

Origins of Liberty

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Liberty is the intersection of _____ and _____ where you have the inherent right to do what you wish with what is yours as far as you do not harm or infringe upon the liberty of another.

America’s most influential founder’s had a _____-centered view yet they gave us a nation where one is free to believe or not to believe, precisely because of the “love your neighbor as yourself” philosophy of the Christian Scripture.

The founders of the American Republic drew upon their own history and upon philosophers like Sophocles, Aristotle, Cicero, St. Thomas Aquinas, Francisco de Vitoria, as well as portions of the Bible and the ethics of Jesus for their view of _____.

The founder’s understanding of natural law said liberty is first a _____ from God and second that natural law dictated that no one should _____ another’s liberty.

This is clearly evidenced in the _____ and _____:

Notice the First paragraph of the Declaration of Independence refers to the “Laws of _____ and of Nature’s _____...”

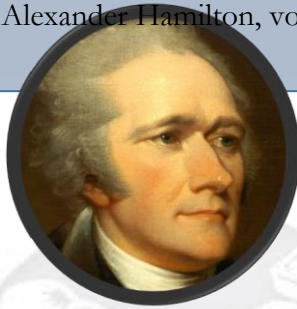
Second paragraph: “...endowed by their _____ with certain _____ rights...”

Final paragraph: “...appealing to the _____ of the world...” and “...with a firm

reliance on the protection of _____ Providence...”

“(God) has constituted an eternal and immutable law, which is indispensably obligatory upon all mankind, prior to any human institution whatever. This is what is called the law of nature.... Upon this law depend the natural rights of mankind. The sacred lights of mankind ... are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole volume of human nature, by the hand of Divinity itself, and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power.... No tribunal, no codes, no systems, can repeal or impair this law of God, for by his eternal law, it is inherent in the nature of things.”

(Alexander Hamilton, *The Works of Alexander Hamilton*, vol. 1, ed. Henry Cabot Lodge (New York: The Knickerbocker Press, 1904), 62-3.)



Jefferson also acknowledged God as the author of Liberty. He says in his Notes on the State of Virginia,

“And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever.

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Thomas Paine, often referred to as an atheist, penned this testimony:

“Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated.”

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Mercy Otis Warren, an amazing founder of our Constitutional Republic, made their passion and purpose clear:

“...though we are daily threatened with the depredations of Britain...yet each city...stands ready to sacrifice their devoted lives to preserve inviolate, and to convey to their children the inherent rights of men, conferred on all by the God of nature, and the privileges of Englishmen claimed by Americans from the sacred sanction of compacts.

May nothing ever check that glorious spirit of freedom which inspires the patriot in the cabinet, and the hero in the field, with courage to maintain their righteous cause, and to endeavor to transmit the claim to posterity, even if they must seal the rich conveyance to their children with their own blood.”



Despite their acknowledgement that liberty was a gift from God, at the time of the drafting of the Constitution it was determined that the central government would not be a _____ that either dictated religious beliefs nor outlawed them.

John Leland, defender of religious liberty and leader of the Virginia Baptist Convention explains this concept:



“The notion of a Christian commonwealth should be exploded forever. ... Government should protect every man in thinking and speaking freely, and see that one does not abuse another. The liberty I contend for is more than toleration. The very idea of toleration is despicable; it supposes that some have a preeminence above the rest to grant indulgence, whereas all should be equally free, Jews, Turks, Pagans and Christians.”

And owing to the bloody and tumultuous lessons from their ancient and contemporary history, even the state instituted religion that the colonies began with eventually untangled themselves from the state and were no longer persecuting citizens in the name of religion but faith as was done to colonists like Obadiah Holmes and Roger Williams, and government lived in harmony not at odds:

This is attested to by the famous French observer and analyst Alexis de Tocqueville, in his classic work, *Democracy in America*, written in 1835:

“The religious atmosphere of the country was the first thing that struck me on arrival in the United States. The longer I stayed in the country, the more conscious I became of the important political consequences resulting from this novel situation. In France I had seen the spirits of religion and of freedom almost always marching in opposite directions. In America I found them intimately linked together in joint reign over the same land.”



Much of the struggle that birthed the liberty charters in England, which were progenitors of our founding documents, took place within the struggle between _____ and _____. Our forefathers brought that struggle from England and our founders learned as this history continued the lessons of true religious liberty.

Introduction to Liberty Part 2

America's founders believed that the principles of liberty under natural law should not be violated and that liberty should be exercised freely with only one restriction – do not _____ another:

As Benjamin Franklin said in the Silence Dogood letters, ... this liberty is every person's possession **“...as far as by it, he does not hurt or control the Right of another: And this is the only Check it ought to suffer, and 'the only Bounds it ought to Know.”**

John Locke in his 2nd Treatise for Civil Govt said,

“The state of nature has a law of nature to govern it, which obliges every one: and reason, which is that law, teaches all mankind, who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions: for men being all the workmanship of one omnipotent, and infinitely wise maker; all the servants of one sovereign master, sent into the world by his order, and about his business; they are his property, whose workmanship they are, made to last during his, not one another's pleasure: and being furnished with like faculties, sharing all in one community of nature, there cannot be

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supposed any such subordination among us, that may authorize us to destroy one another, as if we were made for one another's uses, as the inferior ranks of creatures are for ours."

