent to the Continent.

It could never be more truly said than of the fact, namely, that it is worse than the defect. Liberty is to follow, what it is to be, an almost without which it is inferior to the condition of a free state, to which liberty, which is essential to political life, because it is essential to political life, because it is essential to political life.

It is in vain to say, that enlightened despots will be able to adjust their despotic interests, and render them all subservient to the public good. Enlightened despots will not always be so able; that, in many cases, can such an adjustment be made at all, without taking into view interests and more considerations, which will rarely prevail over the immediate interest which every party may find in diverging the rights of society, at the good of the whole.

By what means is this object attainable? Evidently by one of two ways. Either the existence of the same passion of interest in a majority of the same state, must be prevented by the equality, having such a common passion of interest, must be rendered, by the number and local situation, unable to concert and carry into effect the influence of opposition. If the impulse and the opportunity be felt in a common passion, we will know that other moral or religious motives can be relied on as an adequate counter. They are not found in the fact, on the contrary, as a violence of individuals, and less their efficacy in proportion to the number countering together; that is, in proportion as their efficacy becomes specific.

No man is allowed to be a judge in his own cause; because his interest would otherwise be prejudicial to his duty, and he is probably, consequently his interest. With such a view as to public and private interests, and the interests of the public and private interests, and the interests of the public and private interests.

The interest of the public and private interests, and the interests of the public and private interests, and the interests of the public and private interests, and the interests of the public and private interests.

Image: Madison's essay in the New York Daily Advertiser, November 22, 1787

1787, Madison

FEDERALIST NO. 10



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In the Press,
and speedily will be published,
**THE
FEDERALIST,**
A Collection of Essays written in fa-
vor of the New Constitution.
By a Citizen of New-York.
Corrected by the Author, with Additions
and Alterations.

*This work will be printed on a fine Paper
and good Type, in one handsome Volume duo-
decimo, and delivered to subscribers at the
moderate price of one dollar. A few copies
will be printed on superfine royal writing pa-
per, price ten shillings.*
No money required till delivery.
*To render this work more complete, will be
added, without any additional expence,*

PHILO-PUBLIUS,
AUTHOR

Articles
As agreed upon

THE
FEDERALIST
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Image: An advertisement for The Federalist, 1787, using the pseudonym "Philo-Publius"

