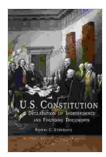
# The Cornerstones of a Nation: The United States Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and Founding Documents

The United States of America was founded on a set of principles that have guided its history and shaped its identity. These principles are enshrined in the nation's founding documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. These documents are the cornerstones of American democracy, and they continue to inspire and shape the nation's present and future.

#### The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. It is a statement of the American colonists' reasons for breaking away from Great Britain and declaring their independence. The Declaration sets forth the fundamental principles of American democracy, including the idea that all men are created equal and that they have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It also declares that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.



U. S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and Founding Documents: Illustrated by Miriam Pawel

★★★★ 4.7 out of 5

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The Declaration of Independence was a radical document for its time. It challenged the traditional authority of kings and governments and asserted the rights of the individual. It also set the stage for the American Revolution, which resulted in the colonists' victory over the British and the establishment of the United States of America.

#### The Constitution

The Constitution was adopted by the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787. It is the supreme law of the United States and establishes the framework for the national government. The Constitution divides the government into three branches: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. It also establishes a system of checks and balances to ensure that no one branch becomes too powerful.



The Constitution, adopted on September 17, 1787, established the framework for the national government of the United States.

The Constitution is one of the most important documents in American history. It has been amended 27 times since its adoption, but its basic principles remain the same. The Constitution is a testament to the Founding Fathers' wisdom and foresight, and it continues to serve as the foundation of American democracy.

#### The Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights is a collection of ten amendments to the Constitution that were adopted in 1791. The Bill of Rights protects individual freedoms and rights, such as the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the right to bear arms, and the right to a fair trial.

## The Bill of Rights

Ratified Describer 15, 1791

#### Article I

Congress shall make so law respecting an establishment of religion, or probleming the Tree exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the proble percentily to assemble, and to pertion the Gövermment for a redress of grievances.

#### Article II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free Sente, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be intringed.

#### Article III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a number to be presented by law

#### Article IV

The right of the people in he secure in their persons, houses, papers, shill effects, against unreasonable searches and senaires, shall not be violated, and no Warrann shall joint; but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be search.

#### Article V

No person shall be locid to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indicement of a Grand Jury, except in cases aroung in the land or naval forces, or in the Alibria, when in actual service in time of War or public danger, nor shall and person be subject for the same offence to be taken pur in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any Criminal Case to be a witness against himself, nor be

deprived of life, liberty, or property, without the proces of law; nor shall jury are property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

#### Article VI

But all entire if prosecutions, the accessed shall enjoy the eight to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously incertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accumution; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining Witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Councel for his defence.

#### Article VII

In Some at common law, where the value in control expy shall exceed twenty dullars, the right of enal by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise recommend in any Control fibe United Seates, than according to the substant the common law.

#### Article VIII

Expressive buildhall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual pumintment inflicted.

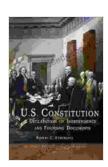
#### Article IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deary or disparage others rerained by the people.

#### Article X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, and the people. The Bill of Rights is essential to the American system of government. It guarantees the rights of individuals and ensures that the government cannot become too powerful. The Bill of Rights is a testament to the Founding Fathers' commitment to liberty and individual rights, and it continues to protect Americans' freedoms today.

The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are the cornerstones of the United States of America. These documents established the principles of American democracy and continue to guide the nation today. They are a testament to the Founding Fathers' wisdom and foresight, and they are a source of inspiration for all who believe in liberty and freedom.



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