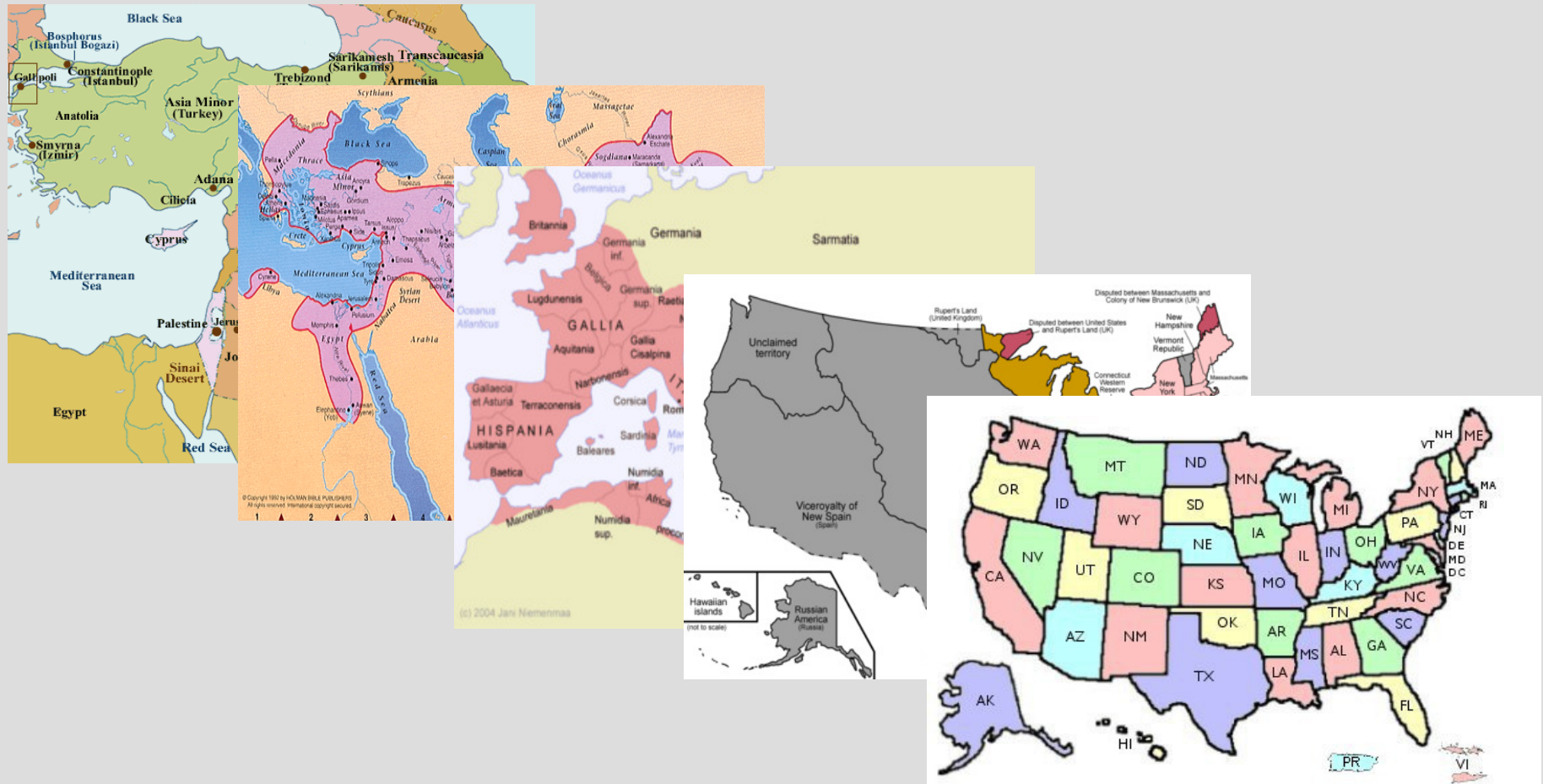


Introduction to Law

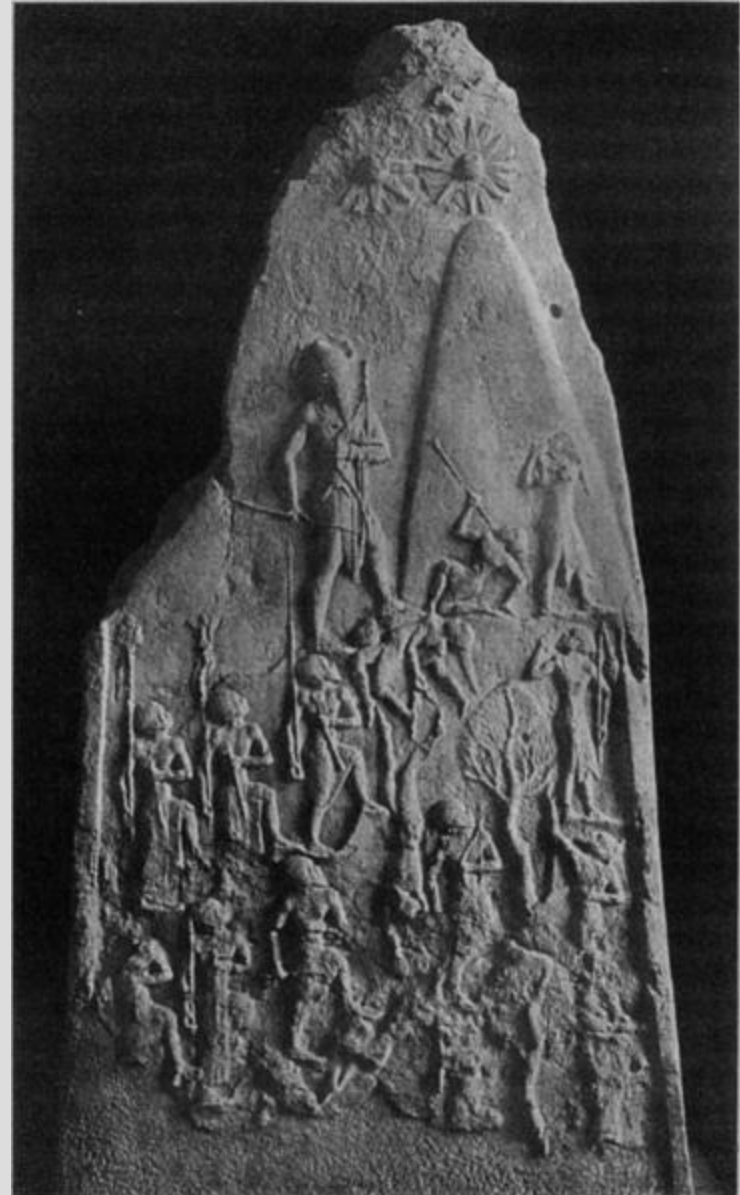
Chapter 1 Sec. 2 Notes

“The Evolution of Western Legal Theory”

