



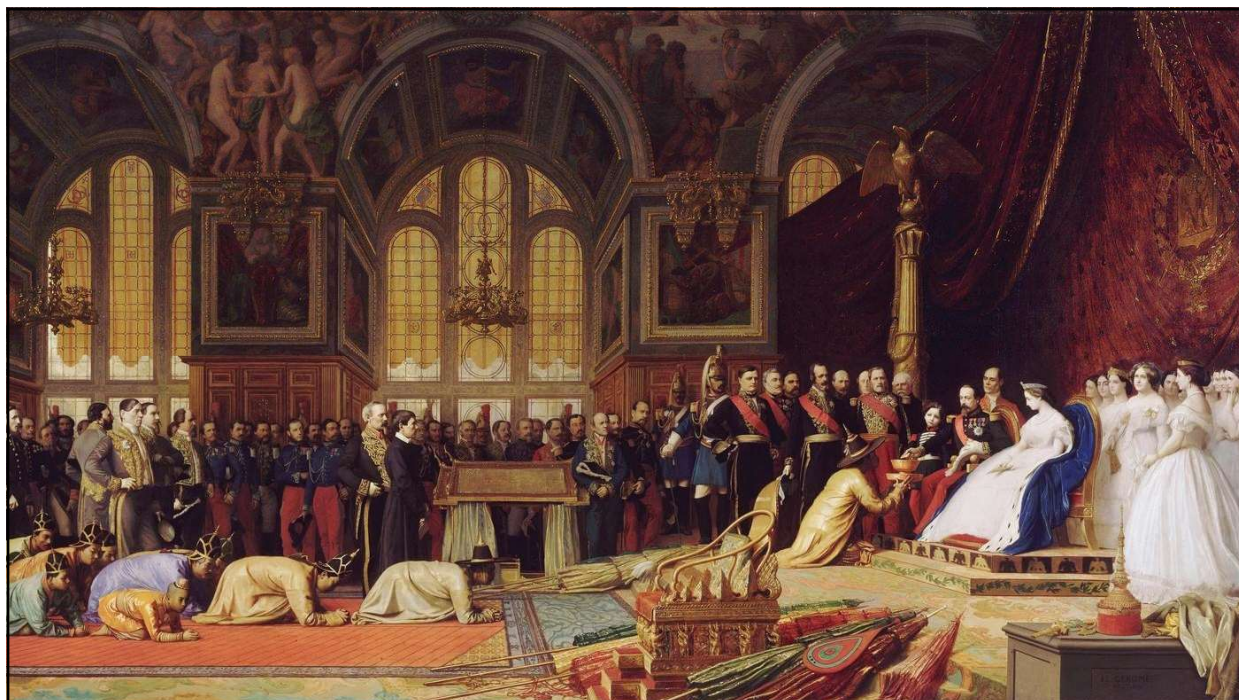
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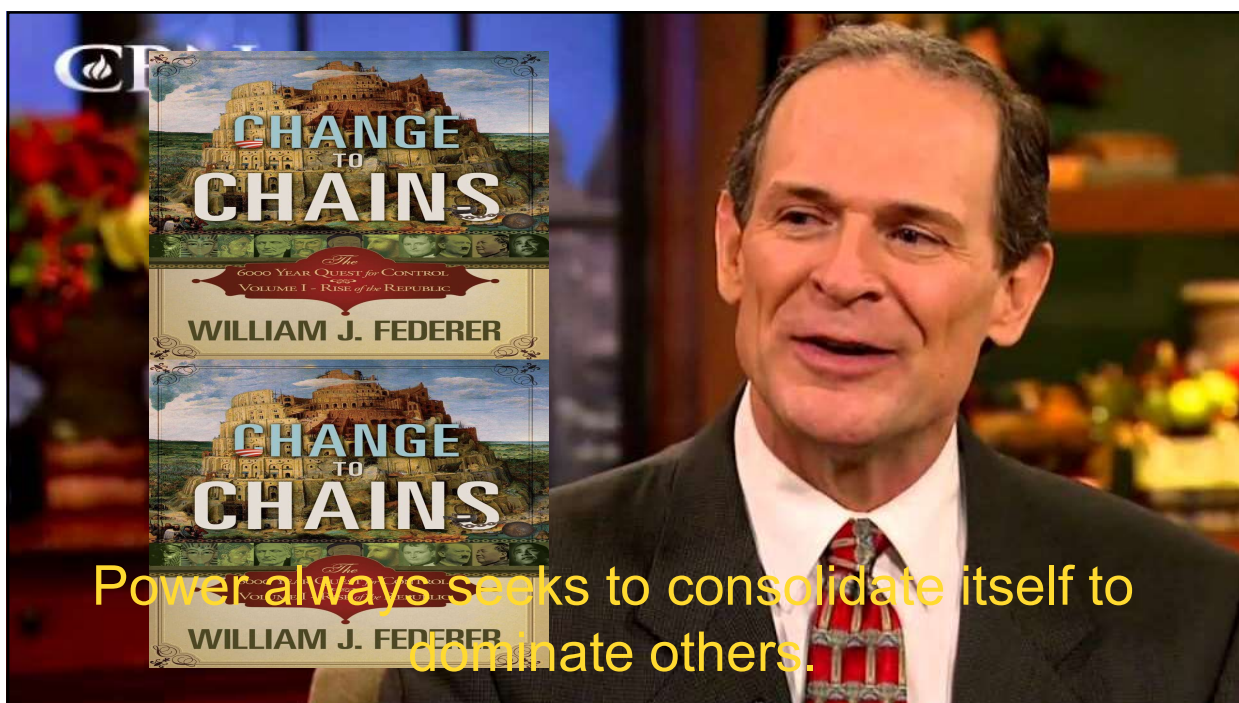
Self-governance is historically extremely  
rare and fragile

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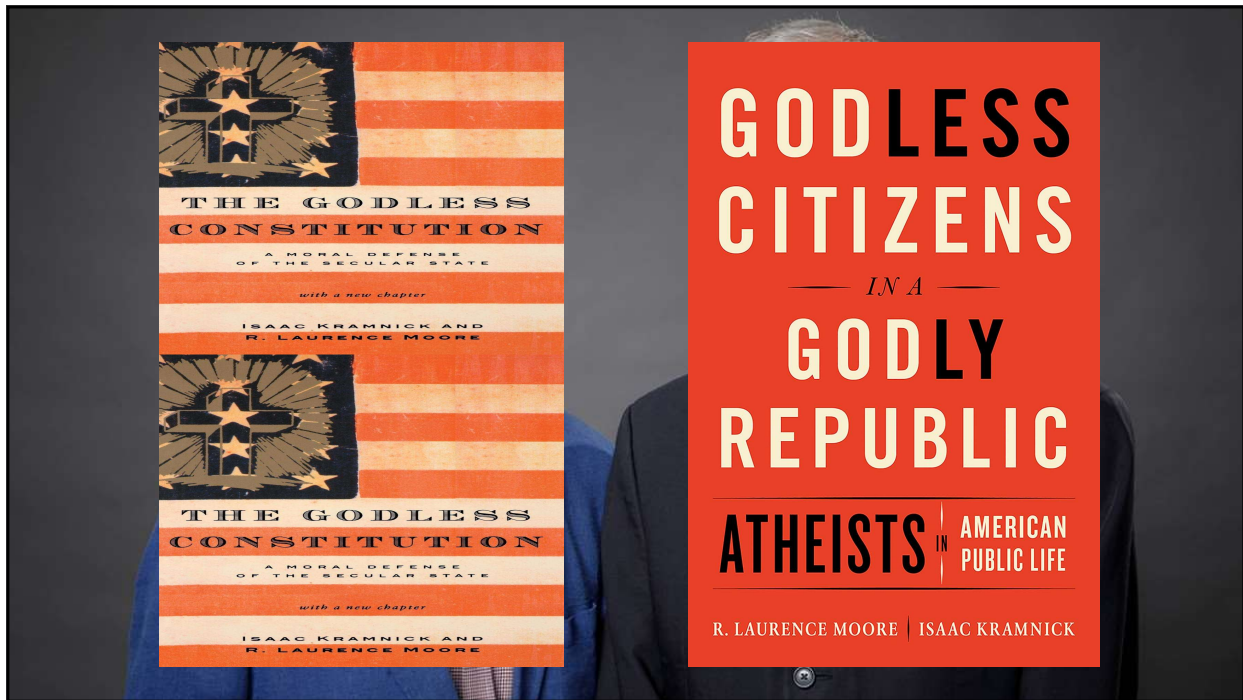
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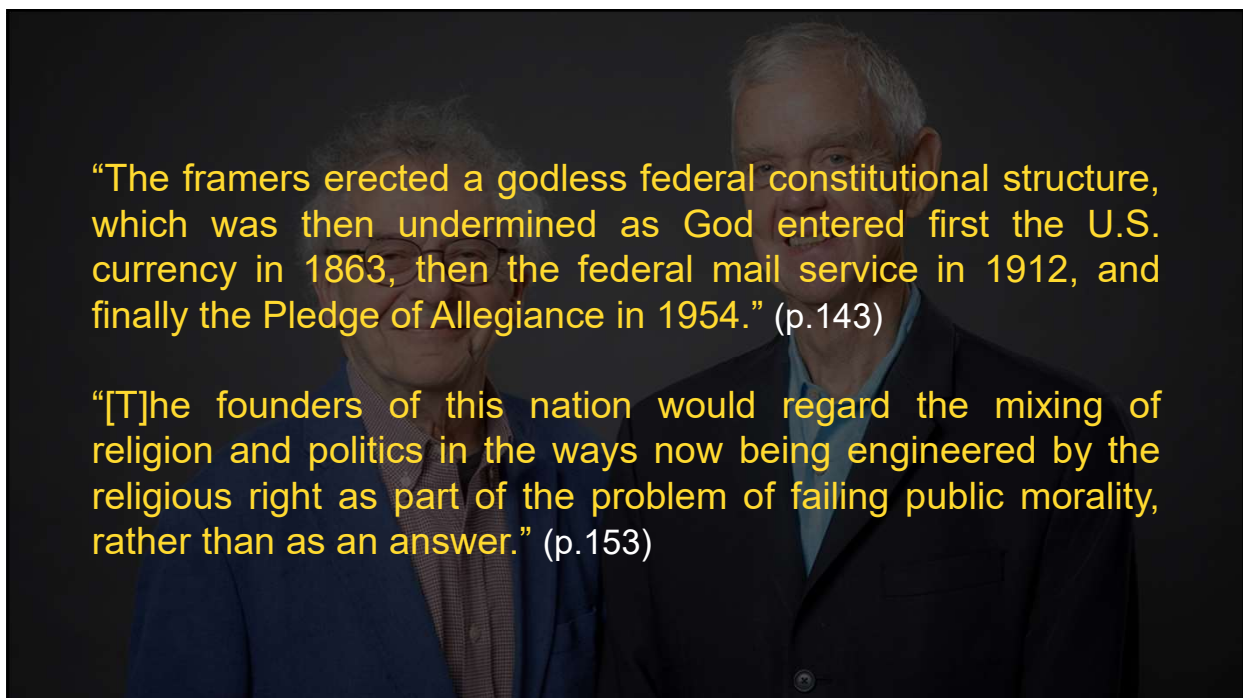
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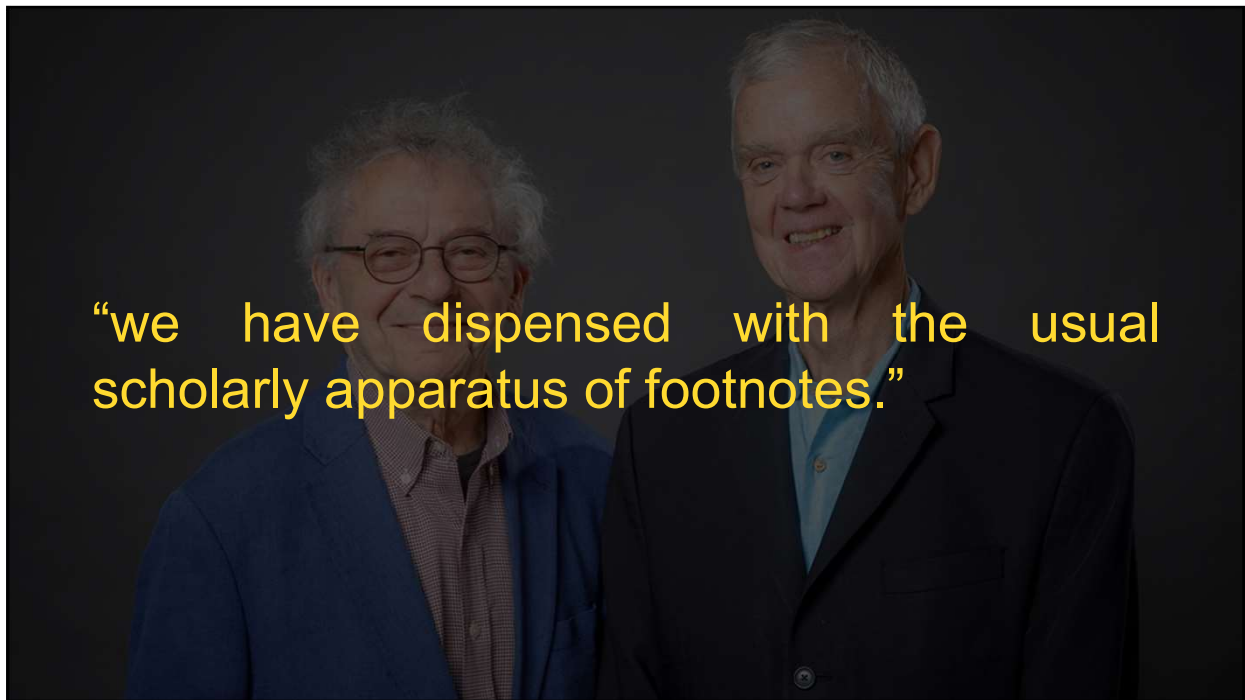


