

"No person shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property..." without justification.

-U.S. Constitution, 5th Amendment

The first ten amendments in our Constitution guarantee certain freedoms that include:

- Freedom of speech, the press, and religion
  - Right to petition the government and to bear arms
  - Prohibition of excessive bail or fines, or cruel and unusual punishments for crimes
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The U.S. Constitution created three branches of government. Each branch is given the power to check, or limit the power of the other two. The system of separation of powers and checks and balances keeps any one branch from getting too powerful.

-Articles I, II, and III of the U.S. Constitution

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**"WE THE PEOPLE** of the United States...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

-Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

"This Constitution and the laws of the United States ... shall be the supreme law of the land." All government officials "shall be bound by an oath to support this constitution."

-U.S. Constitution, Article VI

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On January 25, 2011, widespread pro-democracy demonstrations began in Egypt. For 18 days, hundreds of thousands of Egyptians took to the streets, demanding free elections, free speech, and an end to government corruption, police brutality, and President Hosni Mubarak's regime. Finally, on February 11, Mubarak resigned.

AND

"whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of (*your natural rights*), it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it..."

-from the *Declaration of Independence*

**Magna Carta and Limited Government  
(like Montesquieu's ideas)**

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**Mayflower Compact and  
Self-government/Rule of Law**

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**English Bill of Rights and  
Due Process/Natural Rights** (also inspired  
by John Locke's ideas)

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**Thomas Paine's Common Sense and Self-  
government/Natural Rights** (*Like John  
Locke, Paine was saying citizens have a right to  
overthrow a government that violates their  
natural rights.*)