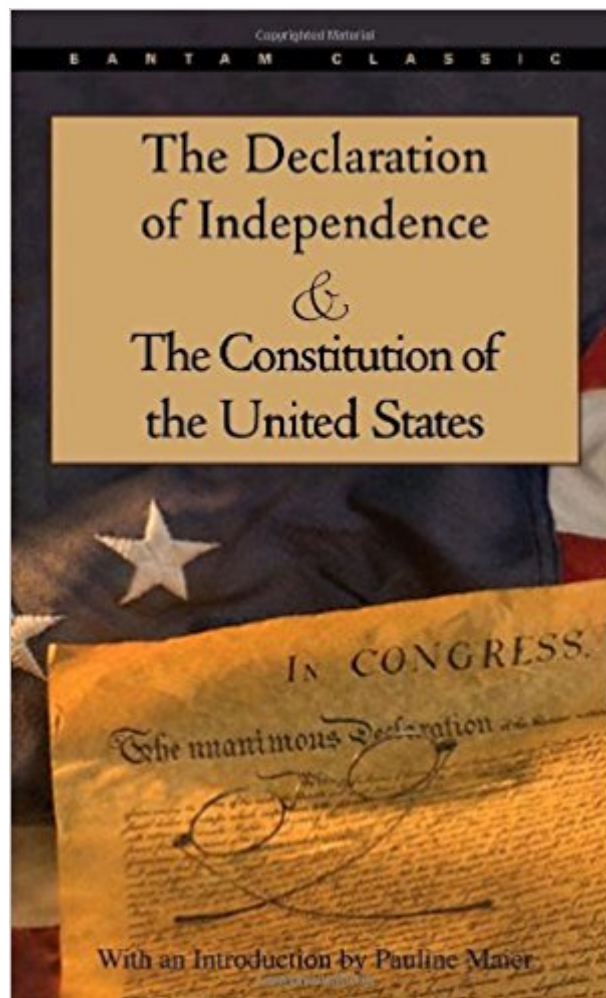


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The Declaration Of Independence And The Constitution Of The United States (Bantam Classic)



Synopsis

Together in one book, the two most important documents in United States history form the enduring legacy of America's Founding Fathers including Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton. The Declaration of Independence was the promise of a representative government; the Constitution was the fulfillment of that promise. On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress issued a unanimous declaration: the thirteen North American colonies would be the thirteen United States of America, free and independent of Great Britain. Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration set forth the terms of a new form of government with the following words: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." Framed in 1787 and in effect since March 1789, the Constitution of the United States of America fulfilled the promise of the Declaration by establishing a republican form of government with separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, became part of the Constitution on December 15, 1791. Among the rights guaranteed by these amendments are freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and the right to trial by jury. Written so that it could be adapted to endure for years to come, the Constitution has been amended only seventeen times since 1791 and has lasted longer than any other written form of government.

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Customer Reviews

The Declaration of Independence was the promise of a representative government; the Constitution was the fulfillment of that promise. On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress issued a unanimous declaration: the thirteen North American colonies would be the thirteen United States of America, free and independent of Great Britain. Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration set forth the terms of a new form of government with the following words: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." Framed in 1787 and in effect since March 1789, the Constitution of the United States of America fulfilled the promise of the Declaration by establishing a republican form of government with separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, became part of the Constitution on December 15, 1791. Among the rights guaranteed by these amendments are freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and the right to trial by jury. Written so that it could be adapted to endure for years to come, the Constitution has been amended only seventeen times since 1791 and has lasted longer than any other written form of government.

Pauline Maier was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. She received her BA from Radcliffe College in 1960, was a Fulbright Scholar at the London School of Economics in 1960-61, and took her PhD at Harvard University in 1968. She taught at Harvard, the University of Massachusetts (Boston), University of Wisconsin, Yale University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she was a William R. Kenan Jr Professor of American History. She was the author of *From Resistance to Revolution*, *The Old Revolutionaries*, and *The American People: A History* (a single-authored text for junior high school), as well as numerous other articles and reviews. She died in 2013.

I was looking for a token gift for a friend who recently became a US citizen - what's more appropriate than these important documents? YES, she could have found them online for free. YES, there are copies out there that are lovelier or have higher print qualities. However, I wanted her to have something that she could read, easily, when she wanted, but mostly I wanted her to have something that told her I was thinking of her. Ultimately, what makes this volume worthwhile is the price, bar none. If you're willing to spend more, you'll get the same exact text, with a nicer presentation. If you value, well, value, then this is the edition for you. (I also got her a "Kiss me I'm an American" t-shirt!)

You will want your own copy. I really should be reviewing the U.S. Constitution itself. But you can get copies almost anywhere including online. So the real difference comes in the introduction. Copies without any kibitzing are not bad; but try to find this in book form. Other versions go so far as to tell you that you are about to read outdated rhetoric. I do not need to read that before the Constitution. With the Bantam Classic version we are treated to an introduction by an American Revolutionary scholar, Pauline Maier author of "Resistance to Revolution - Colonial radicals and the development of American opposition to Britain, 1765-1776." What is good about the introduction is no preaching or soap box agenda. We get to see how the documents were drafted and molded into the constitution we all know. In the actual body of the document there are asterisks showing where the later amendments apply. Contents: INTRODUCTION by Pauline Maier NOTES TO THE INTRODUCTION THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DATES TO REMEMBER INDEX TO CONSTITUTION AND AMENDMENTS I keep a paperback copy in my library and a Kindle copy (Text-to-Speech: Enabled) for on the go I plug it into the car radio. will send a free Kindle sample. Liberty! The American Revolution

The Constitution is the Constitution as is the Declaration Independence, Bill of Rights and following Amendments, regardless of the publisher. Pauline Maier wrote an excellent 45 page introduction discussing mood and feelings of the people of the day and 5 pages of notes on her introduction telling the source documents substantiating her introduction. The editing process is thoroughly discussed, for all 3 of the documents and cross references are provided that are annotated to Amendments that changed the Constitution itself and preceding Amendments that were changed or revoked by later Amendments. This book vastly simplifies reading the Constitution as it developed and evolved into the Constitution we protect today. Bluntly, it is fun to read, extremely informative and the best simple way I have ever found to know The Constitution from its origin to where it stands amended into The Constitution we protect today.

Was required for my sociology class. I've used it a few times during class. It might come in handy later in my school, so it is good to have. Its a small book maybe 5x3, so it fits nicely into any bag. Its easy to hold. Always good to have on hand.

This book is compact and easy to carry around. It is easy to read and not confusing. Also, its easy

to navigate through. I love that it is pocket size and as a law student, I don't need another large textbook to tote around. overall, great in size and quality

everyone should own a copy

Just what I was looking for ..thanks

kind of short would have liked more information

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