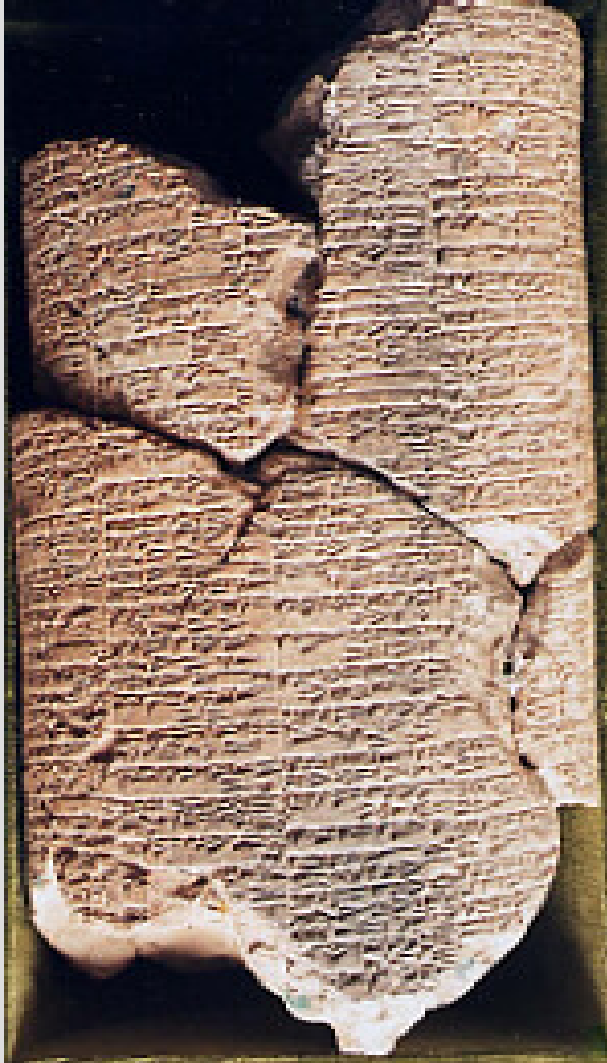


Urukagina's Code – 2350 B.C.

- Although a copy of this code has never been discovered, it is mentioned in other documents as a consolidation of existing “ordinances” or laws put in place by Mesopotamian kings
- This code was very harsh by modern standards and asserted the king was appointed by the gods
- Provides the first known example of governmental self-reform and limitations on the power of politicians



Ur-Nammu's Code – 2050 B.C.



- Earliest known legal code of which a copy has been found
- Provides evidence of an “advanced” legal system which included specialized judges, giving testimony under oath, and the ability of judges to order damages be paid to a victim by the guilty party
- Punishment proportionate to the crime

Hammurabi's Code – 1700 B.C.

- Babylonian king issued his rules of behavior that were then carved into a stone column
- An “eye for an eye” has come to symbolize the principle behind the code because of the barbaric punishments
- 282 clauses regulating a vast array of obligations, professions, and rights including commerce, slavery, marriage, theft, and debts



Ten Commandments – 1300 B.C.



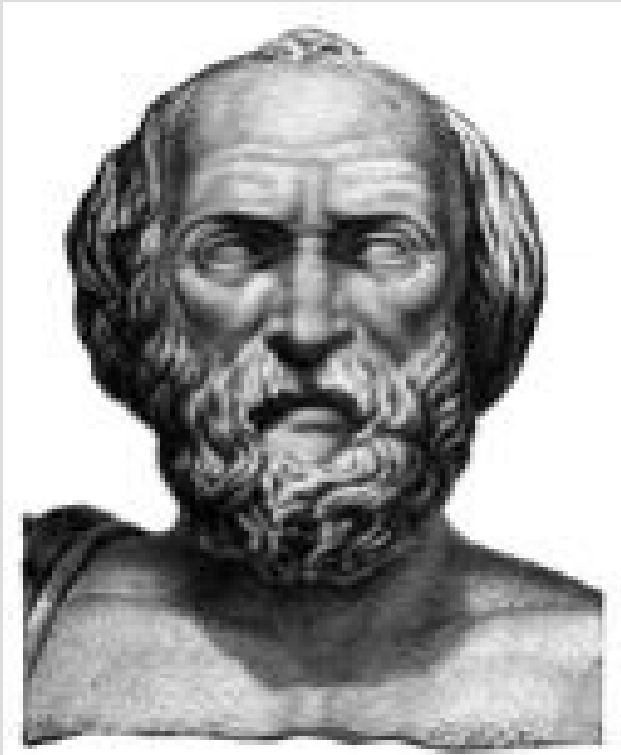
- According to the Bible, Hebrew law given directly to Moses by God
- Many of the Commandments continue in the form of modern laws
- Pentateuch (Mosaic Code) is the first five books of the Old Testament and the Talmud is the book of Jewish laws

Draco's Law – 621 B.C.