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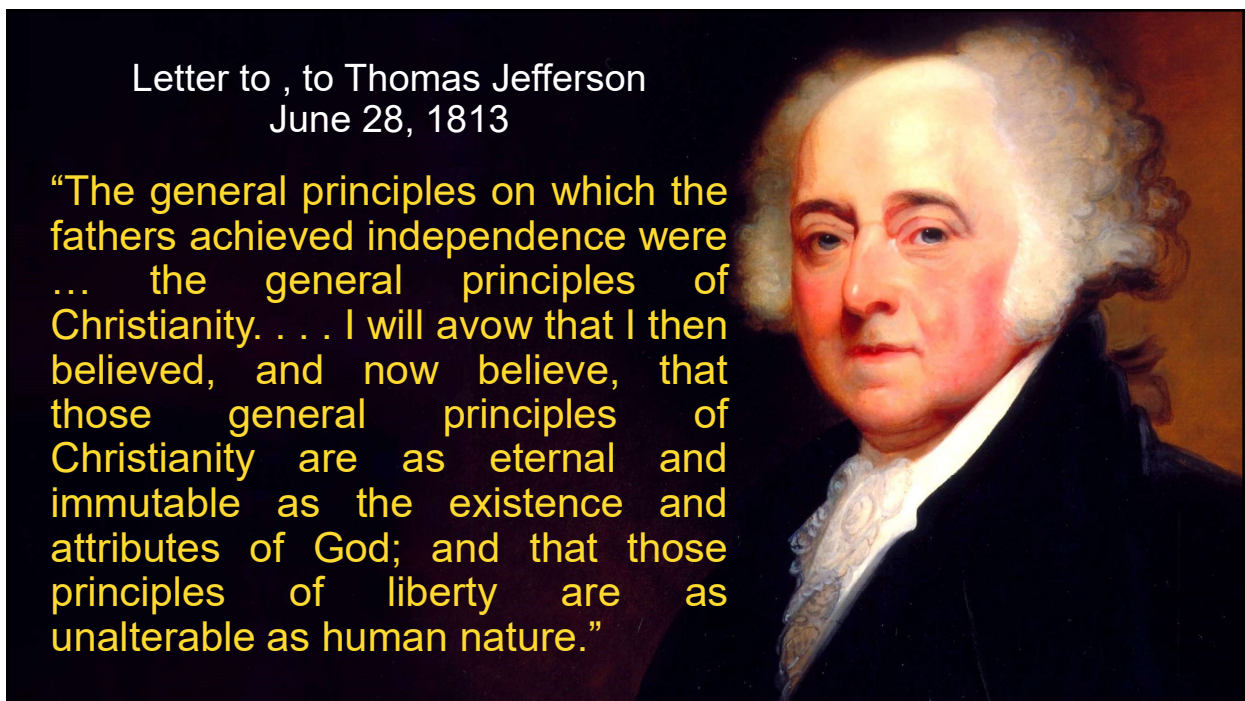


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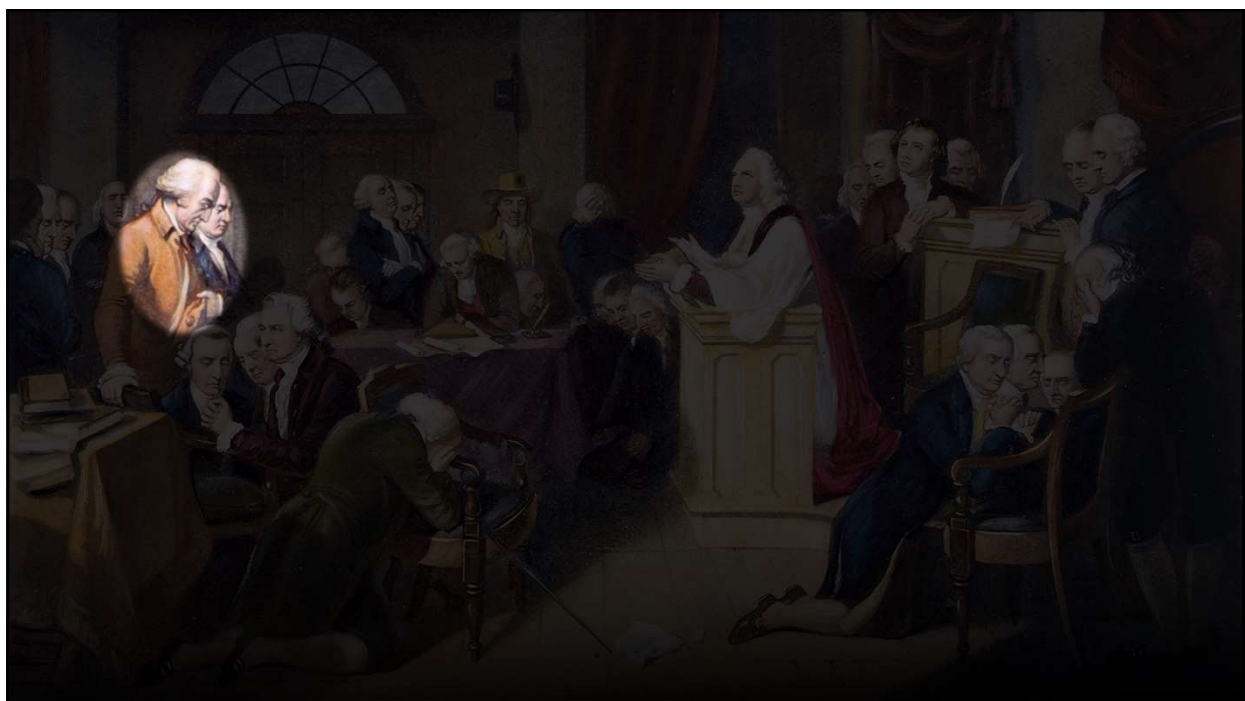
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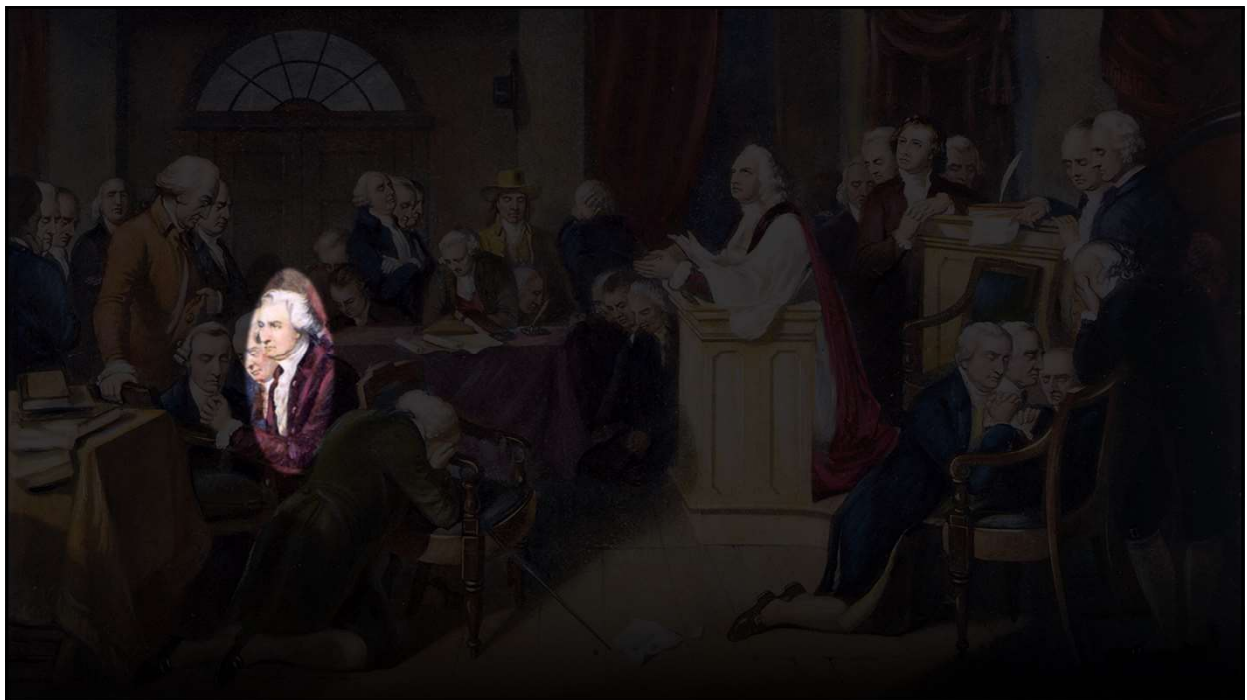


