

H145

United States History

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All Scripture quotes are from the Authorized King James Bible.

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Week 10

The United States Constitution — Implementing the Christian Doctrine of Government

Lesson 1

Write the definitions from the glossary for the following vocabulary terms.

1. treason _____

2. totalitarian _____

Read the following text for good understanding.

The Influence of the Declaration of Independence

The Christian doctrine of government had been clearly stated in the Declaration of Independence. The Founders saw no need to restate their philosophy. The Constitution dealt with implementing this philosophy of government. Despite many modern statements to the contrary, the Declaration of Independence is still part of the United States legal code. Nine times between the years of 1884 and 1982, the United States Supreme Court has declared the Declaration of Independence to be part of our legal code.

The Founders demonstrated in the Declaration of Independence that it was not necessary to have to choose between the extremes of a “religious establishment” and a “secular state.” They believed that the government could encourage Christianity without creating a religious establishment.

Joseph Story, a Supreme Court Justice in the 1830’s and a famous lecturer and author on the Constitution wrote:

Probably at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, and of the amendment to it now under consideration, the general, if not the universal sentiment was, that Christianity ought to receive encouragement from the state, so far as was not incompatible with the private rights of conscience and the freedom of religious worship. An attempt to level all religions, and to make it a matter of state policy to hold all in utter indifference, would have created universal disapprobation, if not universal indignation.

Story’s *Commentaries on the Constitution* was considered the most important study of the Constitution during the Nineteenth Century. He personally knew most of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

The Promotion of Christianity

The first Congress assembled after the adoption of the Constitution appointed a chaplain, instituted daily prayers, and made arrangements to print and distribute 20,000 Bibles.

On September 24, 1789, the same day it approved the First Amendment, the Congress called on President Washington to proclaim a National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving. Their proclamation said:

That a joint committee of both Houses be directed to wait upon the President of the United States to request that he would recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging, with grateful hearts, the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a Constitution of government of their safety and happiness.

President Washington responded with a Thanksgiving proclamation that included this statement:

I George Washington, President of the United States, do recommend to all religious societies and denominations, and to all persons whomsoever, within the United States, to set apart and observe Thursday, the 19 day of February next, as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, and on that day to meet together and render sincere and hearty thanks to the great Ruler of nations for the manifold and signal mercies which distinguish our lot as a nation; particularly for the possession of constitutions of government which unite and, by their union, establish liberty with order; for the preservation of our peace, foreign and domestic; for the reasonable control which has been given to a spirit of disorder and the suppression of the late insurrection, and generally for the prosperous condition of our affairs, public and private, and at the same time humbly and fervently beseech the kind Author of these blessings graciously to prolong them to us; to imprint on our hearts a deep and solemn sense of our obligations to Him for them to teach

us rightly to estimate their immense value; to preserve us from the arrogance of prosperity, and from hazarding the advantages we enjoy by delusive pursuits, to dispose us to merit the continuance of His favors by not abusing them.

Early Presidents Adams, Jefferson, and Madison would issue proclamations calling for religious holidays. In every case participation was recommended; it was never required.

Throughout American history (until the last 30 years), our government felt free — and also recognized the need — to promote Christianity through our public institutions.

The National Anthem

In 1814, Francis Scott Key wrote the poem, “The Star-Spangled Banner.” This was later put to music, and in 1931 the Congress adopted this as our National Anthem. It reads:

*O say! Can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

*O thus be it ever when free men shall stand
Between their loved homes and war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace may the Heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause — it is just
And this be our motto: “In God is our trust!”
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

The Pledge of Allegiance

In 1892, Baptist pastor Francis Bellamy wrote the Pledge of Allegiance. In the early 1920's it was modified to include, "...of the United States of America," and the salute became the placing of the right hand over the heart. In the 1940's the Pledge was formally recognized by Congress and included in the flag code.

On Flag Day in 1954, at the request of President Eisenhower, Congress added the words, "under God," to amend the Pledge to its current form:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. And to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

"In God We Trust"

In 1865, the Congress voted to add the phrase "In God We Trust" to our coins. This action came in response to a request from Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, who said in part, "No nation can be strong except in the strength of God or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins."