Once again Liberty is The intersection of freedom and morality where you have the inherent right to do what you wish with what is yours as far as you do not harm or infringe upon the liberty of another.

The Greek political philosopher Cicero in his dialogue De Legibus (On the Laws) describes this principle of Natural Law like this;



"There in fact a true law - namely, right reason - which is in accordance with nature, applies to all men, and is unchangeable and eternal...To invalidate this law by human legislation is never morally right, nor is it permissible ever to restrict its operation, and to annul it wholly is impossible...It will not lay down one rule at Rome and another at Athens, nor will it be one rule to-day and another tomorrow. But there will be one law, eternal and unchangeable, binding at all times upon all peoples; and there will be, as it were, one common master and ruler of men, namely God, who is the author of this law, its interpreter, and its sponsor."

He referred to this natural law as right reason, yet right reason can't occur without right information and right motivation, (what the founders called knowledge and virtue), as Cicero says in the same treatise "It is not so much the science of the law that produces litigation (or conflict), as the ignorance of it."

Sometimes men and women defy the bounds of right reason:

".. the nature of mankind is one thing, and the reason of mankind another; and the first has the same relation to the last as the whole to a part. The passions and appetites are parts of human nature as well as [are] reason and the moral sense. In the institution of government it must be remembered that, although reason ought always to govern individuals, it certainly never did since the Fall, and never will till the Millennium; and human nature must be taken as it is, as it has been, and will be..." – John Adams

It must be understood that man tends to follow his own appetites and problems arise when those tendencies are not

directed by right _____ and _____. In political society, Ignorance of natural law and

the rejection of the "do no harm" aspect of liberty will lead to either chaos on the one hand or domination by the powerful and tyrannical on the other hand.

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As Sam Adams said in his November 4, 1775 letter to James Warren: “No people will tamely surrender their Liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when knowledge is diffused and virtue is preserved. On the Contrary, when People are universally ignorant, and debauched in their Manners, they will sink under their own weight without the Aid of foreign Invaders.”

Our ignorance of the higher principles of this self-evident law is the thing that causes even our solutions to be _____.

We were endowed by our creator with certain _____ rights and we as the government’s creators endowed it with certain responsibilities - namely to _____ our _____ from harm.

Not to keep us comfortable, not to provide us things that we should provide for ourselves, not to distribute the fruits of a person's labor among the masses, not even to keep us safe from our own stupidity but to keep our RIGHTS safe.

Liberty is the intersection of _____ and _____ wherein you have the inherent right to do what you wish with what is yours as far as you do not _____ or infringe upon the liberty of another.

Notes:



If one cannot properly define liberty, then one cannot properly defend liberty.

America is falling behind in their defense of liberty because we lack _____.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and endowed by their _____, that among these rights are life liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

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“Among these” means that this is not a _____ list.

America’s founders believed Liberty is not a gift of government but a gift from _____.

“The God who gave us life, gave us liberty.” “Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed their only firm foundation, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God?”



Thomas Jefferson



How do you defend liberty, if you don't know where it comes from?

Liberty does not come from _____ nor from _____. The Constitution

doesn't give rights; it declares rights that exist by the nature of our creation.

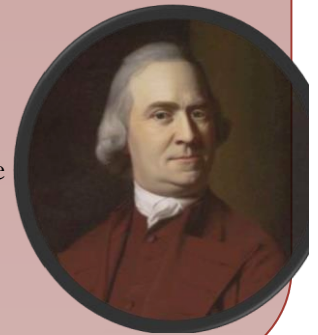
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Jefferson believed that abuses of liberty would not be forever ignored by God.

Samuel Adams said that

“Among the natural rights of the colonists are these: first _____,
secondly _____, third _____ together with the right to support and defend
them in the best manner possible.”

“These are evident branches of...the duty of self-preservation, commonly called the
_____ of nature.”



RIGHTS ARE:

Not Granted by _____, but are to be _____ by government.

Not given by _____, But are Gifts of _____.

Not _____ to be Dispensed, but _____ to be Defended.

NOTES:

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Liberty Must Be Guarded

“As a man is said to have a right to his property, he be equally said to have a property in his rights.”



James Madison

Liberty and individual Rights are not simply ideas but _____.

A person should be as motivated to protect their rights, as they would their _____.



“For no people will tamely surrender their Liberties, nor can any be easily subdued when _____ is diffused and _____ is preserved. On the contrary when people become universally ignorant and debauched in their manners they will sink under their own weight without the aid of _____.” -Samuel Adams letter to James Warren, Nov 5 1775

Guarding liberty requires both _____ and _____.

NOTES:

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“The state of Nature has a law of nature to govern it...no one ought to harm another in his _____, _____, _____ or _____.”

For men being the Workmanship of one Omnipotent, and infinitely wise maker; All servants of one Sovereign Master...they are his Property.” -John Locke, 2nd Treatise

We have inherited our freedom from God. Pure freedom unchecked is not synonymous with liberty.