- The first written laws of Greece
- The term “draconian” comes from the writer of the Greek law and has come to mean “an unreasonably harsh law”
- Established the state's interest in punishing those accused of crimes
- Attempted to lessen the discrepancies between the upper and lower classes



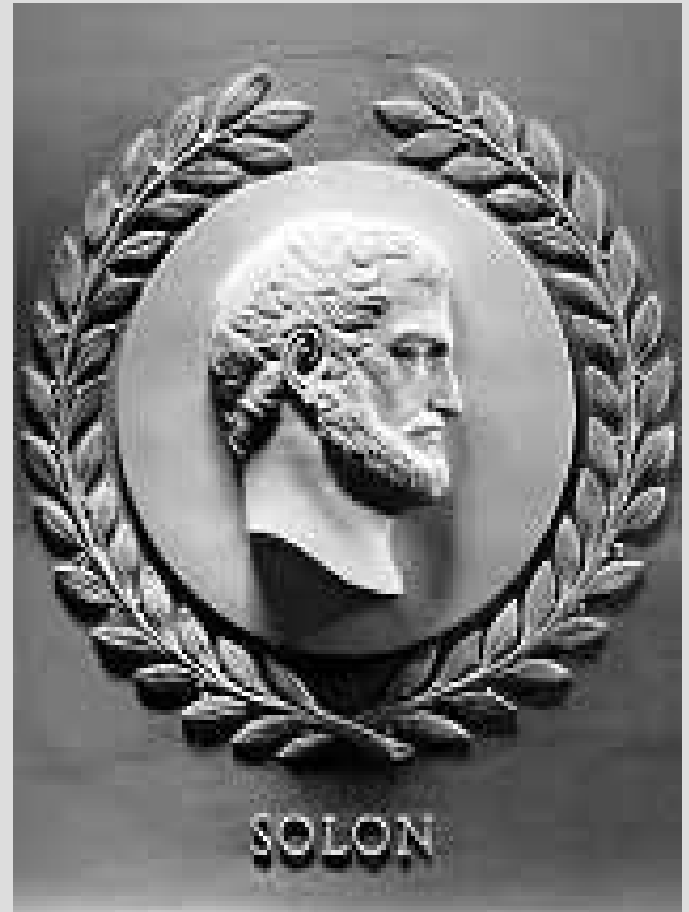
Lycergus' Law – 600 B.C.