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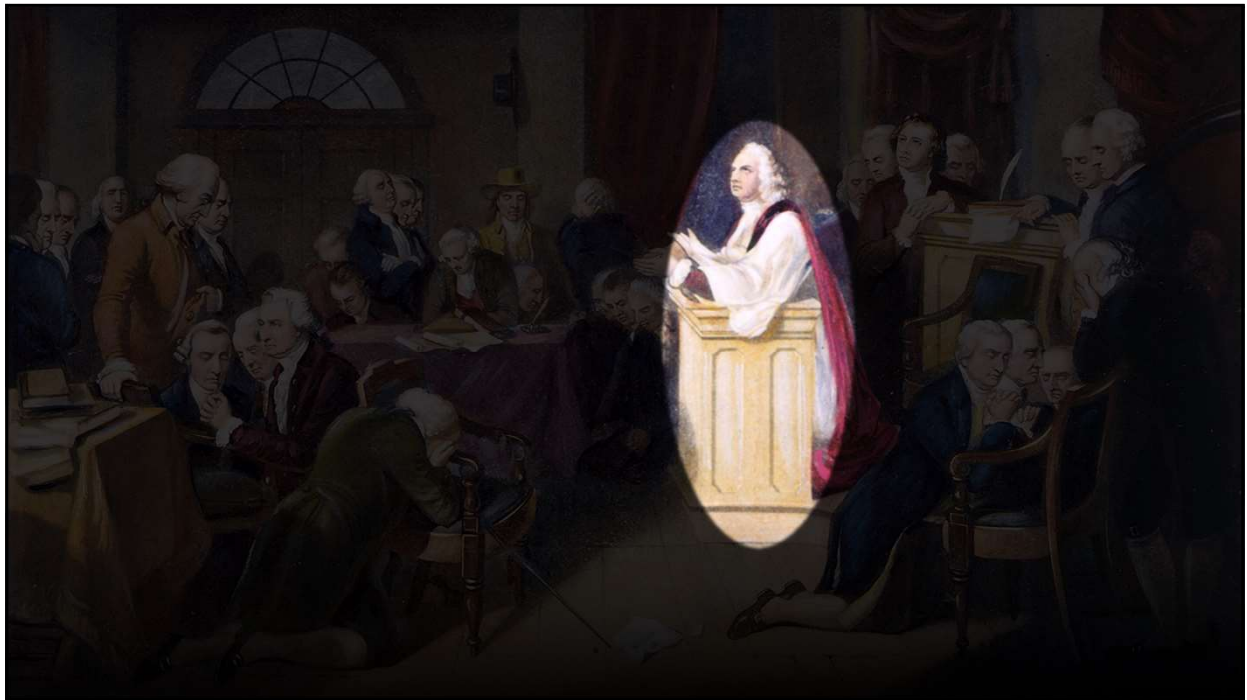


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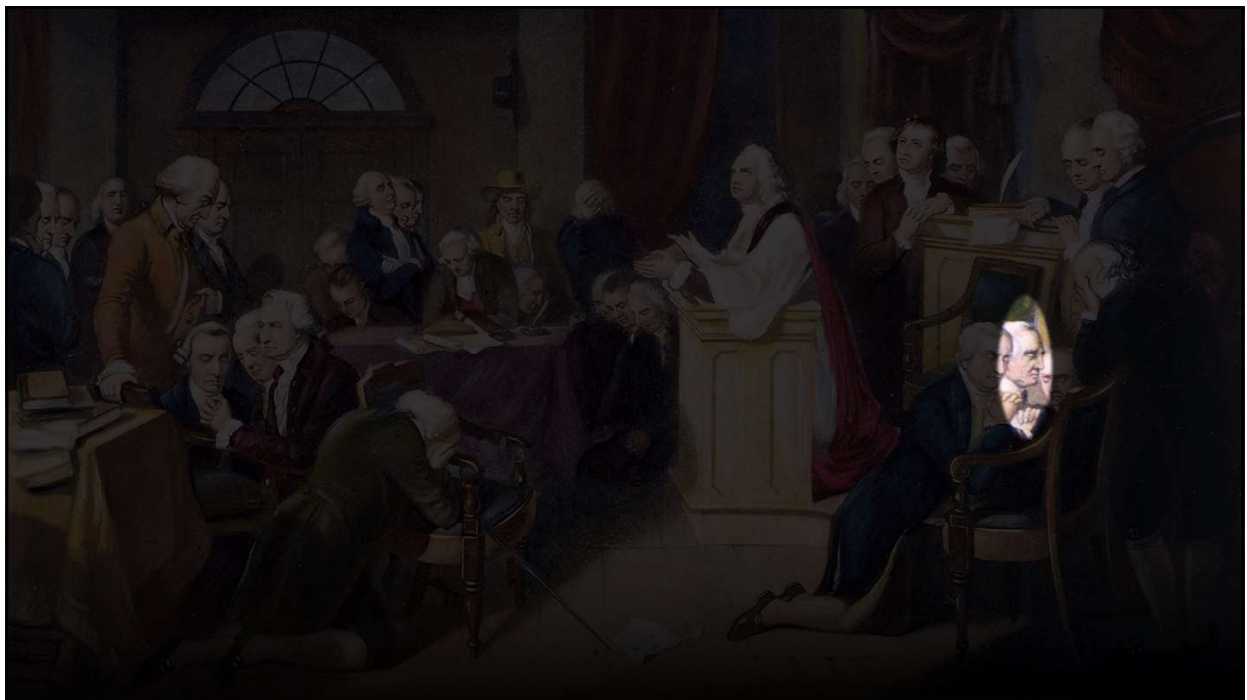


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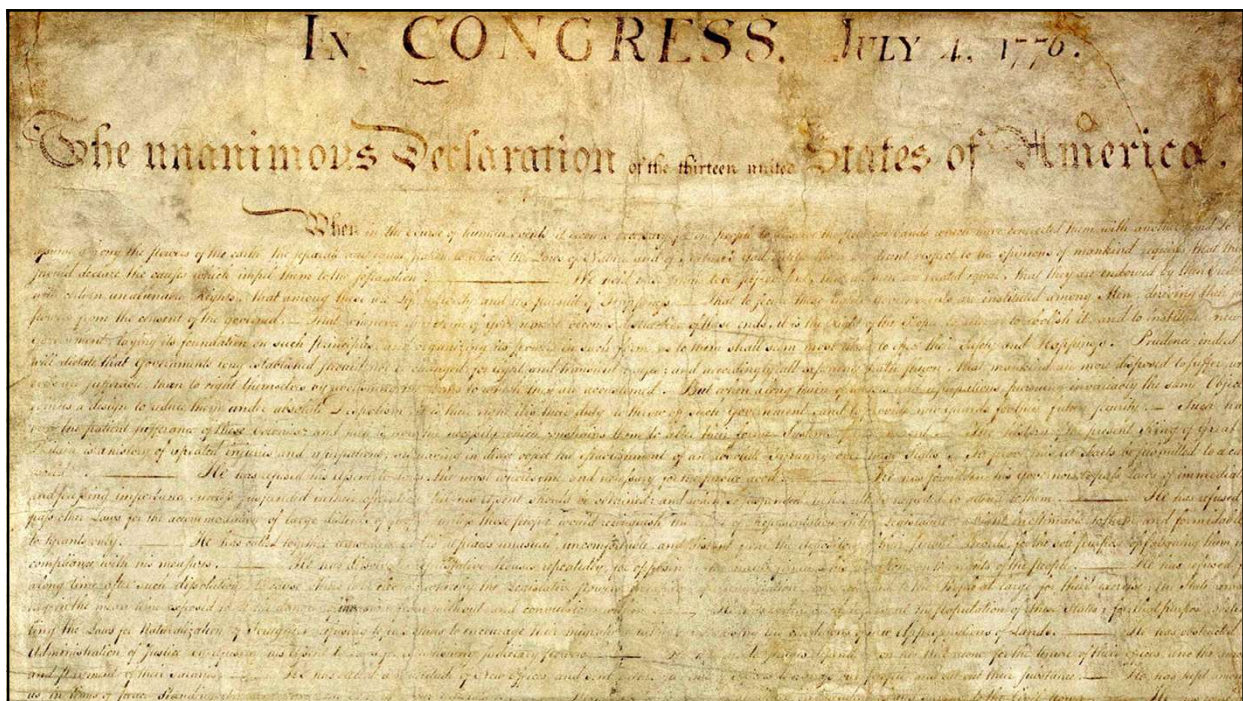
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"next Morning [Sept 7, 1774] he [Jacob Duche] appeared .. and read several Prayers, ... and then read the Collect for the seventh day of September, which was the 35<sup>th</sup> Psalm. You must remember this was the next morning after we heard the horrible rumor of the Cannonade of Boston. I never saw a greater effect upon an audience. It seemed as if Heaven had ordained that Psalm to be read on that morning. After this Mr. Duche, unexpected to everybody, struck out into an extemporary prayer, which filled the bosom of every man present. I must confess I never heard a better Prayer or one so well pronounced. ... in Language so elegant and sublime-for America, for the Congress, for The Province of Massachusetts Bay, and especially the town of Boston. It has had an excellent effect upon everybody here. I must beg you to read that Psalm."