Liberty equals freedom plus _____. That shared morality that says do no harm to the life, liberty and property of another.

“It is the right of every Man, as far by it, he does not hurt or control the right of another” Ben Franklin, Silence Dogood #8, 1722



NOTES:

Virtue and Knowledge



The founders, most of whom had a Biblical worldview, knew from their scriptures that one's liberty should not be used to _____ another. (Galatians 5:13, Mark 12:31, Luke 6:31)

The virtue argued for by the founders was one in which each person's life, _____ and _____ was respected.

The Golden rule says: do unto others as _____.

Frederic Bastiat said that not only should society practice virtue but the



_____ themselves must be virtuous or the people will grow to not respect the law nor legal institutions.

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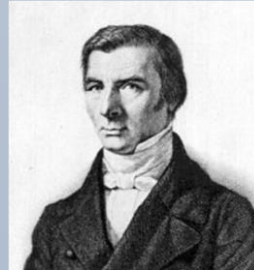
“The safest way to make laws respected is to make them

_____.” “When law and morality

_____ each other, the citizen has the cruel alternative

of either losing his moral sense or losing

_____.”



“Respectable” laws are laws that respect a person’s life, liberty and property.

Laws that do not respect life, liberty and _____ will inevitably lead to the moral decline of society.

Citizens must watch the crafting of laws to ensure they respect life, liberty and property. Therefore, as John Philpot

Curran said, Eternal _____ is necessary to monitor those who wish to use government for

immoral purposes.

NOTES:

The Marks of Good Government

Government power comes from the _____ of the people

Government's singular _____ is to protect the people's individual _____.

Our _____ are interdependent.

“Each of us has a natural right – from God – to defend his _____, his _____, and his _____. These are the three basic requirements of life and the preservation of any one of them is completely dependent upon the preservation of the other two.” Frederic Bastiat

The mark of a bad government is when that government or members of that government are doing things that it says are _____ for the citizen to do.

Just because you are a member of society does not mean you _____ your natural rights as an individual.

NOTES:



“The right to freedom being the gift of God Almighty, it is not in the power of man to alienate this gift and voluntarily become a _____.”

Unjust laws which do not respect life, liberty and property “annihilate the _____ it was supposed to maintain; limits and destroys rights which its real purpose was to _____”

“Where an excess of power prevails, no sort of property is respected.” James Madison

Excess of _____ power leads to fear and self-censorship.

“It is not a just government, nor is property secure under it, where arbitrary restrictions, exemptions, and monopolies deny to part of its citizens that free use of their faculties, and free choice of their occupations...”

“That is not a just government, nor is property secure under it, where the property which a man has in his personal safety and personal liberty, is violated by arbitrary seizures of one class of citizens for the service of the rest.” –



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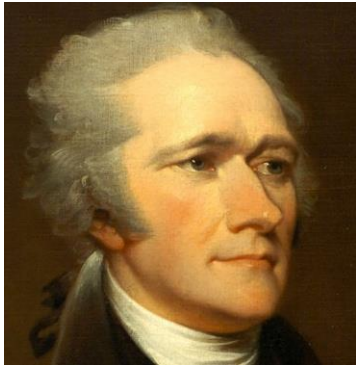
The Next Generation

A just government which protects and preserves liberty will be a _____ for all other governments.

America must strive to be the _____ place it was designed to be.

Liberty must be paid forward to the next _____.

This nation was constituted to preserve the _____ of _____ to ourselves and future generations.



Alexander Hamilton

“If you should still be so mad as to bring destruction upon yourselves; if you should still neglect what you owe _____ and _____, you cannot plead ignorance in your excuse. Your consciences will reproach you for your folly; and your children’s children will _____ you.”

NOTES:

Can a person be said to love _____ if he neglects God’s gifts?

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Can a person be said to love his _____ if he allows him to be oppressed and his liberties to be violated?

“_____ must be supported at all hazards. We have a right to it derived from our maker...but if it had not, our fathers have earned and bought it for us at the expense of their ease, their estates, their pleasure and their blood” -John Adams

“If there be _____, let it be in my day so that my child may have peace”- Thomas Paine

“If you will not fight for right when you can easily win without bloodshed; if you will not fight when your victory is sure and not too costly; you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival. There may even be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves.” – Winston Churchill



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NOTES:

Remember, these courses are not the end of your learning, but only the foundation and the beginning. You must take your own study time to read all the documents referenced in these and all our courses to get the complete understanding.

We endeavor to inform, equip, and inspire you to combat these attacks on our liberty and the foundation of America. But ultimately the responsibility rests upon you to make the most of this educational experience.

Additional Course Reading:

1. John Locke: 2nd Treatise on Government: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/7370/7370-h/7370-h.htm>
2. Thomas Paine: The American Crisis December 23, 1776: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/7370/7370-h/7370-h.htm>
3. Frederic Bastiat: The Law http://bastiat.org/en/the_law.html
4. The Works of Alexander Hamilton, Vol 1 <http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/hamilton-the-works-of-alexander-hamilton-federal-edition-vol-1>
5. Samuel Adams to James Warren November 4, 1775 http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/print_documents/v1ch18s6.html