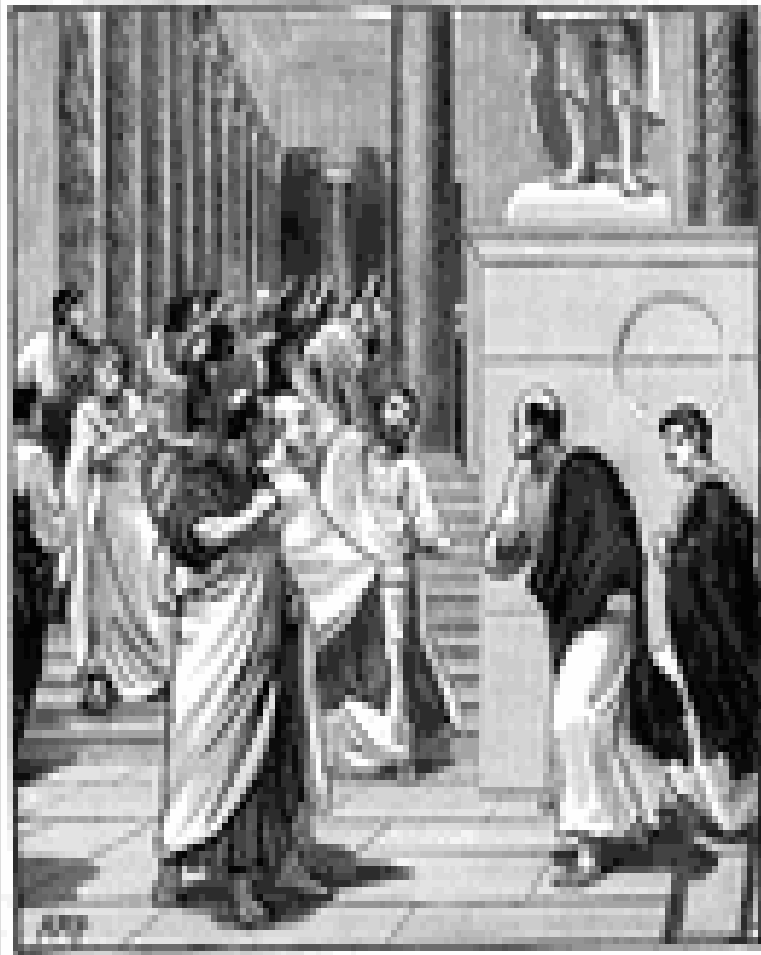
- This King of Sparta was a renowned lawgiver; his laws were never written, just transferred orally and designed to support the military vocation of Sparta
- These laws controlled nearly every aspect of life
- The greatest crime was to retreat in battle

Solon's Law – 550 B.C.

- An Athenian statesman and lawmaker, Solon further refined Draco's law and is credited with “democratizing” justice by making the courts more accessible to the citizens
- Removed many of the harsh punishments associated with Draco



The Twelve Tables – 450 B.C.



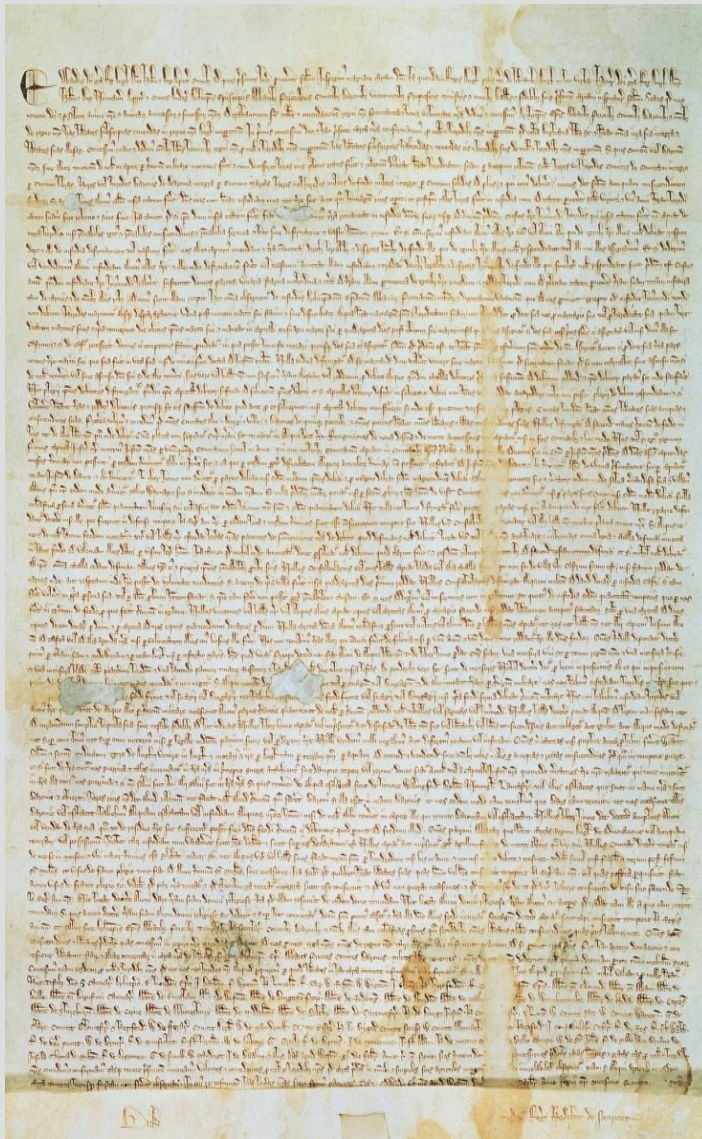
- Laws developed by a group of ten Roman leaders
- Considered to be the foundation of all modern legal systems
- Developed a system of public prosecutions and a system where parties could seek compensation for injuries
- The laws protected the lower classes from the legal abuses of the ruling class
- Established the principle that the laws had to be written and that justice cannot be left in the hands of judges alone to interpret