1788, Madison

FEDERALIST NO. 51



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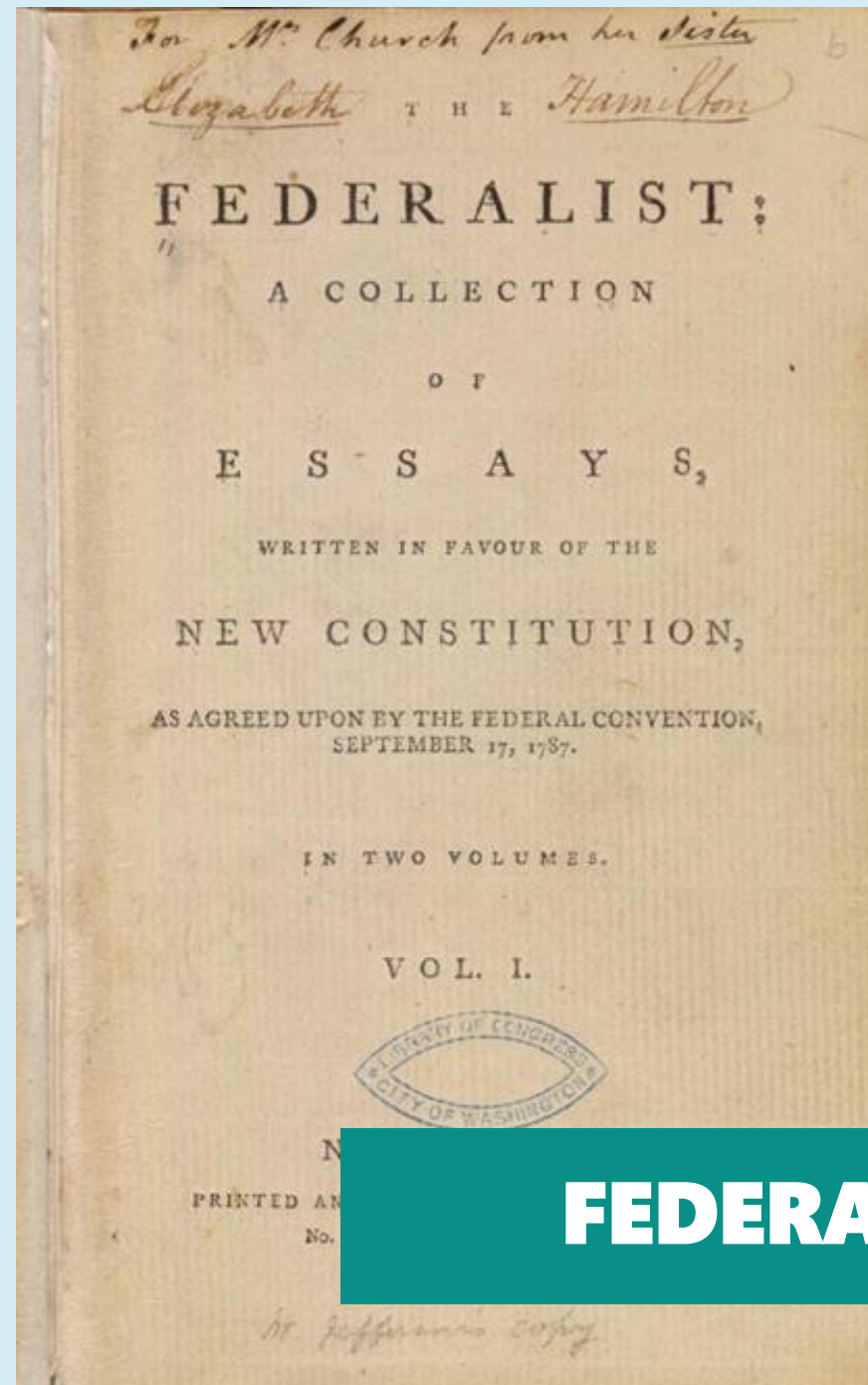


Image: Volume of the first collection of *The Federalist* (1788) gifted to Angelica