



I. BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Commager, Henry Steele. The Great Constitution: A Book for Young Americans. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1961.

Relying on original sources, the author describes the purposes of the Constitutional Convention and the drafting of the Constitution.

Cooke, Donald E. America's Great Document: The Constitution. Hammond, Inc. 1973.

A narrative account of the Constitutional Convention interspersed with brief biographies of the delegates. Includes sections on the ratification debates, amendments, and the text of the Constitution.

Cullop, Floyd G. The Constitution of the United States: An Introduction. New York: New American Library, 1984.

A clause-by-clause examination of the U.S. Constitution specifically designed for high school students.

Findlay, Bruce and Esther. Your Rugged Constitution. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1969.

Contains a clause-by-clause explanation of the Constitution with illustrations from American history.

Morris, Richard B. The Constitution. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Co.; revised edition, 1985.

Beginning with the difficulties of the new American nation under the Articles of Confederation, this book discusses the steps leading to the Constitutional Convention, the Convention itself, and the ratification debates. It also discusses the Bill of Rights, the establishment of the Cabinet, and the concept of judicial review. The last part of the book contains a simplified outline of the Constitution.

Prolman, Marilyn. The Story of the Constitution. Chicago: Children's Press, 1969.

The book begins in 1776, covers the war, the Confederation period, and the Constitutional Convention. The book concludes with a discussion of the amendments (through Amendment 25).

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Williams, Selma R. Fifty-Five Fathers. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1987.

A readable, dramatic account of the Philadelphia Convention based on Madison's notes.

II. GENERAL WORKS

Bowen, Catherine Drinker. Miracle at Philadelphia: The Story of the Constitutional Convention, May to September 1787. Boston: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1986 [1st ed., 1966].

A very readable narrative of the events of the Philadelphia Convention.

Collier, Christopher and James Lincoln Collier. Decision in Philadelphia: The Constitutional Convention of 1787. New York: Random House/Reader's Digest Press, 1986.

A lively contemporary account of the actions and personalities in the Constitutional Convention.

Rodell, Fred. 55 Men: The Story of the Constitution, with an introduction by Charles Alan Wright. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1986 [1st ed., 1937].

A day-by-day chronicle of the Constitutional Convention, which gives a dramatic rendering of the dynamics of the Convention's business.

Rossiter, Clinton. 1787: The Grand Convention. New York: Macmillan, 1966.

An account of the Constitutional Convention against the larger background of the conditions and events of the year 1787.

Rutland, Robert. The Ordeal of the Constitution: The Antifederalists and the Ratification Struggle of 1787-88. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1983.

Details the political strategies, compromises, and disappointments of the Constitution's opponents, and presents some materials on the broader political philosophy of the Antifederalists.

Van Doren, Carl. The Great Rehearsal. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1982 (reprint of 1948 edition).

A readable popular history of the Philadelphia Convention and the delegates who framed the Constitution.

Wood, Gordon S. The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787. New York: W.W. Norton, 1972 [1st ed., 1969].

Important contemporary account of the influence of republican ideas in America in the decade preceding the writing of the Constitution.

III. NEW RELEASES (RECENT AND FORTHCOMING TITLES)

Adler, Mortimer. We Hold These Truths. New York: Macmillan, 1987.

Barbash, Fred. The Founding: A Dramatic Account of the Writing of the Constitution. New York: The Linden Press/Simon & Schuster, 1987.

Kammen, Michael. A Machine That Would Go of Itself: The Constitution in American Culture. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986.

McDonald, Forrest. Novus Ordo Seclorum: The Intellectual Origins of the Constitution. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 1985.

Mee, Charles L., Jr. The Genius of the People. New York: Harper & Row, 1987.

Peters, William. A More Perfect Union: The Men and Events That Made the Constitution. New York: Crown Publishers, 1987.

Preiss, Byron and David Osterlund, eds. The Constitution of the United States of America. New York: Bantam Books, 1987.

Project '87. this Constitution: Our Enduring Legacy. Washington, DC: CQ Press/Project '87, 1986.