Justinian Code – 529 A.D.

- The Emperor of Byzantine is best remembered for his codification of Roman law in a series of books called Corpus Juris Civilis
- This collection served as an important basis of law in contemporary society, and was inspired by logic-based Greek principles
- Roman law formed the base of civil law, one of the two main legal systems to govern modern society in Western civilization (English common law is the other)



The Magna Carta - 1215



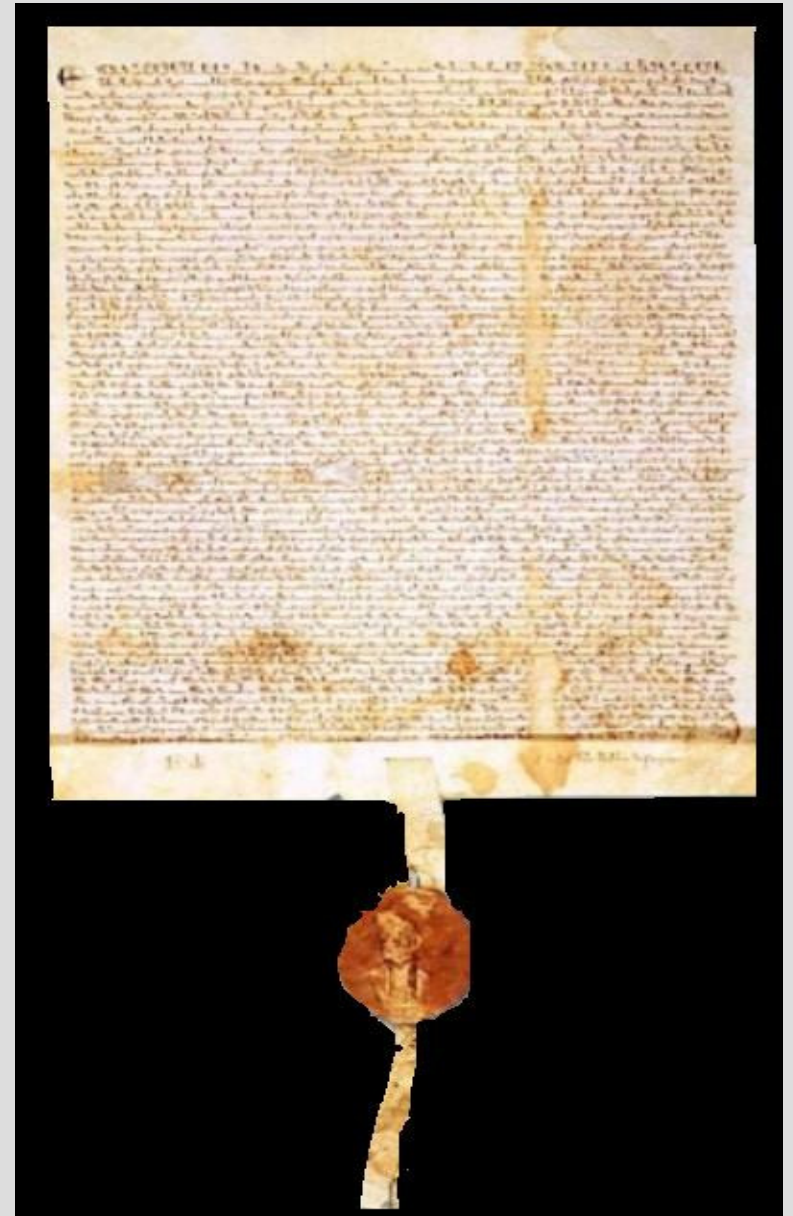
- Signed by King John of England after a threatened rebellion by the barons, this famous document provided judicial guarantees such as the freedom of the church, fair taxation, controls over imprisonment (habeas corpus)