The Liberty Bell

In 1873, the full verse of Leviticus 25:10 was added to the base of the Liberty Bell: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

Government Buildings

America's Christian heritage is constantly referred to in the buildings and architecture of our government institutions.

- ✚ The Ten Commandments hang on the wall of the Supreme Court building above the chair reserved for the Chief Justice.
- ✚ The phrase "In God We Trust" is inscribed over the raised platform in the House of Representatives and on the wall of the Senate chamber.

- ✚ In the Capitol Rotunda is the figure of the crucified Christ.
- ✚ Micah 6:8 and Psalms 19:1 are quoted on the walls of the Library of Congress.
- ✚ On the cap of the Washington Monument is the phrase, "Praise Be to God."
- ✚ On the walls of the stairwell inside the Monument are numerous Bible verses.

The Great Seal

The Great Seal of the United States includes the phrase, "God has smiled on our undertaking." Under the seal is the phrase "This nation under God."

How the Christian Doctrine of Government Shaped the Constitution

In the Scriptures, God never grants unlimited authority to any human being. There are limits, checks, and balances to all human positions of authority — parent, husband, pastor, and civil rulers. This is consistent with what the Bible says about both the sovereignty of God and the sinfulness of man. The Framers of the Constitution fully understood this truth. In fact, 34 percent of their quotations during the debate over the Constitution are taken from the Bible.

Because of this understanding, our Constitutional system has many checks and balances. The federal government is divided into three branches:

- ✚ executive,
- ✚ legislative, and
- ✚ judicial.

State and federal powers are designed to balance each other. The idea is that each branch or department of government will serve as a check and restraint on every other branch and department of government. In short, the Founders believed that men with sinful natures could be used to exercise checks and balances

on other people's sinful natures.

The power of the Congress is limited by regular elections, the President's veto power, and the Supreme Court.

One limit on the President's power is that he cannot legislate. He is also limited by regular elections and by the possibility of impeachment. His veto can be overridden, and his appointments must be approved by the Senate. This is also true of any treaties he signs.

The members of the Supreme Court must be appointed by the President, and they must be confirmed by the Senate. They can be impeached.

Other Christian Principles

Many other Christian principles are seen at work in the Constitution.

✠ The Biblical concept of property rights (Exodus 20:15, 17)

The French Revolution and the Communist Revolutions in Russia, China, Cuba, etc., destroyed property rights. The American War for Independence and the Constitution confirmed them.

✠ Old Testament law about the sanctity of contracts

✠ The Bible rules of evidence (Deuteronomy 17:6, Numbers 35:30)

The Constitution requires two witnesses before one is convicted of **treason** (Article III, Section 3, Paragraph 1).

The Bible forbids holding children responsible for their parent's actions. This policy is the norm in most governments and legal systems. However, the Constitution repeats the policy of the Bible (referred to as the "Corruption of Blood" and "Attainder" in Article III, Section 3). Deuteronomy 24:16 says, "The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin."

There are many other Biblical principles seen in the first Ten Amendments, the Bill of

Rights.

Recognition of the Christian Influence on the Constitution

The Supreme Court has declared on at least four occasions that the United States is a Christian nation. Many Presidents have also recognized this truth.

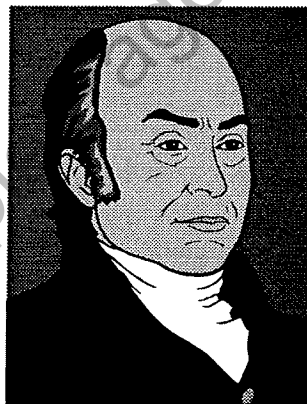
✠ "The general principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were . . . the general principles of Christianity."