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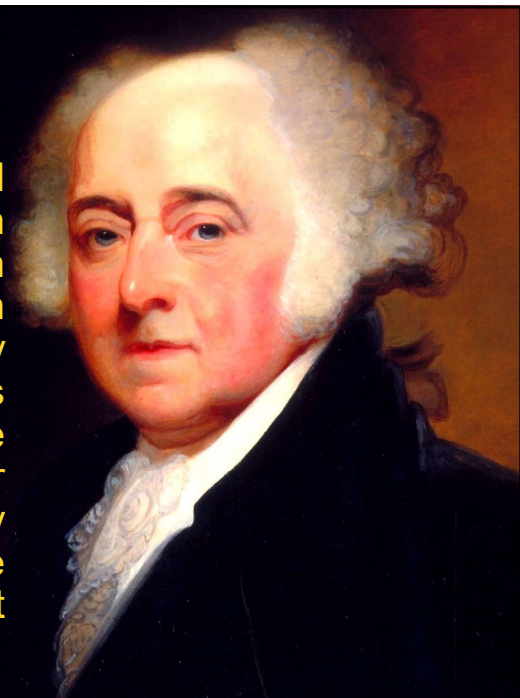


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Letter to Pastor Zabdiel Adams  
June 21, 1776

“Statesmen my dear Sir, may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is Religion and Morality alone, which can establish the Principles upon which Freedom can securely stand. The only foundation of a free Constitution is pure Virtue, and if this cannot be inspired into our People in a greater Measure, than they have it now, they may change their Rulers and the forms of Government, but they will not obtain a lasting liberty.”

A portrait of John Adams, an American Founding Father, shown from the chest up. He has a powdered wig and is wearing a dark coat with a white cravat.

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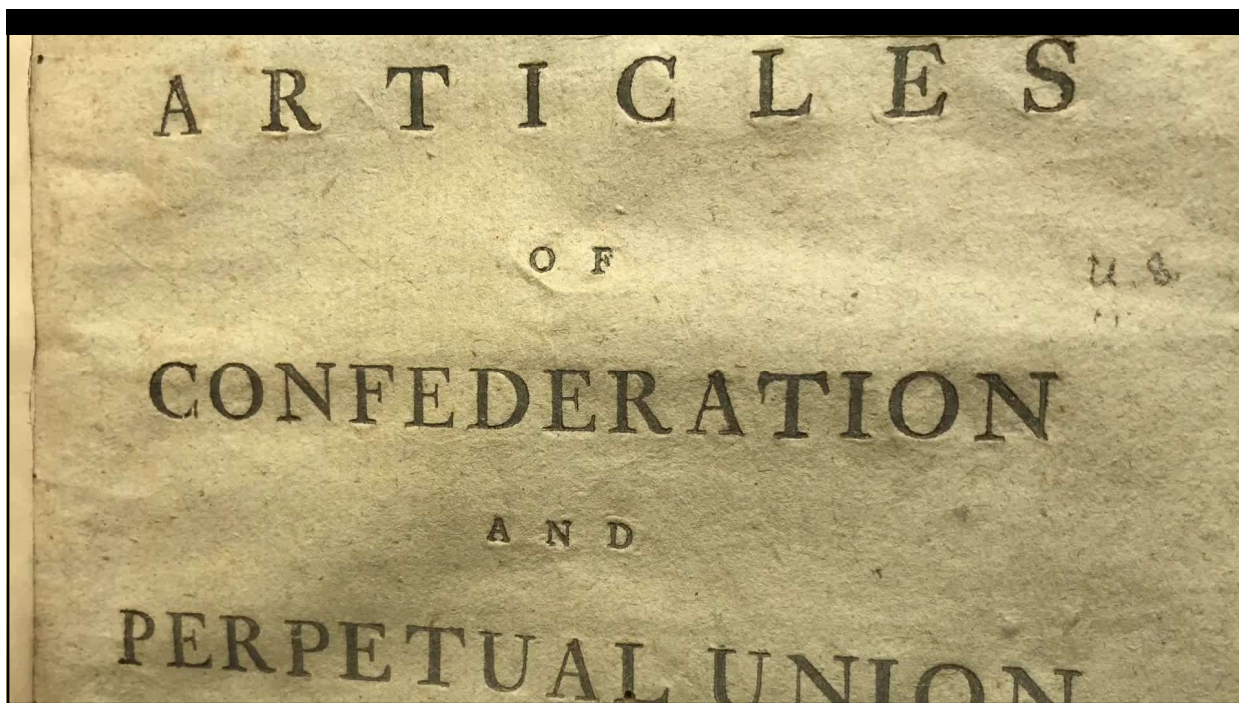


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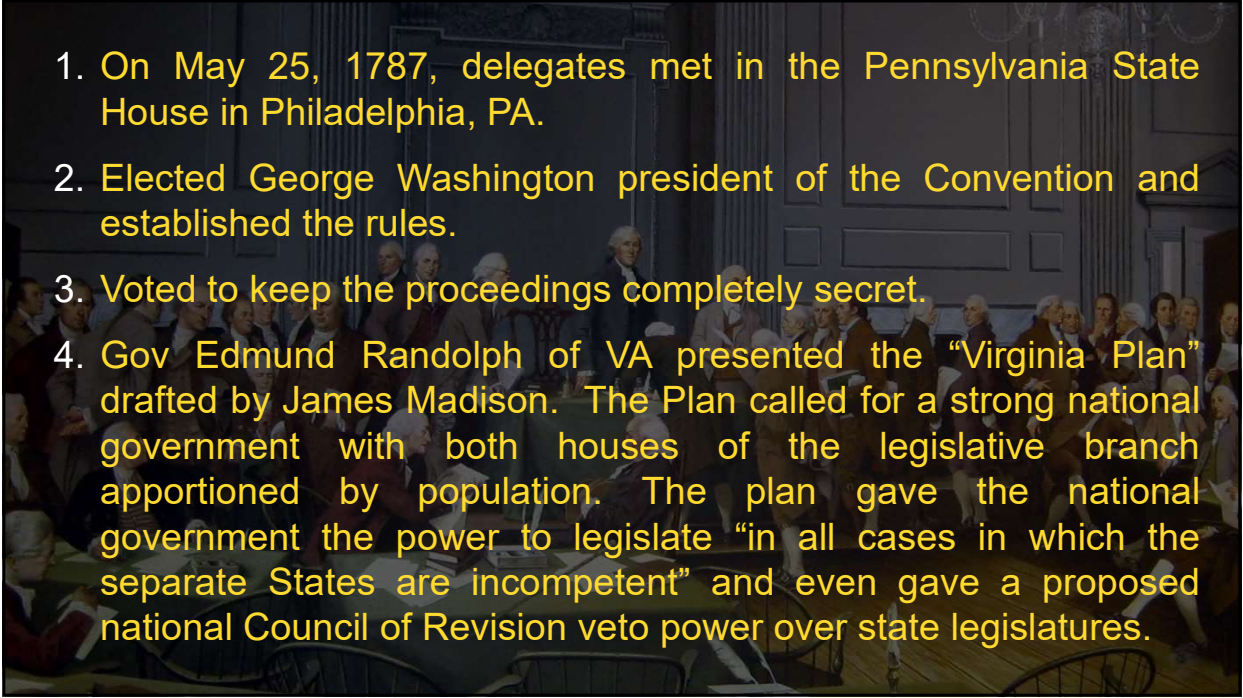


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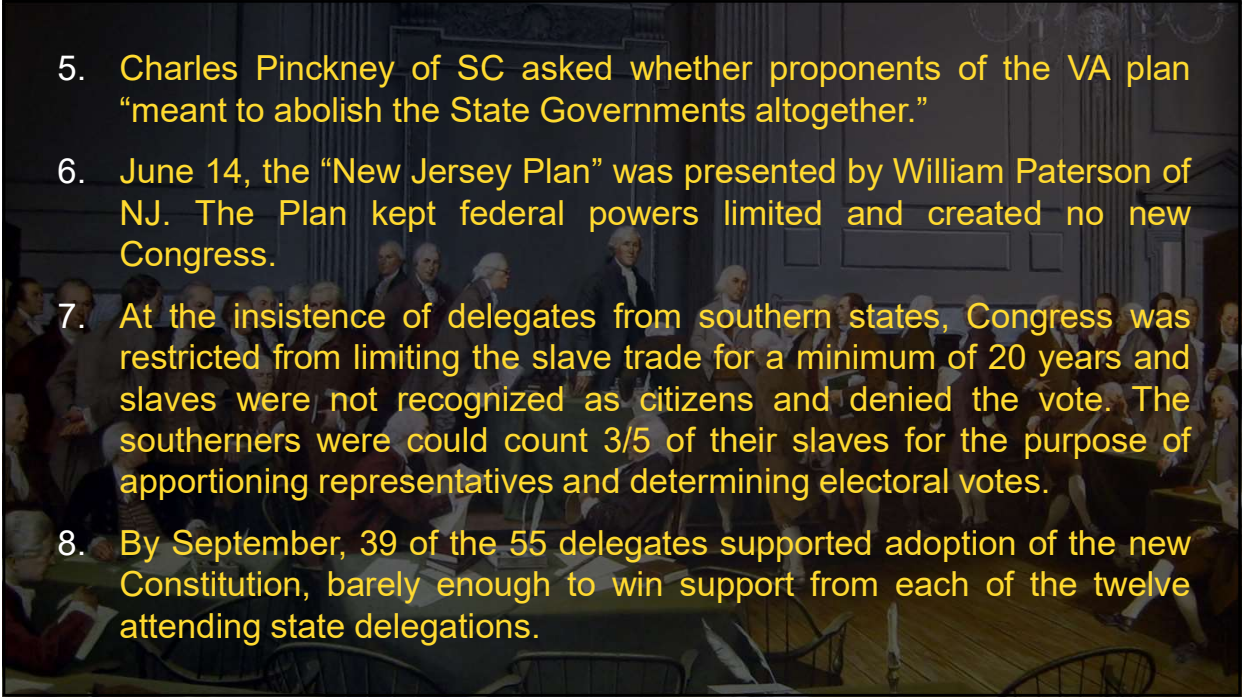