- contained 61 clauses, the most important of which may have been # 39: "No freeman shall be captured or imprisoned ... except by lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land". It was the first time a king allowed that even he could be compelled to observe a law

- It has been called the “blueprint of English common law”

The English Bill of Rights - 1689

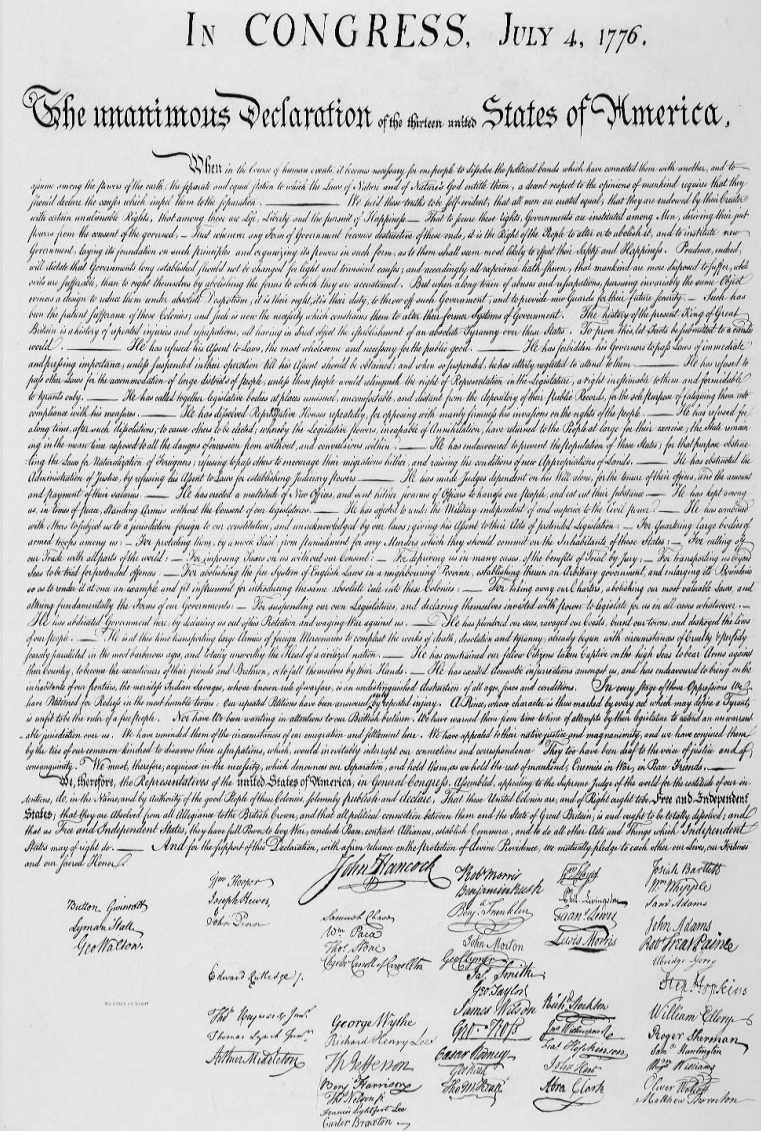
- A precursor to the American Bill of Rights
- Many ideas found in this document were transferred directly to the American Bill of Rights (Amendments I, II, III, VI, VII, VIII)



