

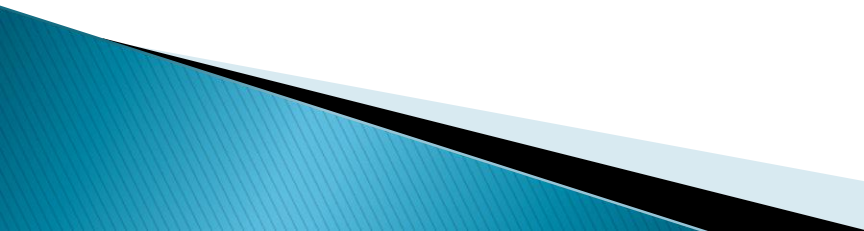
SALIENT FEATURES OF AMERICAN CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS

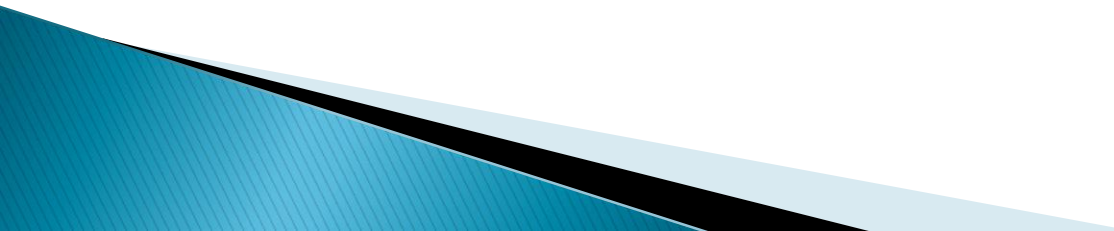


SALIENT FEATURE OF AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

- ▶ 1. Written and brief Constitution
- ▶ 2. Dynamic constitution
- ▶ 3. Popular Sovereignty
- ▶ 4. Supremacy of the constitution
- ▶ 5. Provision of Representative Democracy
- ▶ 6. Establishment of limited Government
- ▶ 7. Federal Polity



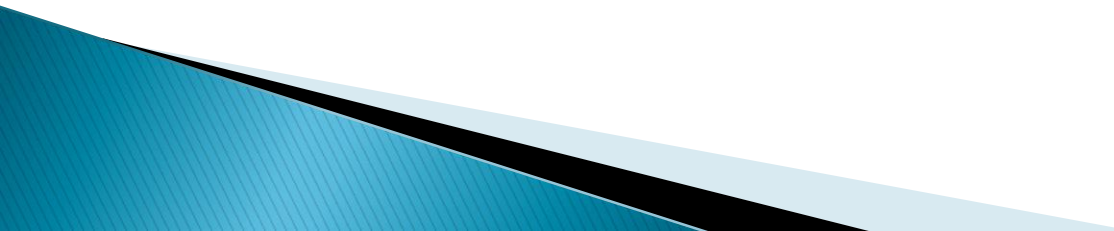
- ▶ 8. Rigid Constitution
 - ▶ 9. Presidential form of Government.
 - ▶ 10. Double Citizenship
 - ▶ 11. Separate Constitutions of the states
 - ▶ 12. Republican form of Government
 - ▶ 13. Separation of powers
 - ▶ 14. Doctrine of check and balance
 - ▶ 15. Bill of rights
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- ▶ 16. Judicial Supremacy
 - ▶ 17. Judicial Review
 - ▶ 18. Bi-cameral Legislature
 - ▶ 19. Conventions
 - ▶ 20. Bi-Party System
 - ▶ 21. Civil supremacy over Army
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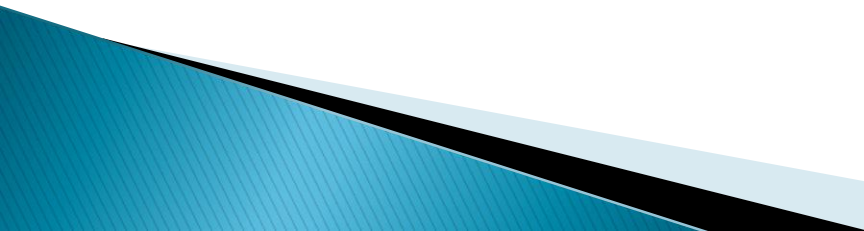
THE AMERICAN BILL OF RIGHTS