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1. On May 25, 1787, delegates met in the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, PA.
  2. Elected George Washington president of the Convention and established the rules.
  3. Voted to keep the proceedings completely secret.
  4. Gov Edmund Randolph of VA presented the “Virginia Plan” drafted by James Madison. The Plan called for a strong national government with both houses of the legislative branch apportioned by population. The plan gave the national government the power to legislate “in all cases in which the separate States are incompetent” and even gave a proposed national Council of Revision veto power over state legislatures.

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5. Charles Pinckney of SC asked whether proponents of the VA plan “meant to abolish the State Governments altogether.”
  6. June 14, the “New Jersey Plan” was presented by William Paterson of NJ. The Plan kept federal powers limited and created no new Congress.
  7. At the insistence of delegates from southern states, Congress was restricted from limiting the slave trade for a minimum of 20 years and slaves were not recognized as citizens and denied the vote. The southerners were could count 3/5 of their slaves for the purpose of apportioning representatives and determining electoral votes.
  8. By September, 39 of the 55 delegates supported adoption of the new Constitution, barely enough to win support from each of the twelve attending state delegations.

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70 delegates were appointed to the Constitutional Convention with only 55 attending and with only 39 actually signing.

Of the 16 who did not sign, 10 refused to sign because:

- George Mason – VA, no bill of rights
- Elbridge Gerry – MA, no bill of rights
- Caleb Strong – MA, against electoral college, wanted legislature to elect president
- Edmund Randolph – VA, not enough checks and balances
- Luther Martin – MD, violated states rights
- John Mercer – MD, left in protest
- John Lansing – NY, opposed a strong national government
- Robert Yates – NY, opposed notion of a strong national government
- Patrick Henry – VA, endangered the rights of States and individual freedoms
- Richard Henry Lee – VA, no bill of rights

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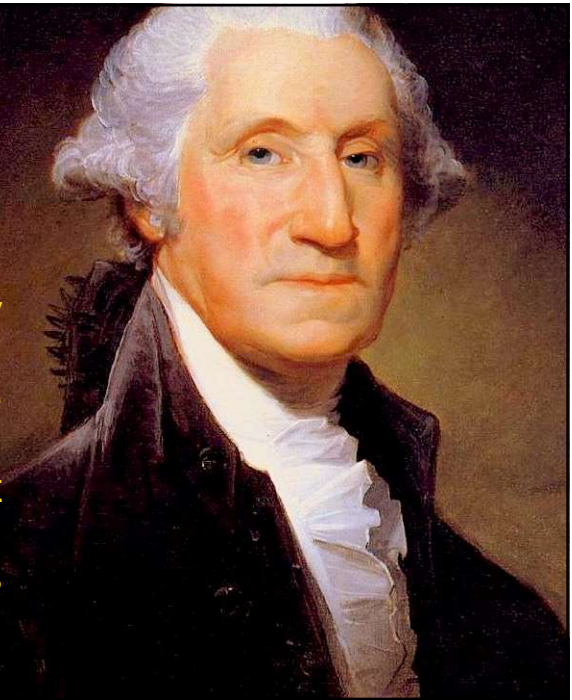
James N. Anderson, Professor of Theology  
& Philosophy, Reformed Theological  
Seminary, Charlotte, NC:

“Those who wrote and signed it [Constitution] understood their political arguments to have theological foundations. They appealed to the idea of natural laws, in the sense of natural rights, but they understood that such laws need a lawmaker or lawgiver.”

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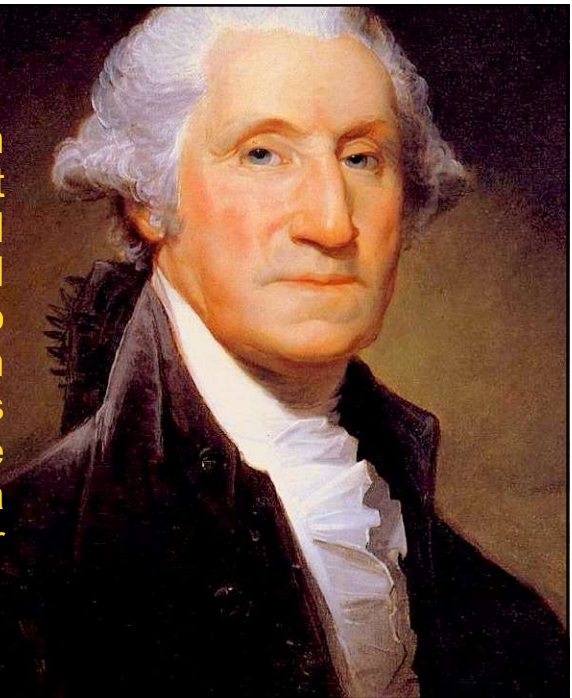
Washington farewell address  
1796:

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.



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... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. ... reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government.



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Letter to the Officers of the First  
MA Militia, Oct 11, 1798

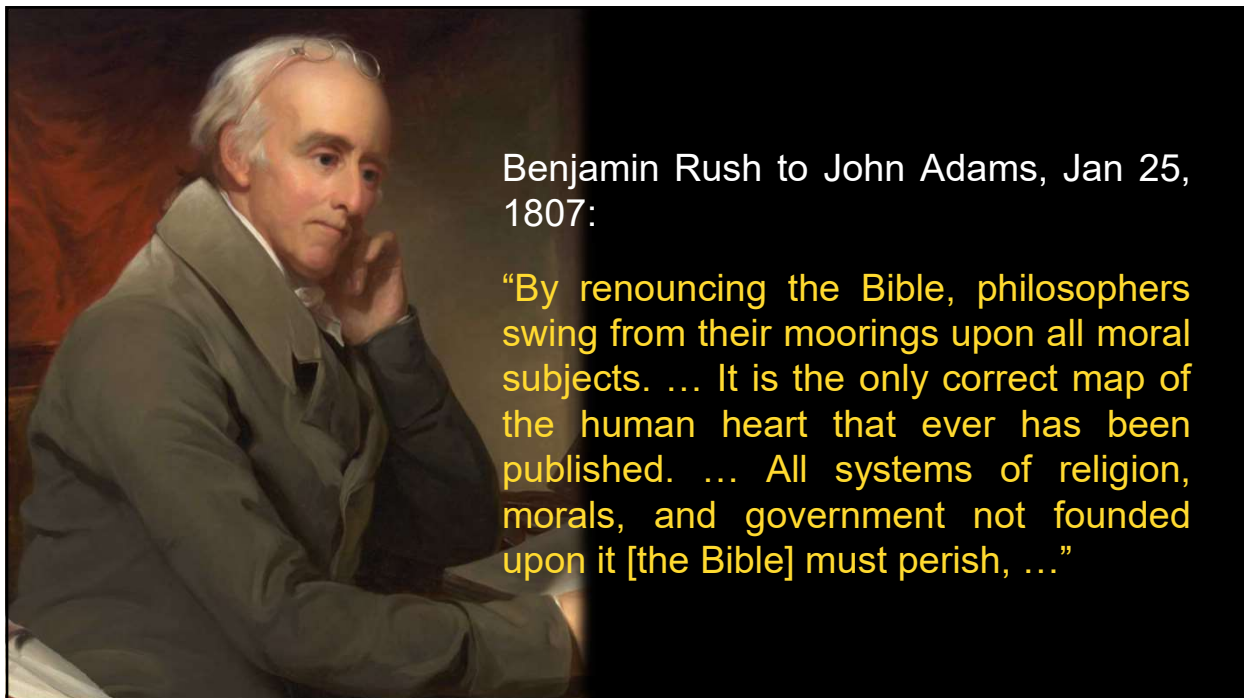
“... we have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made **only** for a **moral and religious** people. It is **wholly inadequate** to the government of any other.”



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Benjamin Rush to John Adams, Jan 25,  
1807:

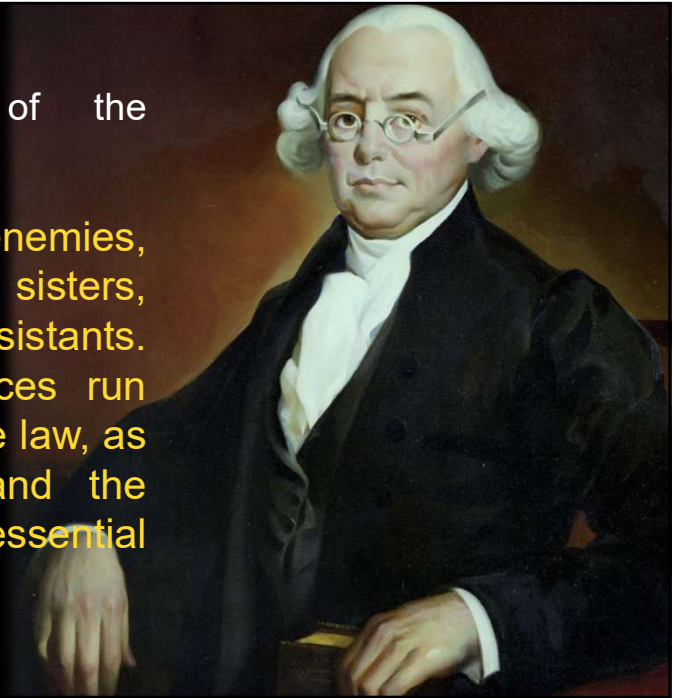
“By renouncing the Bible, philosophers swing from their moorings upon all moral subjects. ... It is the only correct map of the human heart that ever has been published. ... All systems of religion, morals, and government not founded upon it [the Bible] must perish, ...”



