

Magna Carta (1215)

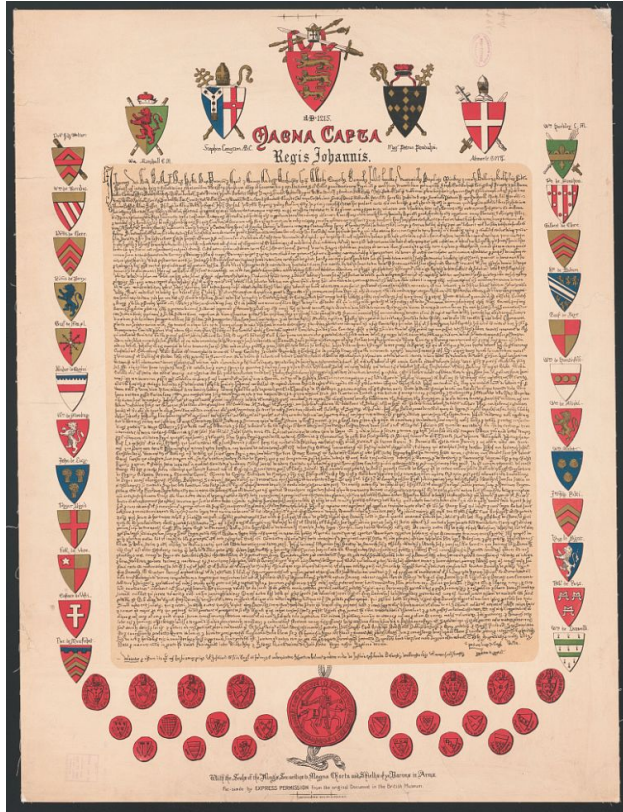
For a trivial offence, a free man shall be fined only in proportion to the degree of his offence, and for a serious offence correspondingly, but not so heavily as to deprive him of his livelihood... None of these fines shall be imposed except by the assessment on oath of reputable men of the neighbourhood.

No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land.

We will appoint as justices, constables, sheriffs, or bailiffs only such as know the law of the realm and mean to observe it well. . . .

To no one will we sell, to no one will we refuse or delay, right or justice. . . .

Magna Carta “Big Ideas”



Due process of law
Right to justice
Right to a fair and
speedy trial

Mayflower Compact (1620)

We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James . . . Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant [enter into an agreement] and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick . . . And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Officers, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience.

Mayflower Compact “Big Ideas”



Consent of the
governed
Self-Government

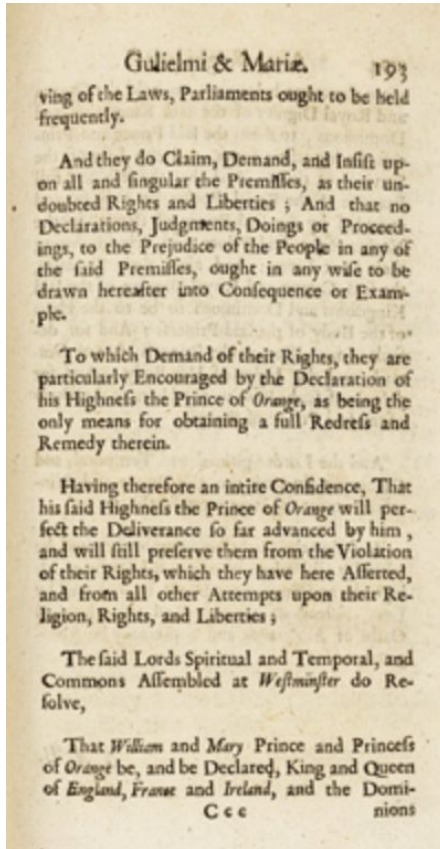
English Bill of Rights (1689)

That levying money for or to the use of the Crown by pretence of prerogative, without grant of Parliament, for longer time, or in other manner than the same is or shall be granted, is illegal...

That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted...

That jurors ought to be duly impanelled and returned, and jurors which pass upon men in trials for high treason ought to be freeholders...