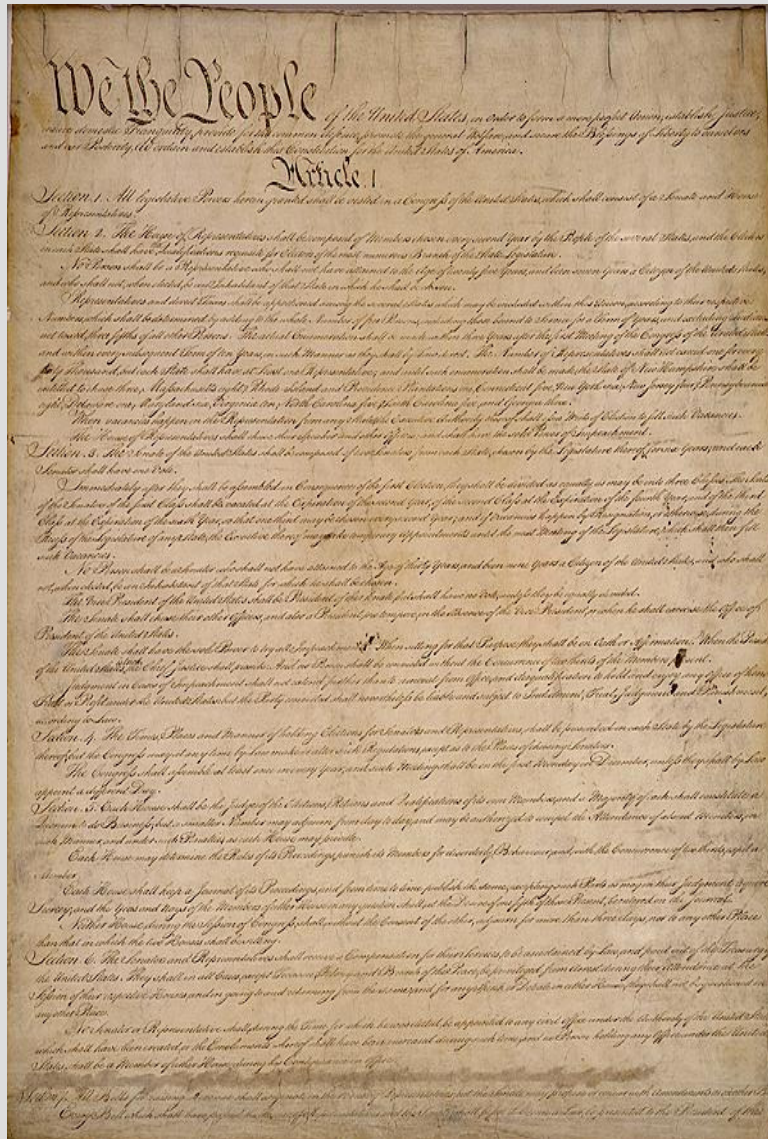
Blackstone Commentaries on Law - 1765



- British barrister who wrote a four-volume set explaining English law, making it accessible for the common man
- Through them, English law was readily imported to the British colonies and in fact it is said that Blackstone's Commentaries was the law in the American colonies for the first century of American independence



The United States Constitution - 1787



- Consists of seven articles and formed the basis of the first modern republican government in the world

- defined the institutions of government and the powers of each institution, carefully carving out the duties of the executive, legislative and judicial branches

- The Constitution also declared that it was paramount to any other law, whether federal or state, and it would override any other inconsistent law

- Has served as a model for the constitutions of many other democratic nations

The American Bill of Rights - 1791

- The first ten amendments to the United States Constitution
- guarantee citizens protection of certain civil liberties and personal freedoms against encroachment by the national government