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James Wilson, signer of the  
Constitution:

“Far from being rivals or enemies,  
religion and law are twin sisters,  
friends, and mutual assistants.  
Indeed, these two sciences run  
into each other. The divine law, as  
discovered by reason and the  
moral sense, forms an essential  
part of both.”



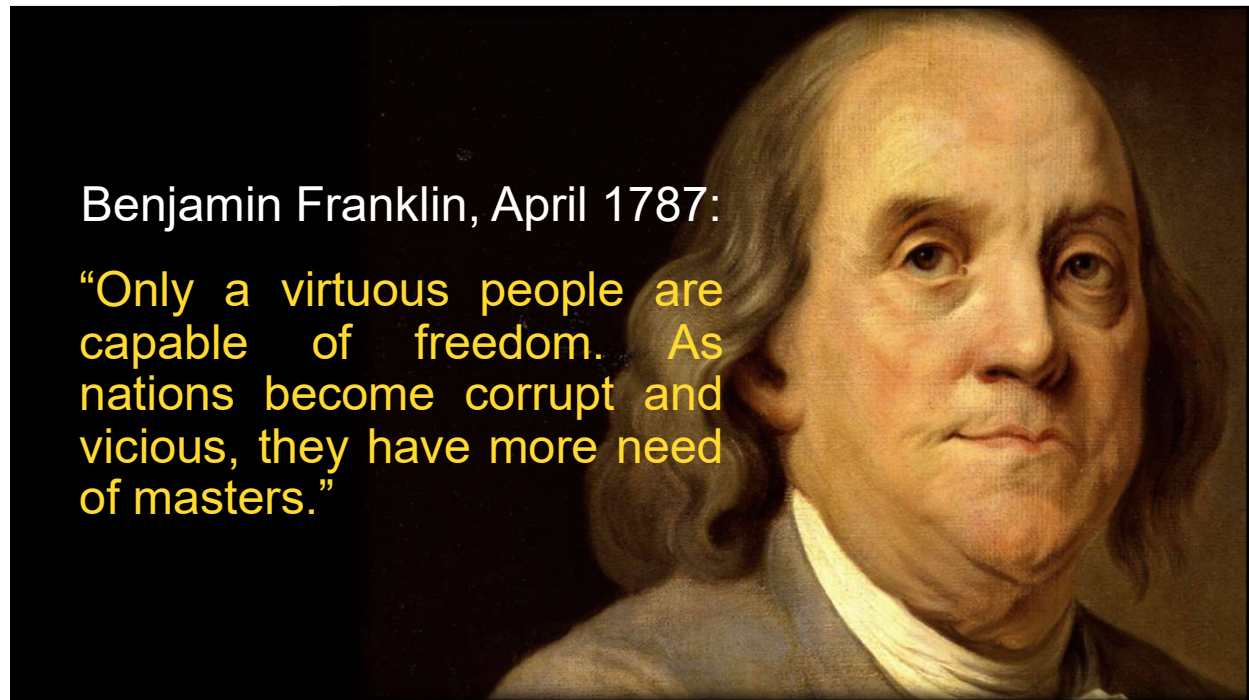
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“No free government now exists in the world,  
unless where Christianity is acknowledged, and is  
the religion of the country.

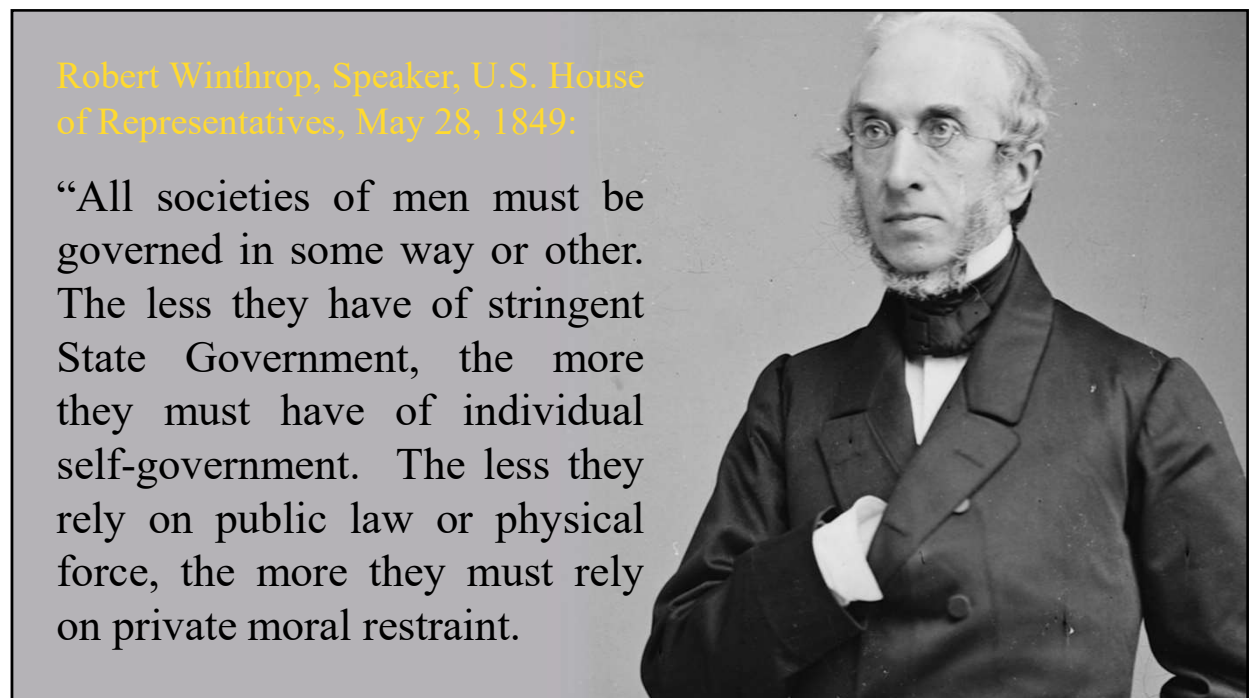
Pennsylvania supreme Court, 1824, Updegraph v. Commonwealth

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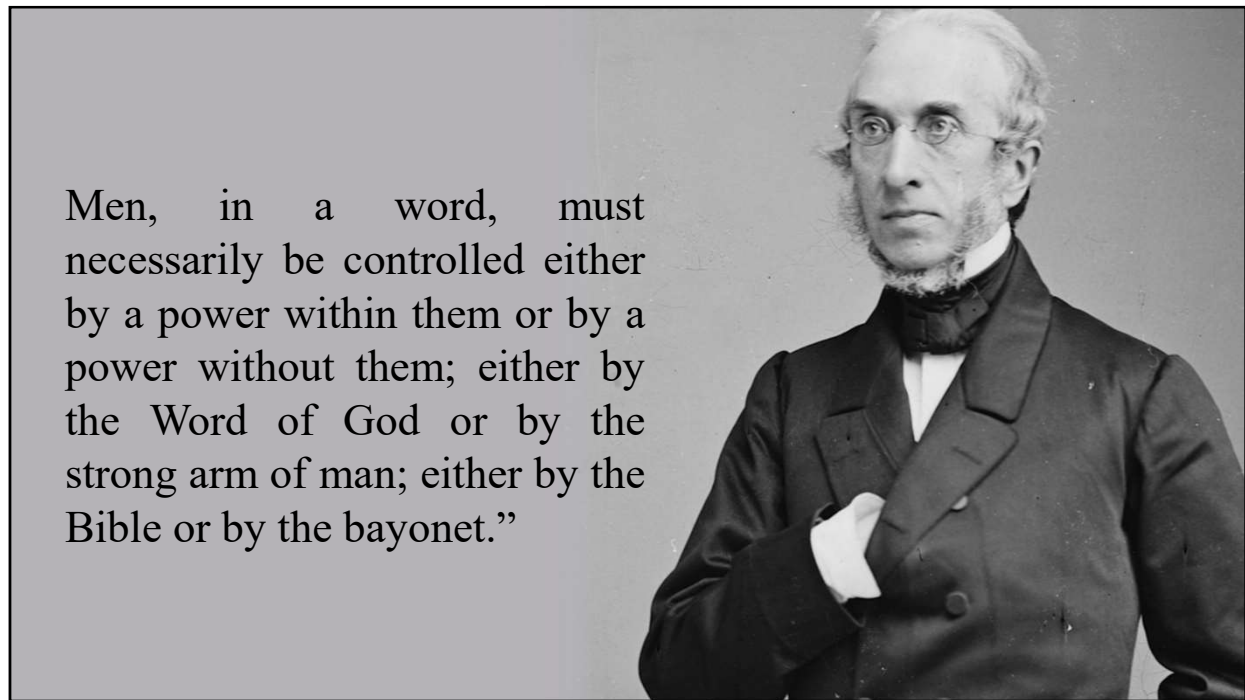