English Bill of Rights “Big Ideas”



Limited government/ Rule of Law

No taxation without
representation

No excessive punishments

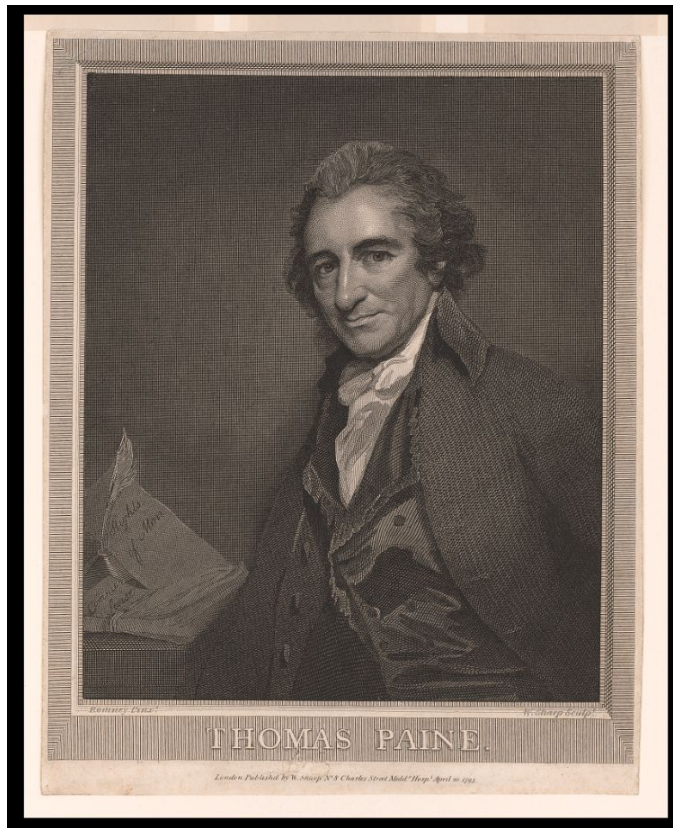
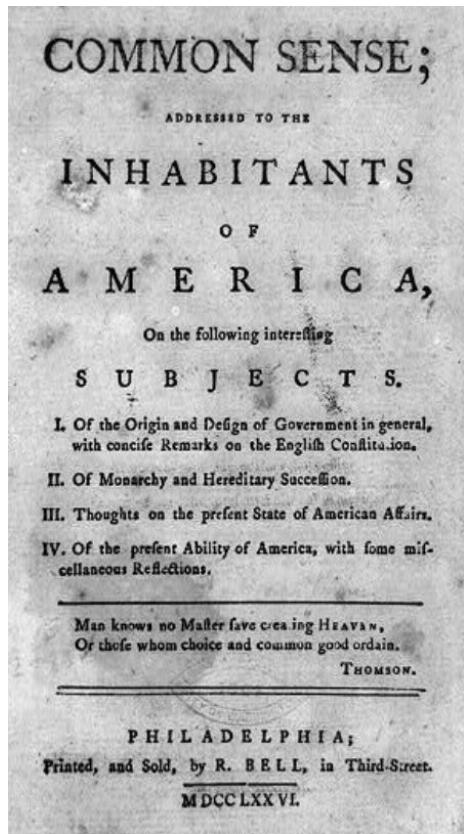
Right to a fair jury trial

Rights

Common Sense (1776)

The powers of governing still remaining in the hands of the King, he will have a negative over the whole legislation of this Continent. And as he hath shown himself such an inveterate enemy to liberty, and discovered such a thirst for arbitrary power, is he, or is he not, a proper person to say to these colonies, *You shall make no laws but what I please!?* And is there any inhabitant of America so ignorant as not to know, that according to what is called the *present constitution*, this Continent can make no laws but what the king gives leave to; and is there any man so unwise as not to see, that (considering what has happened) he will suffer no law to be made here but such as suits *his* purpose? We may be as effectually enslaved by the want of laws in America, as by submitting to laws made for us in England

Common Sense “Big Ideas”

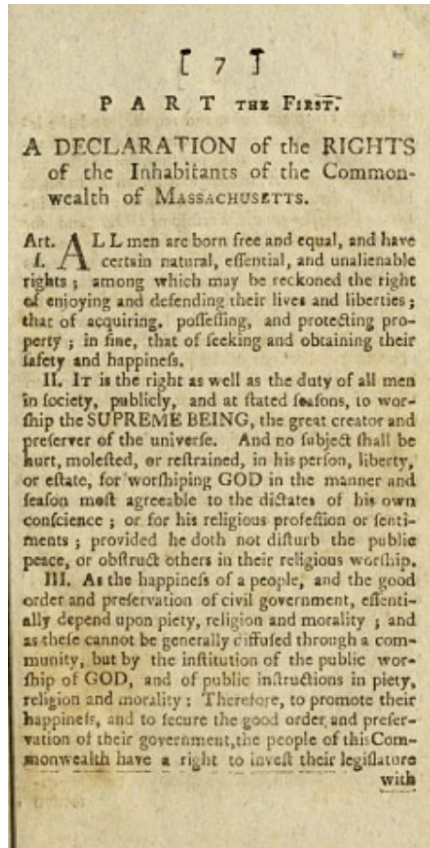
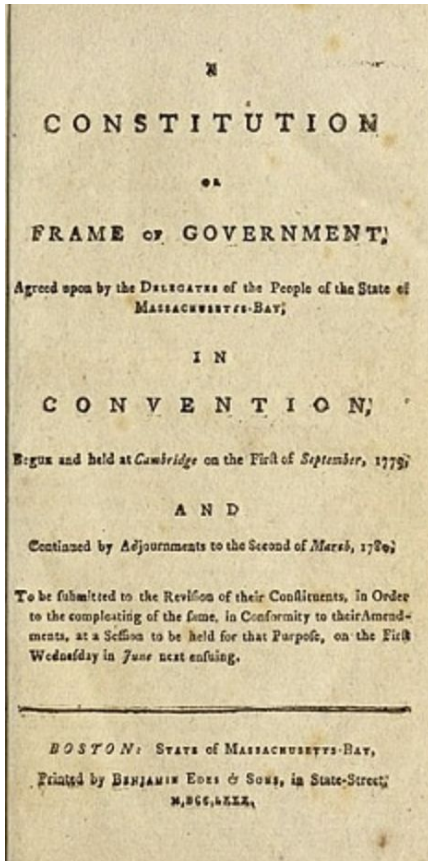