Schuyler Church from her sister Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton.

1788, Hamilton

FEDERALIST NO. 70



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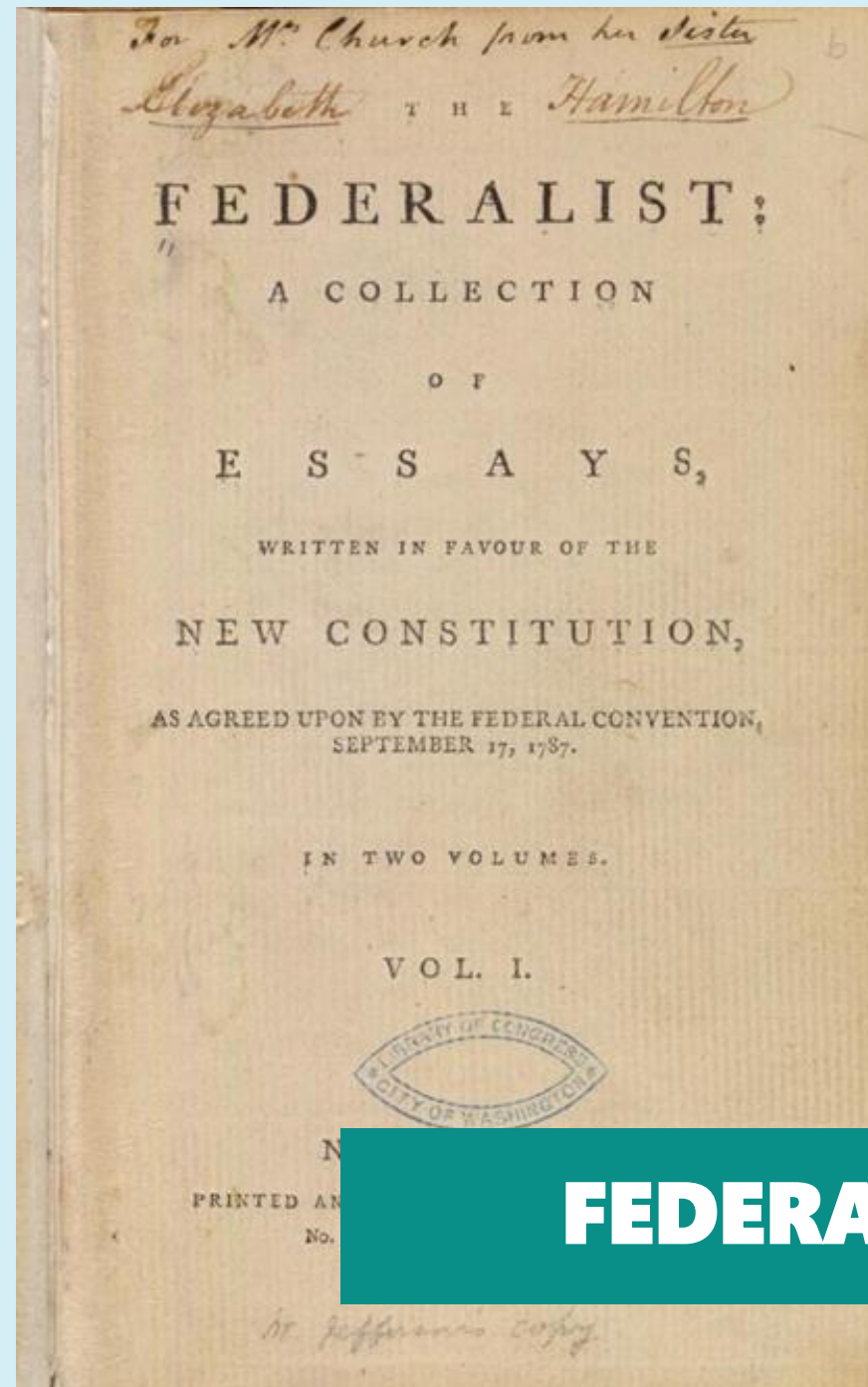