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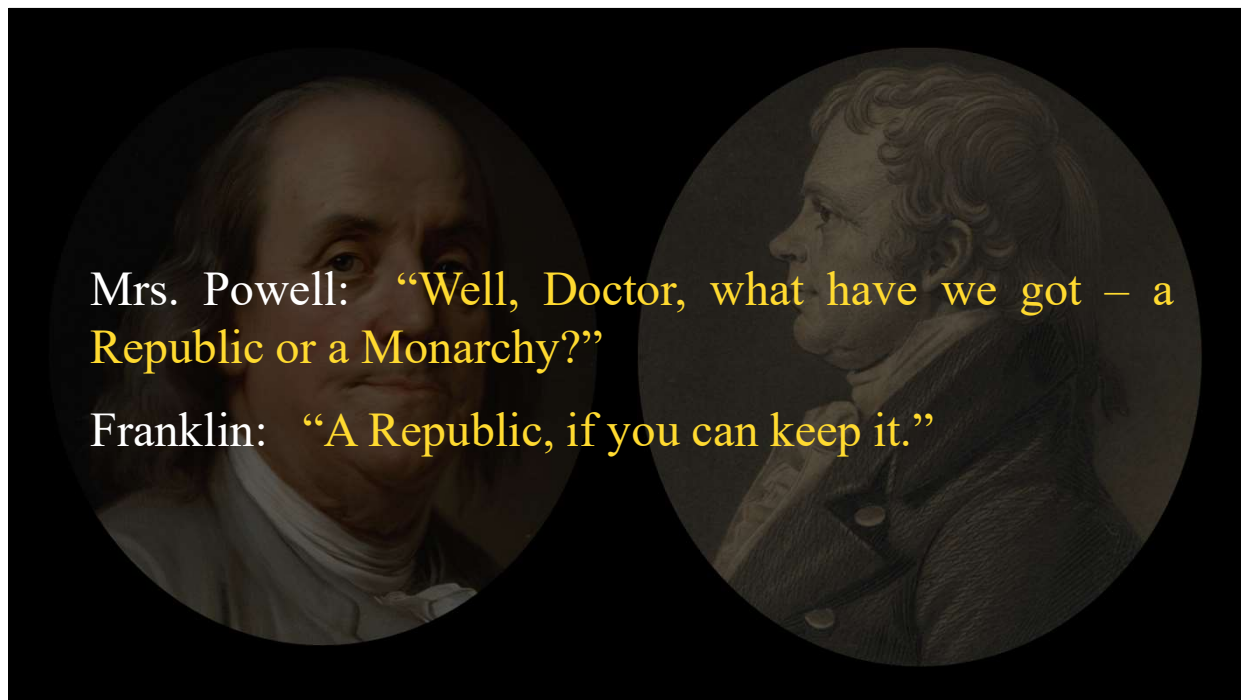


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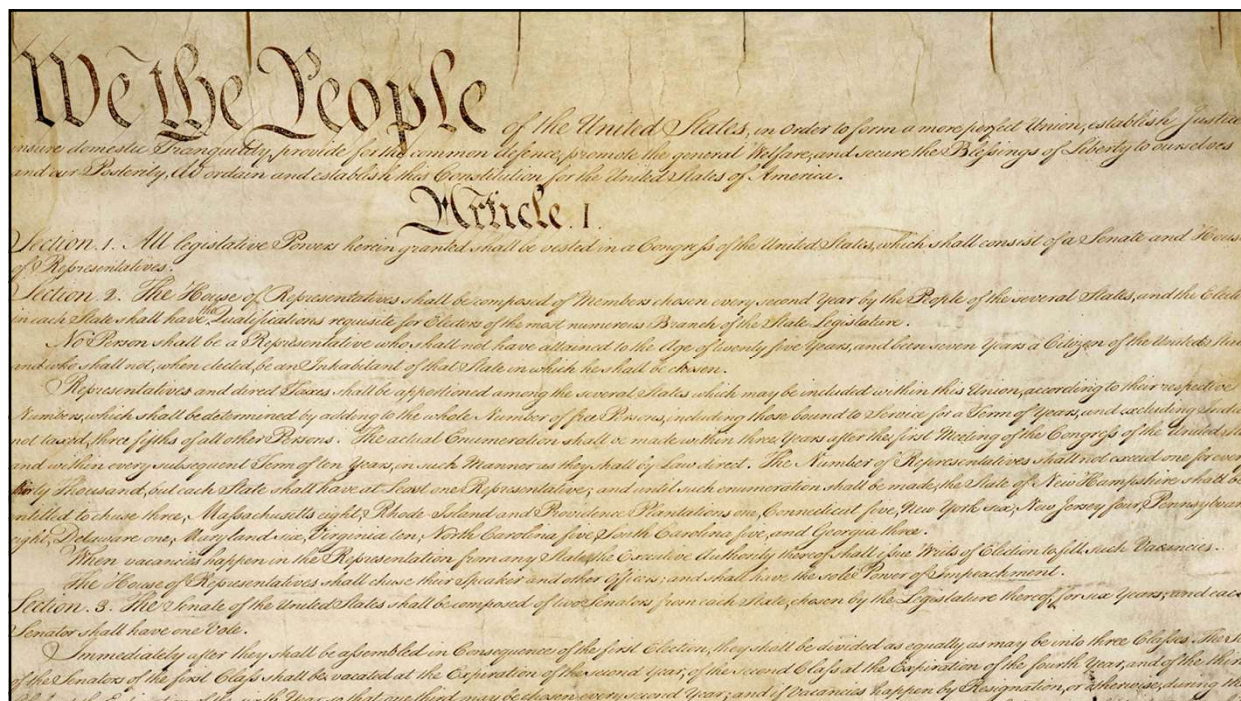


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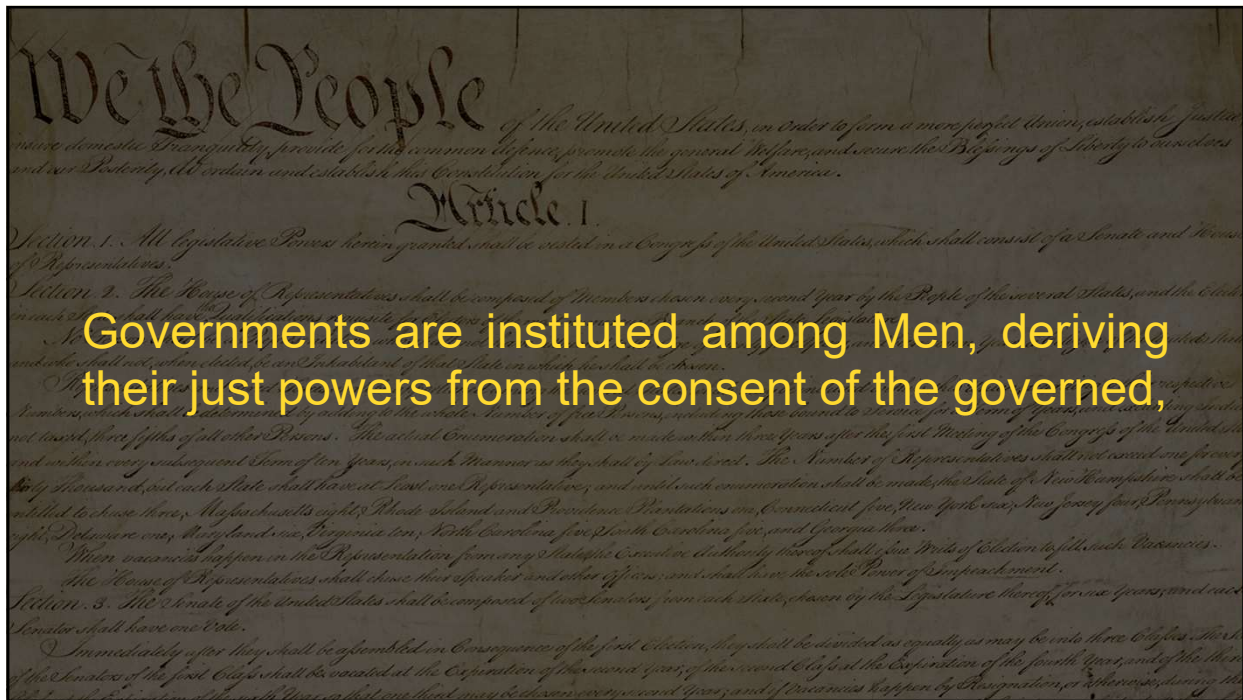