John Adams

— John Adams

Consider these quotes by other Presidents:

John Quincy Adams declared that our Founding Fathers "connected in one indissoluble bond the principle of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

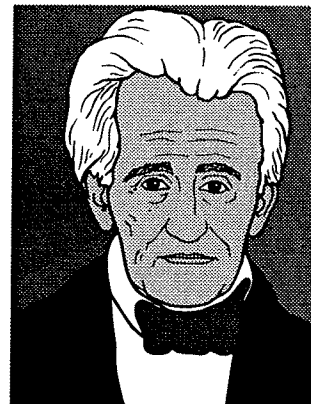


John Quincy Adams

"Go to the Scriptures . . . the joyful promises it contains will be a balsam to all your troubles;" and, "[T]hat book . . . is the rock on which our republic rests."

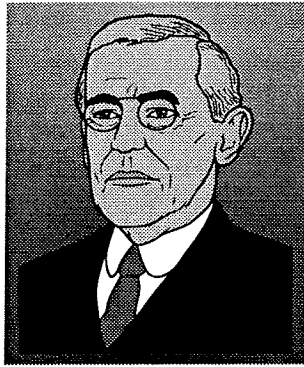
— Andrew Jackson

"America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of right-



Andrew Jackson

eousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture.”



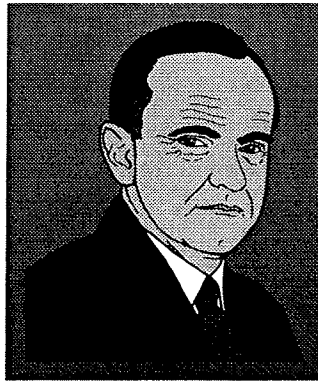
Woodrow Wilson

— **Woodrow Wilson**

“The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country.”

— **Calvin Coolidge**

Franklin Roosevelt described the United States as “the lasting concord between men and nations, founded on the principles of Christianity.” He also said, “We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a nation without reckoning with the place the Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic . . .”



Calvin Coolidge

In a 1947 letter to Pope Pius XII, Harry Truman said, “This is a Christian nation.” He also wrote:

The fundamental basis of this nation’s law was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teaching we get from Exodus and St. Matthew, from Isaiah and St. Paul. I do not think we emphasize that enough these days. If we

do not have the proper fundamental moral background, we will finally wind up with a **totalitarian** government which does not believe in rights for anybody but the state.



Dwight D. Eisenhower

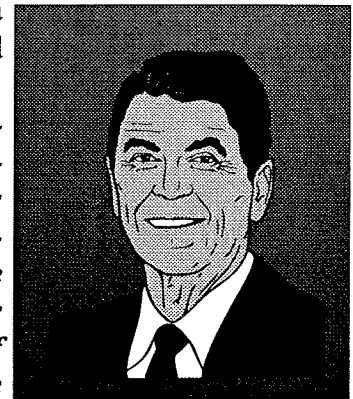
Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote: “The Bible is endorsed by the ages. Our civilization is built upon its word. In no other book is there such a collection of inspired wisdom, reality, and hope.”

In 1982, the Congress passed and **President Reagan** signed a resolution which stated in part:

Whereas Biblical teachings inspired concepts of civil government that are contained in our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas this Nation now faces great challenges that will test this Nation as it has never been tested before, and

Whereas that renewing our knowledge of and faith in God through Holy Scripture can strengthen us as a nation and a people . . .”



Ronald Reagan

Lesson 2**Answer the following questions.**

1. What has the Supreme Court declared about the Declaration of Independence?

2. According to Justice Joseph Story, what should Christianity receive from the state?

3. What did the Congress ask the people to acknowledge with a “day of Thanksgiving”?

4. When Presidents issued proclamations for religious holidays, were the people required to participate? _____
5. According to the National Anthem, what is our national motto? _____

6. According to the National Anthem, whom should we praise? _____

7. What phrase is on United States coins? _____
8. What phrase is included in the Great Seal of the United States? _____

9. What phrase is under the Seal of the United States? _____

10. What is on the wall of the Supreme Court building, above the seat of the Chief Justice?

11. What phrase is on the cap of the Washington Monument? _____
12. What does God place on all human authority? _____

13. How many branches are there in the federal government? _____

14. What are they?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
15. What is the basis for our procedure regarding a conviction for the crime of treason?

Lesson 3

Fill in the blanks.

1. State and federal powers are designed to _____ each other.
2. The power of the Congress is limited by regular _____, the _____ veto power, and the _____.
3. Members of the Supreme Court must be appointed by the _____ and confirmed by the _____.
4. The American War for Independence and the Constitution _____ the Biblical concept of property rights.
5. The Constitution and the Bible forbid “Corruption of Blood” which holds _____ responsible for the actions of their _____.
6. “The general principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of _____.”
7. “. . . [O]ur Founding Fathers connected into one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of _____.”
8. “America was born a _____.”

9. "That Book . . . is the _____ on which our republic rests."
10. "If we do not have the proper fundamental _____
_____, we will finally wind up with a _____
government which does not believe in rights for anybody but the state."
11. Whereas _____ inspired concepts of civil
government that are contained in our Declaration of Independence and the
_____ of the United States . . ."

Lesson 4

Most Presidents have written proclamations calling for special days of national Thanksgiving. Imagine that you are the President and write your own Thanksgiving proclamation. Include recommendations about whom we should thank; how to express thankfulness; and list some things for which we should, as a nation, be thankful.

LFBC Sample

Write Psalms 33:10 on the lines below.

Memorize Psalms 33:10 and say it to your Teacher/Parent.

Teacher/Parent's Signature _____

Lesson 5

Have your Teacher/Parent sign below when you are ready for Weekly Quiz #10.

Teacher/Parent's Signature _____

LFBC Sample Page H145

Week 10

Lesson 1

1. treason betrayal of a government
2. totalitarian tyrannical government

Lesson 2

1. that the Declaration of Independence is part of the nation's legal code
2. encouragement
3. the many signal favors of Almighty God
4. no
5. "In God is Our Trust"
6. "the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation"
7. "In God We Trust"
8. "God has smiled on our undertaking"
9. "This nation under God"
10. the Ten Commandments
11. "Praise be to God"
12. limits, checks, and balances
13. three
14. *(in any order)*
 - a. executive
 - b. legislative
 - c. judicial
15. the Bible rules of evidence

Lesson 3

1. balance
2. elections, President's, Supreme Court
3. President, Senate
4. confirmed
5. children, parents
6. Christianity
7. Christianity
8. Christian nation
9. rock
10. moral background, totalitarian
11. Biblical teachings, Constitution

Lesson 4

Essay — Teacher/Parent Evaluation

Psalms 33:10 “The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.”

Week 11

Lesson 1

1. bicameral consisting of two legislative assemblies
2. impeachment to try a public figure for the purpose of removal from office
3. emolument compensation arising from holding office

Lesson 2

1. a written record of the specific powers that the people have granted to the federal government
2. ruling over the people
3. The people would tell the government how it much serve the people.
4. a Congress of the United States
5. directly by the people, every two years
6. 25
7. the House of Representatives
8. 30
9. the Senate
10. the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court
11. two-thirds
12. the House of Representatives
13. Sunday
14. to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States
15. the Congress

Lesson 3

Matching.

1. N
2. Y
3. N
4. Y
5. Y
6. N

HWQX145 U. S. HISTORY WEEKLY QUIZ #10

Page 1

Is a Part of H145 Complete Subject Set

Name _____

Answer the following questions (6 pts. each).

1. According to Justice Joseph Story, what should Christianity receive from the State?

2. What did Congress ask the people to acknowledge with a day of Thanksgiving? _____

3. According to the National Anthem, what is our national motto? _____

4. What phrase is on United States coins? _____
5. What phrase is included in the Great Seal of the United States? _____

Match the following (6 pts. each).

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| ___ 6. Washington Monument | a. "This nation under God" |
| ___ 7. Supreme Court building | b. "Praise be to God" |
| ___ 8. Seal of United States | c. Declaration of Independence |
| ___ 9. United States legal code | d. Ten Commandments |
| ___ 10. branches of federal government | e. three |

Fill in the blanks (6 pts. each).

- 11.-13. The branches of the federal government are _____,
_____, and _____.
14. The general principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of _____.
15. America was born a _____.

HWQX145 U. S. HISTORY WEEKLY QUIZ #10

Page 2

Is a Part of H145 Complete Subject Set

Name_____

Write Psalms 33:10 from memory on the lines below (10 pts.).

LFBC Sample Page H145

HWQA145 U. S. HISTORY WEEKLY QUIZ ANSWERS #9

Is a Part of H145 Complete Subject Set

1. a large state militia
- 2.-5 (Any four of these in any order)
 - a. Ohio
 - b. Indiana
 - c. Illinois
 - d. Michigan
 - e. Wisconsin
6. three decades
7. Rhode Island
8. an empire of laws
9. False
10. False
11. True
12. True
13. True
14. Patriots
15. Governor
16. Northwest Ordinance
17. 99
18. states

Romans 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."

HWQA145 U. S. HISTORY WEEKLY QUIZ ANSWERS #10

Is a Part of H145 Complete Subject Set

1. encouragement
2. the many signal favors of Almighty God
3. "In God is our Trust"
4. "In God We Trust"
5. "God has smiled on our undertaking"
6. b
7. d
8. a
9. c
10. e
- 11.-13. (in any order) executive, legislative, judicial
14. Christianity
15. Christian nation

Psalms 33:10 "The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect."

Is a Part of H145 Complete Subject Set

Name _____

Answer the following questions (3 pts. each).

1. According to the National Anthem, what is our national motto? _____

2. What phrase is included in the Great Seal of the United States? _____

- 3.-5. What are the three branches of our federal government?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
6. Who has the power to make laws? _____
7. Who is the Commander in Chief of the Army? _____
8. What must each state give to the public acts of each other state? _____

9. What form of government does the United States guarantee to each state? _____

10. To whom did God grant rights? _____
11. What is required before the government can deprive anyone of life, liberty, or property? _____

- 12.. What phrase did George Washington add to the Constitutional Presidential Oath of Office? _____
13. To what was the abolitionist movement devoted? _____
14. Who founded Mormonism? _____
15. What are the first Ten Amendments to the Constitution called? _____

Is a Part of H145 Complete Subject Set

Name _____

Match the following (3 pts. each).

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ___ 16. Eli Whitney | a. "Father of the Constitution" |
| ___ 17. James Madison | b. slave revolt |
| ___ 18. Nat Turner | c. resigned the Vice Presidency |
| ___ 19. John Calhoun | d. steamboat inventor |
| ___ 20. Robert Fulton | e. <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> |
| ___ 21. Francis Scott Key | f. "The Star-Spangled Banner" |
| ___ 22. Zachary Taylor | g. Japanese trade |
| ___ 23. Matthew Perry | h. father of the public school |
| ___ 24. Harriet Beecher Stowe | i. "Old Rough and Ready" |
| ___ 25. Horace Mann | j. cotton gin |

Answer the following statements True or False (3 pts. each).

- _____ 26. "From Sea to Shining Sea" is the motto of the Mormons.
- _____ 27. Joseph Smith promised to annex Texas.
- _____ 28. Manifest Destiny is the concept that the United States is destined to spread from coast to coast.
- _____ 29. Samuel Morse invented the telegraph.
- _____ 30. President Washington put an end to the Whiskey Rebellion by sending an army of 15,000 men to the area.

Write Proverbs 1:7 from memory on the lines below (10 pts.).

HQTA145 U. S. HISTORY QUARTER TEST ANSWERS #2

Is a Part of H145 Complete Subject Set

1. "In God is our trust"
2. "God has smiled on our undertaking"
- 3.-5. (*in any order*)
 - a. executive
 - b. legislative
 - c. judicial
6. the Congress
7. the President
8. full faith and credit
9. Republican
10. the people
11. due process of law
12. "So help me God"
13. ending slavery
14. Joseph Smith
15. the Bill of Rights
16. j
17. a
18. b
19. c
20. d
21. f
22. i
23. g
24. e
25. h
26. False
27. False
28. True
29. True
30. True

Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction."