

Chapter 8 Section 1: Goals and Principles of the Constitution (pages 248-251)

In this section, we will:

- explain how the Preamble defines the basic goals of the Constitution.
- Identify the framework of government established by the Constitution.
- Name the seven basic principles of American government!

Key vocabulary in this section

- Preamble
- domestic tranquility
- civilian
- general welfare
- liberty
- Articles
- popular sovereignty
- limited government
- checks and balances
- federalism

The Preamble Sets Goals

The Constitution is divided into 3 main parts: The Preamble, the Articles and the Amendments.

A) **Preamble**-opening statement of the Constitution. Defines **six** goals:

- 1) to form a more perfect Union
- 2) to establish justice
- 3) to insure *domestic tranquility* (peace and order at home)
- 4) to provide for the common defense
- 5) to promote the general welfare (the well being of all citizens)
- 6) to secure the blessings of liberty (freedom)

Freedom isn't free

The Preamble!!!
3:00



Articles and Amendments

B) **Articles**- the Articles make up the main body of the Constitution, divided into seven sections. Together they form the framework for our government.

- first 3 articles describe the three branches of the national government: legislative, executive and judicial.
- Article I establishes the power/limits on Congress.
- Article II and Article III establishes power/limits on the President and the courts.
- Article IV deals with the relations between the states.
- Article V provides a process to amend the Constitution.
- Article VI states the Constitution is the "supreme law of the land."
- Final Article VII sets up the procedure for the states to ratify the Constitution.

C) Amendments- in this section are the formal changes to the Constitution.

- first ten amendments were added in 1791 and are known collectively as the **Bill of Rights**.

Amending the
Constitution
1:35



Seven Basic Principles



- **The Constitution rests on seven basic principles. Let's see what they are!!**

1) Popular Sovereignty-idea that government gets its authority from the people and that people have the right to alter or abolish their government.

2) Limited Government-the government only has the power that the Constitution gives it.

3) Separation of Powers-division of the government into 3 branches to limit the power of the government. The 3 branches are legislative, executive and judicial.

Separation of Powers
6:30

4) Checks and Balances-these protect against of abuse of power. Each branch has the power to check--or limit---the power of the other two.

Checks and Balances
1:30

5) Federalism-the idea established in the Constitution that is the division of power between the federal government and the states.

Federalism: How our
national government
works
7:00

6) Republicanism-the Constitution calls for a republican form of government; citizens elect representatives to carry out their will.

7) Individual Rights-such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, right to bear arms and the right to a trial by jury.

More safety, less liberty??
1:50