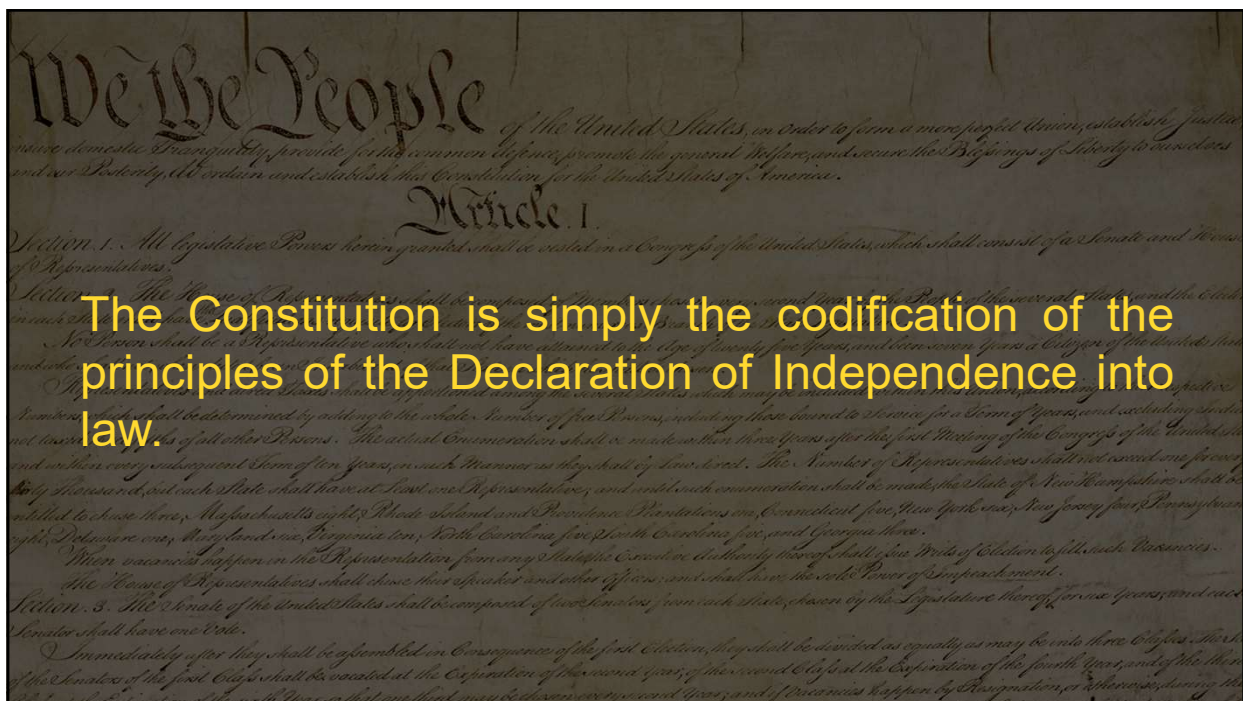
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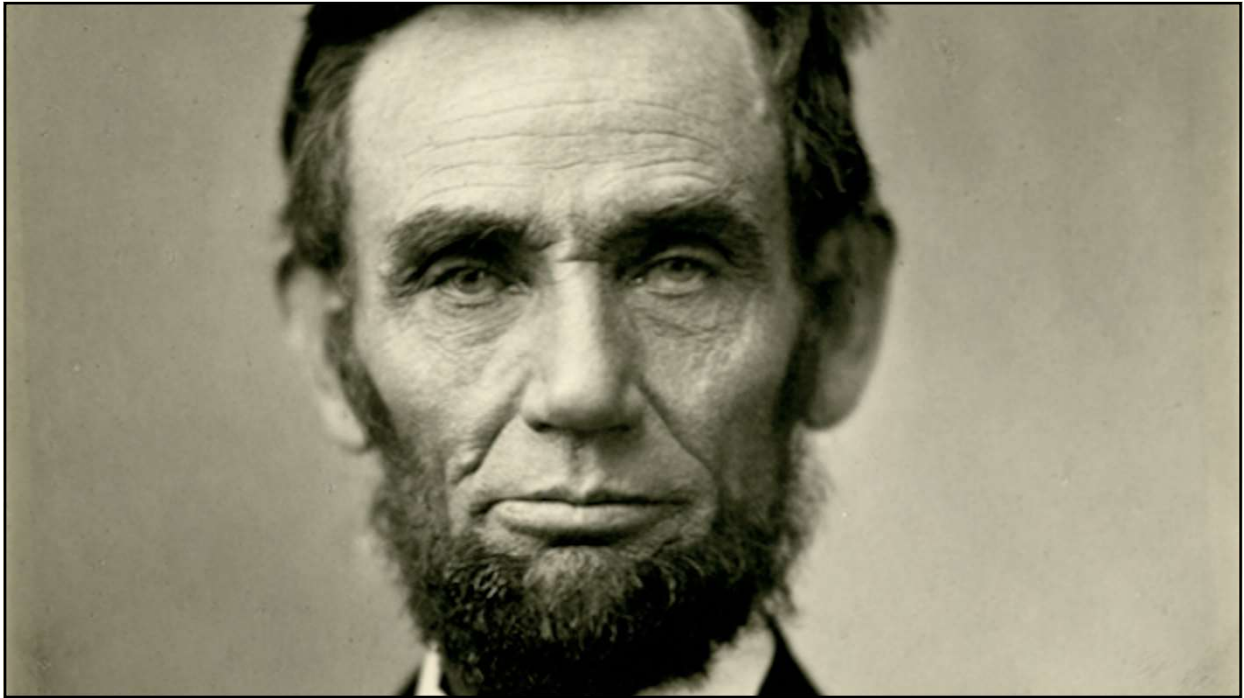


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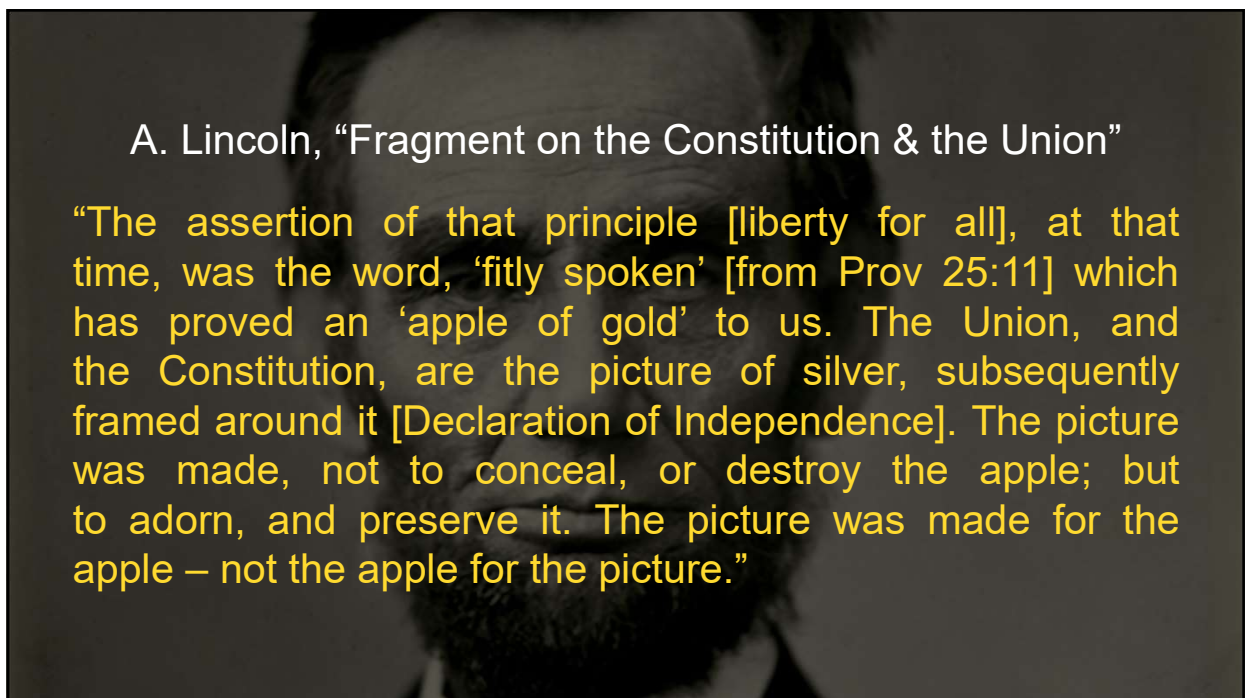


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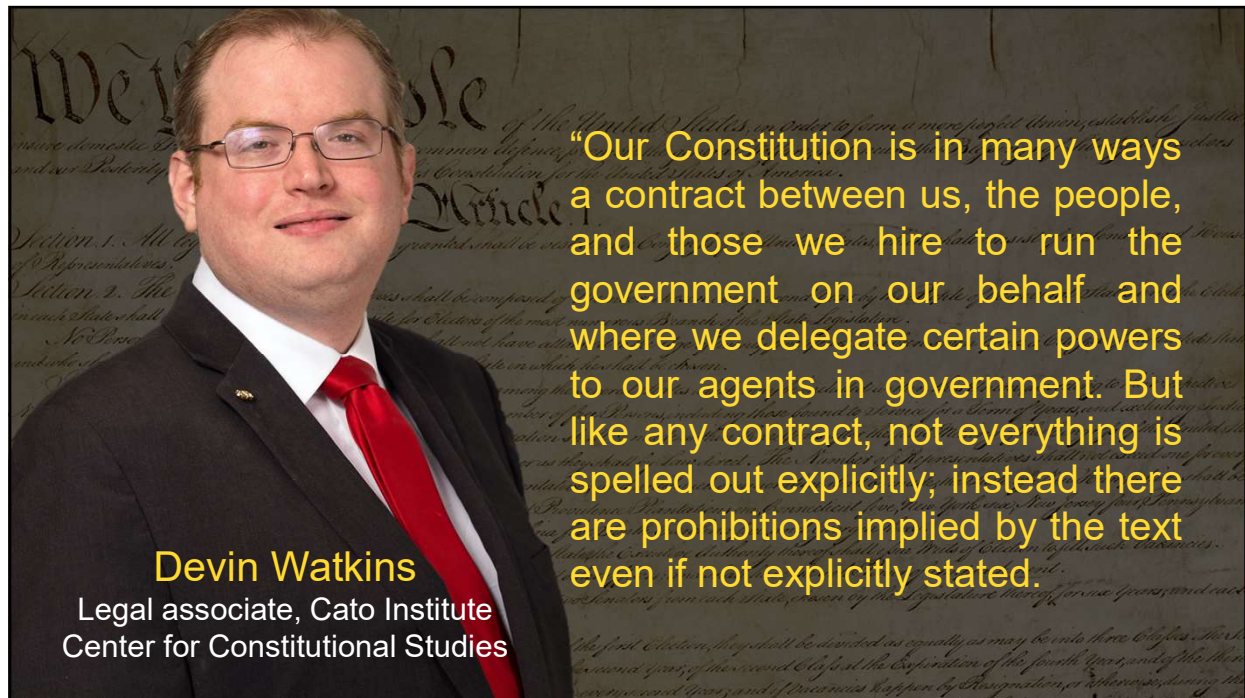




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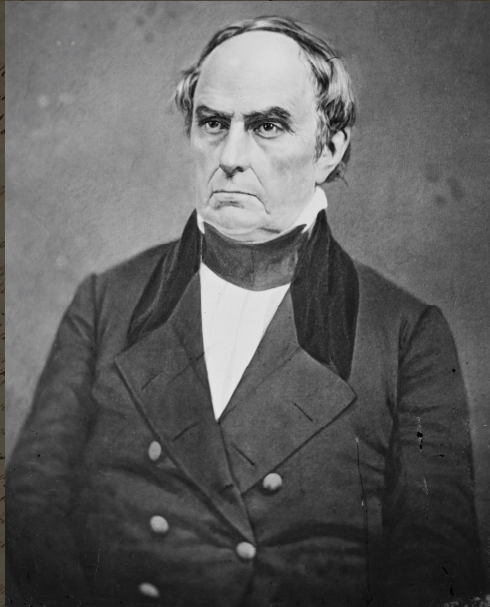


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Daniel Webster, "The Dignity and Importance of History," Feb. 23, 1852:

"[I]f we and our posterity reject religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of eternal justice, trifle with the injunctions of morality, and recklessly destroy the political constitution which holds us together, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us that shall bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

A black and white portrait of Daniel Webster, an older man with a serious expression, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt with a high collar. The background of the slide features faint, cursive handwriting, likely from the US Constitution.