



Key Documents of Liberty

This is a collection of some of the most important legal documents, charters, constitutions, and declarations in the western tradition.



The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789)

- [Pocket Guide to Political and Civic Rights](#)
- [-1750: The Code of Hammurabi \(Johns translation\)](#)
- [-1750: The Code of Hammurabi \(King translation\)](#)
- [1117: Articles of the Communal Charter of Amiens](#)
- [1215: Magna Carta](#)
- [1215: Magna Carta \(Latin and English\)](#)
- [1602: Coke, Preface to the 2nd Part of the Reports \(Pamphlet\)](#)
- [1619: Laws enacted by the First General Assembly of Virginia](#)
- [1620: The Mayflower Compact](#)
- [1621: Constitution for the Council and Assembly in Virginia](#)
- [1628: Petition of Right](#)
- [1629: Agreement of the Massachusetts Bay Company](#)
- [1637: Providence Agreement](#)
- [1638: Act for Church Liberties \(Maryland\)](#)
- [1638: Act for the Liberties of the People \(Maryland\)](#)
- [1639: Fundamental Orders of Connecticut](#)
- [1640/1: The Triennial Act](#)
- [1641: Massachusetts Body of Liberties](#)
- [1641: The Act for the Abolition of the Court of Star Chamber](#)
- [1641: The Act for the Abolition of the Court of High Commission](#)
- [1641: The Tonnage and Poundage Act](#)

[There are 21 more documents between 1642 and 1689]

- 1689: English Bill of Rights
- 1692: Shower, Reasons for a New Bill of Rights (Pamphlet)
- 1701: Pennsylvania Charter of Liberties
- 1736: Brief Narrative of the Trial of Peter Zenger
- 1744: Williams, Rights and Liberties of Protestants (Sermon)
- 1763: Otis, Rights of British Colonies Asserted (Pamphlet)
- 1765: Resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress
- 1766: Mayhew, The Snare Broken (Sermon)
- 1774: Declaration and Resolves of the 1st Continental Congress
- 1776: Declaration of Independence (various drafts)
- 1776: Hutchinson, Strictures upon the Declaration of Independence
- 1776: Paine, Common Sense (Pamphlet)
- 1776: Virginia Bill of Rights
- 1776: Witherspoon, Dominion of Providence over the Passions of Men (Sermon)
- 1778: Articles of Confederation
- 1785: Madison, Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments
- 1786: Jefferson, Virginia Bill Establishing Religious Freedom
- 1787: Selections from the Federalist (Pamphlets)
- 1787: US Constitution
- 1787: Virginia and New Jersey Plans
- 1787: Wilson, Address to the People of Philadelphia (Speech)
- 1788: Amendments recommended by the Several State Conventions
- 1789: French Declaration of the Rights of Man
- 1789: Madison, Speech Introducing Proposed Amendments to the Constitution
- 1790: Hamilton, First Report on Public Credit
- 1790: Jefferson, Memorandum on the Compromise of 1790
- 1790: Price, Discourse on the Love of Our Country (Sermon)
- 1791: Hamilton, Opinion as to the Constitutionality of the Bank of the US
- 1791: Jefferson, Opinion against the Constitutionality of a National Bank
- 1791: Madison, Speech on the Bank Bill
- 1791: US Bill of Rights (1st 10 Amendments) – with commentary
- 1793: French Republic Constitution of 1793
- 1793: Helvidius (Madison), No. 1 (Pamphlet)
- 1793: Pacificus (Hamilton), No. 1 (Pamphlet)
- 1796: George Washington's "Farewell Address" (Speech)
- 1798-1992: US Bill of Rights Amendments (XI-XXVII)
- 1798: Alien and Sedition Acts
- 1798: Counter-resolutions of Other States
- 1798: Kentucky Resolutions
- 1798: Kentucky Resolutions (Jefferson's Draft)
- 1798: Virginia Resolutions
- 1799: Report of the Virginia House of Delegates
- 1801: Jefferson, 1st Annual Message
- 1801: Jefferson, 1st Inaugural Address
- 1802: Jefferson, Letter to the Danbury Baptist Association (Letter)
- 1830: French Charter of 1830

<<http://oll.libertyfund.org/pages/key-documents>>