Representative
self-government

Constitution of Massachusetts (1780)

The end of the institution, maintenance, and administration of government is to secure the existence of the body-politic, to protect it, and to furnish the individuals who compose it with the power of enjoying, in safety and tranquillity, their natural rights and the blessings of life; and whenever these great objects are not obtained the people have a right to alter the government, and to take measures necessary for their safety, prosperity, and happiness.

Constitution of Massachusetts “Big Ideas”

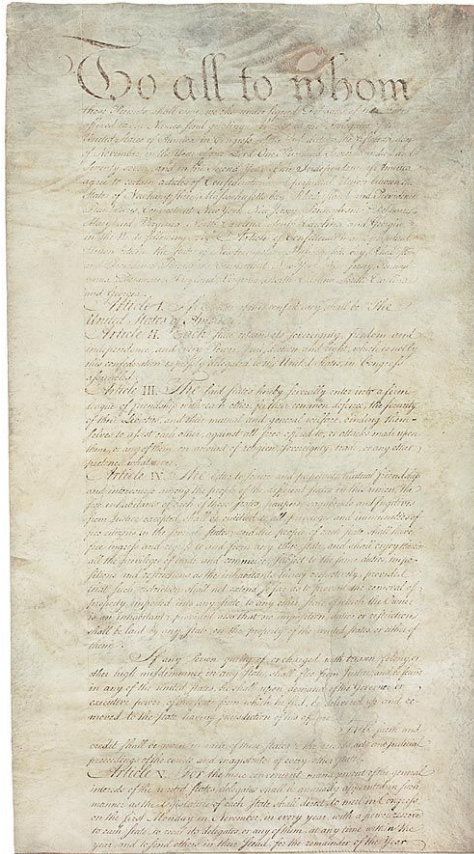


Limited government
Consent of the governed
Representative self-government
Right to life, liberty, and property
Separation of powers
Checks and balances

Articles of Confederation (1781)

The said states hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defence, the security of their Liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretence whatever. . . .

Articles of Confederation “Big Ideas”



Limited government
Consent of the governed
Self-government

Northwest Ordinance (1787)

No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land; and, should the public exigencies make it necessary, for the common preservation, to take any person's property, or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made for the same.

Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.

AN ORDINANCE for the GOVERNMENT of the TERRITORY of the UNITED STATES, North-West of the River OHIO.

[illegible][illegible]

For the prevention of crimes and injuries, the laws to be adopted or made shall have force in all parts of the district, and for the execution of process, criminal and civil, the governor shall make proper divisions thereof; and he shall proceed from time to time, as circumstances may require, to lay out the parts of the district in which the Indian titles shall have been extinguished, into counties and townships, subject, however, to such alterations as may thereafter be made by the

The general assembly, or legislature, shall consist of the governor, legislative council, and a house of representatives. The governor shall be elected by the people of the county or township for a term of four years, and may be re-elected. He shall have the power to remove or appoint, at will, any officer, clerk, or agent of the county or township, and to fill any vacancy in the office of any such officer, clerk, or agent. He shall also have the power to appoint, at will, any person to fill any vacancy in the office of any such officer, clerk, or agent, and to remove or appoint, at will, any person to fill any vacancy in the office of any such officer, clerk, or agent. He shall also have the power to appoint, at will, any person to fill any vacancy in the office of any such officer, clerk, or agent, and to remove or appoint, at will, any person to fill any vacancy in the office of any such officer, clerk, or agent.

property