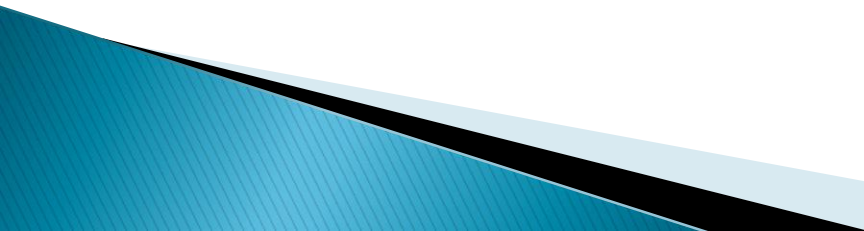


NATURE OF RIGHTS INCLUDED IN AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

- ▶ 1. Limited the powers of government
 - ▶ 2. Rights are not absolute
 - ▶ 3. Rights are Justiciable
 - ▶ 4. Rights are based on the principle of natural Rights
 - ▶ 5. Rights do not discriminate on the basis of sex
 - ▶ 6. Absence of Economic Rights
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RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

1. Right to Freedom
 - (i) Religious Freedom
 - (ii) Freedom of press and speech
 - (iii) Freedom to assemble Peacefully
 - (iv) Freedom to petition
 2. Right to keep Arms (under the 2nd amendment)
 3. Not to post soldiers in the Houses
 4. Prohibition on unreasonable Search and seizure
 5. Rights of Alleged Criminals- Under 6th, 7th and 8th amendments to the constitution, the alleged criminals have the following rights:-
 - (i) Government can not try, a person for big offence without the acceptance of the charges by the jury.
 - (ii) No one can punished twice for the same offence.
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- ▶ (iii) No one can be compelled to depose against himself.
 - ▶ (iv) No one can be deprived of his life, liberty or property without due process of law.
 - ▶ (v) The concerned criminal in criminal case can demand open trial by an impartial jury in the district in which the offence was committed.
 - ▶ (vi) The concerned criminal can arrange his defence through a competent counsel and can cross examine the prosecution witnesses.
 - ▶ (vi) It would be obligatory to inform the criminal of the charge leveled against him.
 - ▶ (vii) No criminal would be given excessive punishment or made to pay fine more than what is required nor will be made to furnish big bail bond.
 - ▶ (ix) The cases involving disputed amount exceeding 20 dollars would be tried by the jury.
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▶ 6. Right to property

▶ 7. Some other Rights:- It has been provided in the 9th amendment to that besides the rights incorporated in the constitution, a citizen can enjoy such other rights as he may consider necessary for his development.

The following amendments to the constitution made from time to time grant the following rights to the citizens:-

(i) 13th AMENDMENT:-Under 13th amendment made in 1865, dowry system has been declared illegal.

(ii) 14th AMENDMENT:- Made in 1868, Every one has been provided equal protection before law.

(iii) 15th AMENDMENT(1870):- Depriving a person of his right to vote on the basis of race, color or creed has been prohibited.

(iv) 19th AMENDMENT(1920):- Women were granted right to vote.

(v) 26th AMENDMENT(1970) :- Every American Citizen on attaining the age

▶ Of 18 years has been given the right to vote without any discrimination.

References

- ▶ *Allen M. Potter, “American Government and Politics” Faber and Faber, 1978*
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- K. R . Bombwall, “Major contemporary constitutional system” Sterllings publishers,1980