Vetterli, Richard and Gary Bryner. In Search of the Republic. Totowa, NJ: Roman and Littlefield, 1987.

IV. BIOGRAPHIES

For brief biographies of each of the members of the Convention, see:

Ferris, Robert G., and James H. Charleton. The Signers of the Constitution. With a foreword by Warren E. Burger. Arlington, VA: Interpretive Publications, Inc., 1986 [1st ed., 1976]. (Distributed by the National Park Service.)

McGee, Dorothy Horton. Framers of the Constitution. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1987 [1st ed., 1968].

Cooke, Jacob E. Alexander Hamilton: A Biography. New York: Scribners, 1982.

Flexner, James T. Washington: The Indispensable Man. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co., 1974.

Ketcham, Ralph. James Madison: A Biography. New York: Macmillan, 1971.

Morris, Richard B. Witnesses at the Creation: Hamilton, Madison, Jay, and the Constitution. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1985.

Peterson, Merrill D. Thomas Jefferson and the New Nation: A Biography. New York: Oxford University Press, 1970.

Wright, Esmond. Franklin of Philadelphia. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1986.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

The basic source for Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution is the U.S. Reports (over 400 volumes to date), available at many college and law libraries. There are also many casebooks which give selections from leading cases. A convenient reference is Paul C. Bartholomew and Joseph F. Menez, Summaries of Leading Cases on the Constitution, 12th ed. Totowa, NJ: Rowman and Allanheld, 1983.

VI. PRIMARY SOURCES AND REFERENCE BOOKS

Farrand, Max, ed. The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787. 4 vols. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987.

The complete record of the debates in the Philadelphia Convention, compiled from James Madison's notes and other sources.

Hamilton, Alexander, James Madison, and John Jay. The Federalist Papers, ed. with an introduction by Clinton Rossiter. New York: New American Library, 1961. (Many other editions are also in print.)

The most famous defense of the Constitution, written in 1787-88 to secure ratification in New York and still among the best guides to interpreting the document.

Ketcham, Ralph, ed. The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates. New York: New American Library, 1986. Designed as a companion volume to the Rossiter edition of The Federalist Papers, this book presents key Anti-Federalist writings together with selections from the debates in the Federal Convention. It also contains a useful bibliography and index.

Kurland, Philip B., and Ralph Lerner, eds. The Founders' Constitution. 5 vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987.

The editors have brought together a large collection of documents to illustrate how the Constitution was conceived, ratified, and interpreted by those responsible for founding the nation.

Levy, Leonard W., ed. The Encyclopedia of the American Constitution. 4 vols. New York: Macmillan, 1986. 2,200 signed, original articles by 262 leading constitutional scholars, on every constitutional topic from "Abington Township School District v. Schempp" to "Zurcher v. Stanford Daily" with a complete index and suggestions for further reading.

Madison, James. Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787. Edited, with an introduction by Adrienne Koch. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 1985.

The most complete single record of the events in the Philadelphia Convention.

Padover, Saul K., and Jacob W. Landynski. The Living U.S. Constitution. New York: New American Library, second revised edition, 1983. This book presents basic information about the Constitution. It contains a brief section on the Convention, together with the text of the Constitution and amendments, excerpts from major Supreme Court decisions, and an indexed guide to the Constitution.

Storing, Herbert, J., ed. The Anti-Federalist: Writings by the Opponents of the Constitution. Selected by Murray Dry from The Complete Anti-Federalist. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985.

A one-volume selection from Storing's seven-volume edition of the writings of the Anti-Federalists.

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Kermit L. Hall, comp., A Comprehensive Bibliography of American Constitutional and Legal History, 5 vols. Millwood, NY: Kraus Thomson International, 1984.

McCarrick, Earlean M., ed. U.S. Constitution: A Guide to Information Sources. Gale Research Company, 1980.

Stephen M. Millett, ed. A Selected Bibliography of American Constitutional History. ABC/Clío Press, 1975.

This list of books is drawn largely from a bibliography of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It was selected by a committee of scholars. It is illustrative of books on the constitutional period and is not necessarily endorsed by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.