

# OLLSUBJECTGUIDES



G. Washington  
(1732–1799)



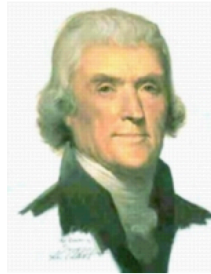
John Adams  
(1735–1826)



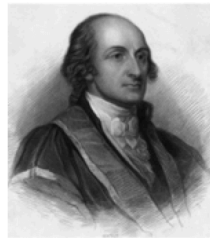
Thomas Paine  
(1737–1809)



James Wilson  
(1742–1798)



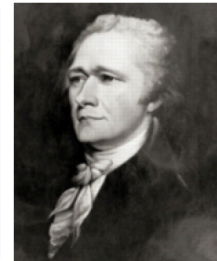
Thomas Jefferson  
(1743–1826)



John Jay  
(1745–1829)



James Madison  
(1751–1836)



A. Hamilton  
(1757–1804)

The Online Library of  
Liberty  
<[oll.libertyfund.org](http://oll.libertyfund.org)>

## American Revolution & Constitution: <<http://oll.libertyfund.org/collection/65>>

### About the OLL

The *Online Library of Liberty* (OLL) is a project of Liberty Fund, Inc., a private educational foundation established in 1960 to encourage the study of the ideal of a society of free and responsible individuals. The OLL website has a large collection of books and study guides about individual liberty, limited constitutional government, the free market, and peace. The collection is organized into subject areas, schools of thought, topics, and historical periods.

### The Collection

The OLL has considerable resources on the American Revolution, the creation of the Constitution, and the Early Republic. The main collection can be found under the Topic "The American Revolution and Constitution" <[collection/65](http://oll.libertyfund.org/collection/65)> and the School of Thought "The Founding Fathers of the U.S. Constitution" <[collection/36](http://oll.libertyfund.org/collection/36)>.

### The Guide

This guide lists some of the most important books in the OLL on this topic and provides a sample of the ideas expressed by some of our authors on this topic. We hope that it will encourage to explore the OLL collection further.

**"When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation."**

Thomas Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence" (1776)  
<<http://oll.libertyfund.org/quote/327>>

# OLL Subject Guides

## American Revolution & Constitution

### Resources on the American Revolution and the U.S. Constitution

[URL format: <oll.libertyfund.org/title/123>]

- **School of Thought:** The Founding Fathers of the U.S. Constitution <collection/36>.
- **Topic:** The American Revolution and Constitution (146 titles) <collection/65>.
- **Debate:** between Loyalists and Patriots before the American Revolution <collection/78>.
- **Timeline:** American Founding [PDF 3.2 MB]

### Collected Works of Founding Fathers of the Constitution and the Republic

- George Washington (1732-1799) </title/2348>.
- John Adams (1735-1826) <title/2098>.
- Thomas Paine (1737-1809) <title/1743>.
- Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) <title/1734>.
- John Jay (1745-1829) <title/2327>.
- James Madison (1751-1836) <title/1933>.
- Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804) <title/1712>.

### Documents and Debates about the Constitution

*The Founders' Constitution*, ed. Philip B. Kurland and Ralph Lerner <<http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/>>.

*Key Documents of Liberty* [on the OLL at The Forum : Resources : Key Documents]

Jonathan Elliot, *The debates in the several state conventions on the adoption of the federal Constitution* <title/1904>.

Paul Leicester Ford, *Pamphlets on the Constitution of the United States*, <title/1670>.

*The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787*, ed. Max Farrand <title/1785>.

### Liberty Fund Books

*The Federalist (The Gideon Edition)*, ed. George W. Carey and James McClellan <title/788>.

James Wilson, *Collected Works of James Wilson*, ed. Kermit L. Hall <title/207>.

George Washington, *George Washington: A Collection*, ed. W.B. Allen <title/848>.

John Adams, *The Revolutionary Writings of John Adams*, ed. C. Bradley Thompson <title/592>.

Alexander Hamilton, *The Revolutionary Writings of Alexander Hamilton*, ed. Richard B. Vernier <title/2121>.

*American Political Writing During the Founding Era: 1760-1805*, ed. Charles S. Hyneman and Donald Lutz <title/2067>.

*The American Republic: Primary Sources*, ed. Bruce Frohnen <title/669>.

*Colonial Origins of the American Constitution: A Documentary History*, ed. Donald S. Lutz <title/694>.

*Political Sermons of the American Founding Era: 1730-1805*, ed. Ellis Sandoz <title/1878>.

M.J.C. Vile, *Constitutionalism and the Separation of Powers* <title/677>.

*Liberty and American Experience in the Eighteenth Century*, ed. David Womersley <title/1727>.

### Quotations about the Revolution & the Constitution

**“In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.”**

James Madison, *Federalist Paper 51* (1788)  
<<http://oll.libertyfund.org/quote/180>>

Here is a selection of the quotations about the American Revolution & the Constitution which have appeared on the front page of the OLL [URL format: <oll.libertyfund.org/quote/123>]:

- John **Adams** predicts a glorious future for America under the new constitution and is in “reverence and awe” at its future prospects (1787) <quote/167>.
- John **Adams** on how absolute power intoxicates those who exercise that power (1814) <quote/346>.
- William **Findlay** wants to maintain the separation of church and state and therefore sees no role for the “ecclesiastical branch” in government (1812) <quote/157>.
- Alexander **Hamilton** denounces the British for imposing “oppressive taxes” on the colonists which amount to tyranny, a form of slavery, and vassalage to the Empire (1774) <quote/172>.
- Alexander **Hamilton** warns of the danger to civil society and liberty from a standing army since “the military state becomes elevated above the civil” (1787) <quote/192>.
- John **Jay** in the Federalist Papers discussed why nations go to war and concluded that it was not for justice but “whenever they have a prospect of getting any thing by it” (1787) <quote/82>.
- **Jefferson’s** preference for “newspapers without government” over “government without newspapers” (1787) <quote/302>.
- **Jefferson** on the right to change one’s government (1776) <quote/327>.
- James **Madison** on the dangers of elections resulting in overbearing majorities who respect neither justice nor individual rights, Federalist 10 (1788) <quote/186>.
- James **Madison** on the “sagacious and monied few” who are able to “harvest” the benefits of government regulations (1787) <quote/349>.
- **Paine** on the idea that the law is king (1776) <quote/308>.
- George **Washington** warns that the knee jerk reaction of citizens to problems is to seek a solution in the creation of a “new monarch” (1786) <quote/161>.
- George **Washington** warns the nation in his Farewell Address, that love of power will tend to create a real despotism in America unless proper checks and balances are maintained to limit government power (1796) <quote/113>.
- Robert **Nisbet** on the Shock the Founding Fathers would feel if they could see the current size of the Military Establishment and the National Government (1988) <quote/255>.