

The UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

About the United States Constitution

The **United States Constitution** is a document created by a group of delegates to the **Constitutional Convention** after the United States declared its independence from Great Britain. The need for a governing document other than the **Articles of Confederation** was growing clear to the **Constitutional Congress**, and so they came together to devise a new document.

The ratification of the Constitution, or formal approval by a vote of delegates representing the states, did not happen overnight. Some states wanted to see revisions made before they would sign. Eventually, each of the 13 states approved the Constitution and it finally took effect.



The Constitution defines citizenship in the United States, as well as governmental branches and their responsibilities, which were not addressed in the Articles of Confederation. The Constitution is the **absolute law** in the United States and has been that way since **1789**.

The delegates realized that there may be a need to amend the Constitution over time and also set up provisions in the document to address this future need. The **Bill of Rights** is the first set of **amendments** to the Constitution, including the right of freedom of religion and trial by jury. Many amendments have been made to the Constitution since the initial Bill of Rights.