Image: Volume of the first collection of *The Federalist* (1788) gifted to Angelica Schuyler Church from her sister Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton.

1788, Hamilton

FEDERALIST NO. 78



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LETTERS
FROM
BRUTUS.

LETTER I.

*To Lieut. General B*****.*

S I R,

EVERY Moralift has told us, that there are certain situations which try the conduct of men, which afford a criterion to judge of the strength of their understandings, and the goodness of their hearts. Of these the most unfavourable is supposed to be Prosperity, which not only endangers the propriety of our conduct, but awakens that envy by which our conduct will be criticifed. Misfortune, on the other hand, while it lessens our propensity to many vices and follies, produces in others that compassion from which flighter vices and follies find pardon and indulgence.

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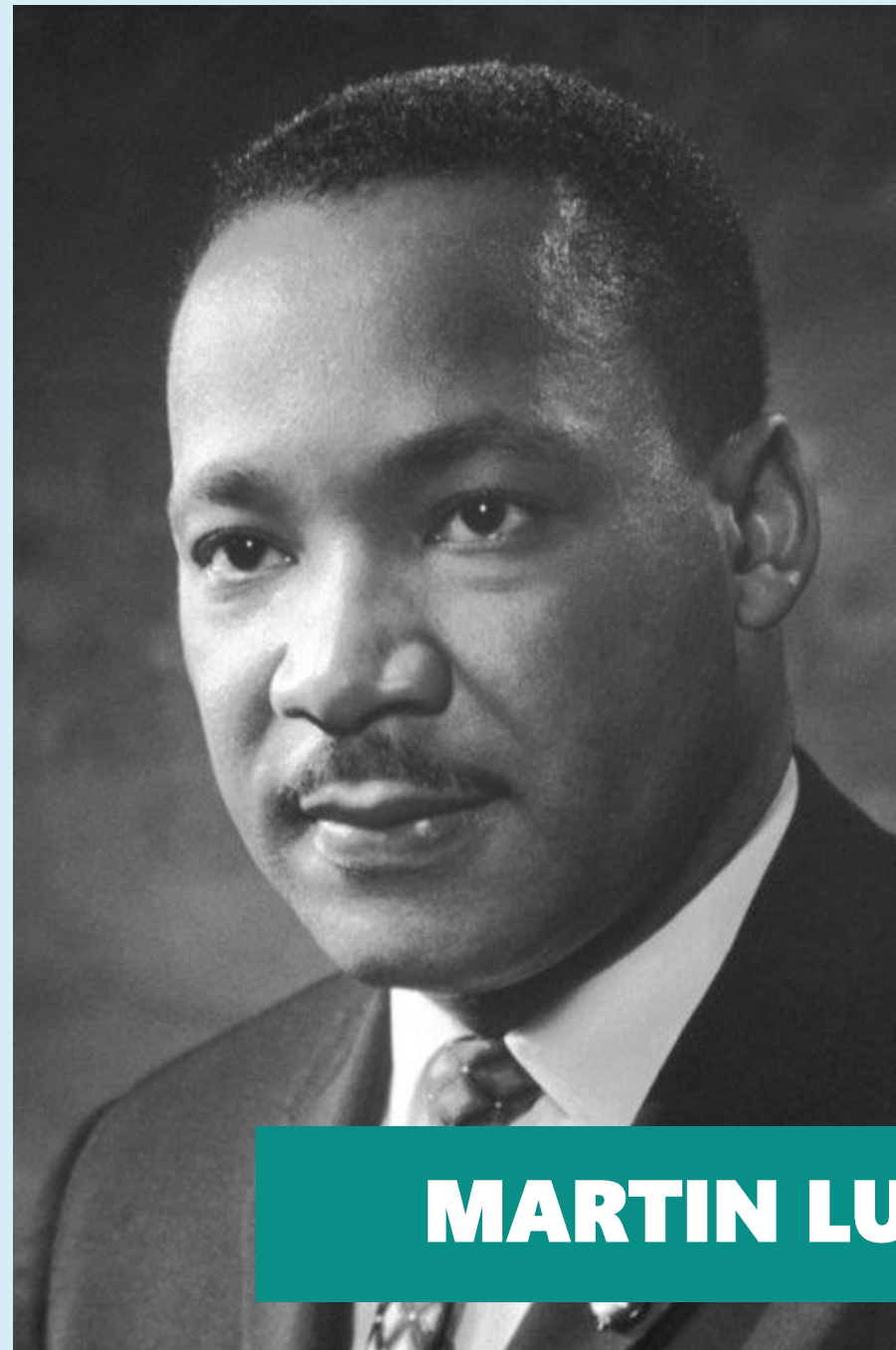
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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



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Martin Luther King, Jr.
Birmingham City Jail.
April 16, 1963.

Bishop C. C. J. Carpenter
Bishop Joseph A. Durick
Rabbi Milton L. Grafman
Bishop Nolan B. Harmon
The Rev. George H. Murray
The Rev. Edward V. Ramage
The Rev. Earl Stallings

My dear Fellow Clergymen,

While confined here in the Birmingham City Jail, I came across your recent statement calling our present activities "unwise and untimely." Seldom, if ever, do I pause to answer criticism of my work and ideas. If I sought to answer all of the criticisms that cross my desk, my secretaries would be engaged in little else in the course of the day, and I would have no time for constructive work. But since I feel that you are men of genuine goodwill and your criticisms are sincerely set forth, I would like to answer your statement in what I hope will be patient and reasonable terms.

I think I should give the reason for my being in Birmingham, since you have been influenced by the argument of "outsiders coming in." I have the honor of serving as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization operating in every Southern state with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. We have some eighty-five affiliate organizations all across the south—one being the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. Whenever necessary and possible we

Several months ago

found to engage

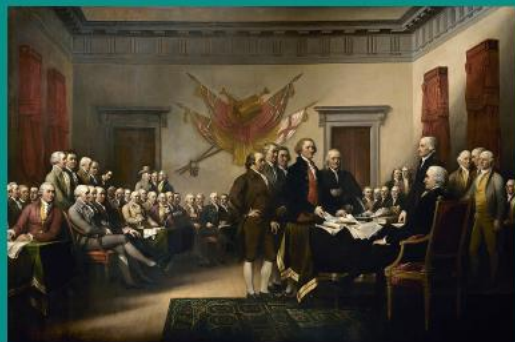
readily conse

down here, along with several members of my staff, because we were invited

Image: Copy of "Letter from Birmingham Jail" held by Special Collection in Harwell G. Davis Library, Stamford University. Typed by Willie Pearl Mackey (King) this copy is believed to have been sent to the executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Convention before the letter was officially published.

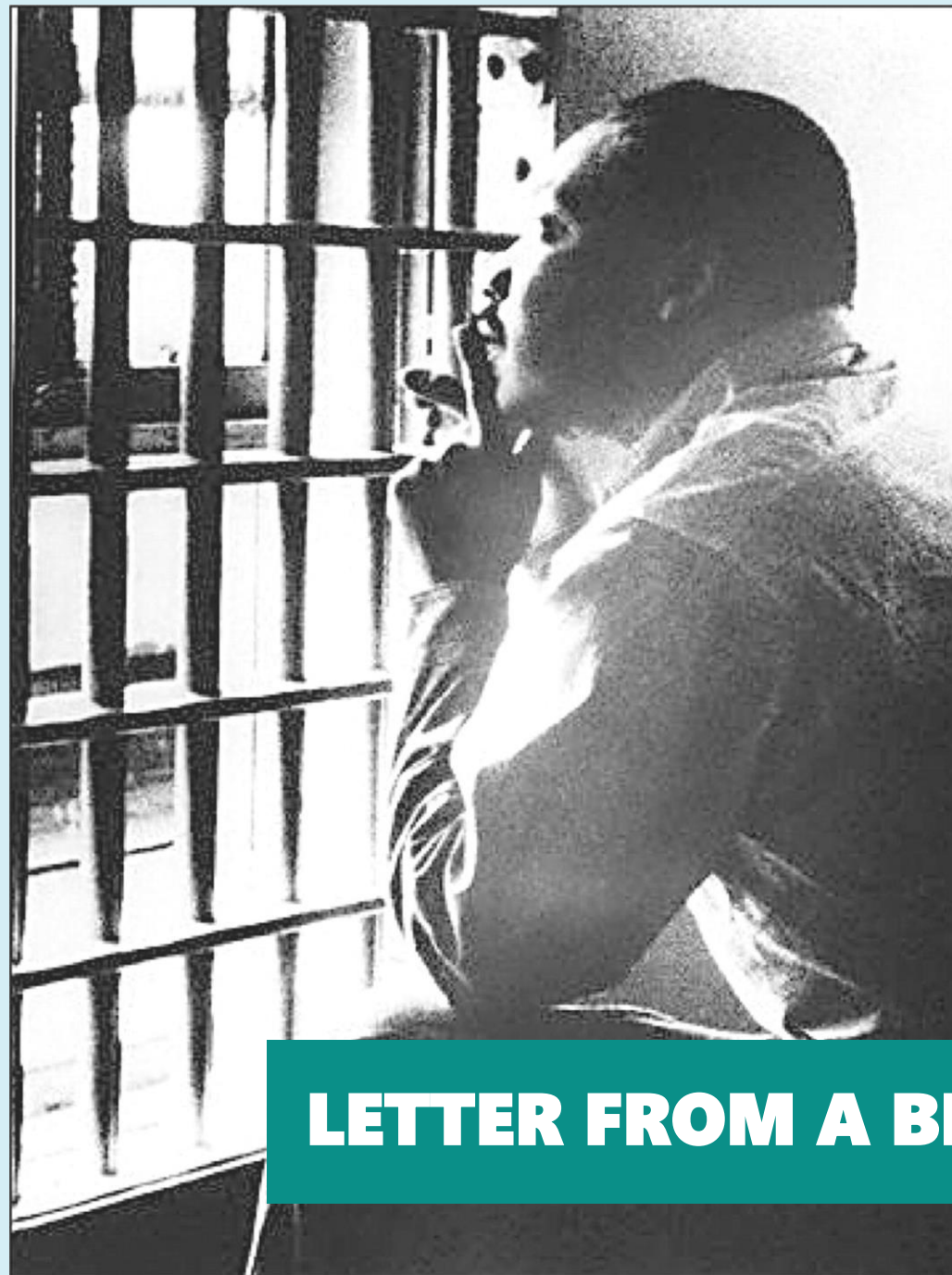
1963

LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL



AMERICA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

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LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL

