

**Teaching American History**  
**A More Perfect Union**  
**The Origins and Development of the United States Constitution**

**Book List: Year One**  
**Pre-Seminar Background Reading**  
**January to June 2008**

**Required**

Adair, Douglas. *Fame and the Founding Fathers*. The Liberty Fund, 1974. p. 3-36; pp.152-199.

Amar, Akhil Reed. *America's Constitution: A Biography*. Random House, 2006. pp. 5-98.

Berkin, Carol. *A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution*. Harcourt, 2002. Entire book.

Berkin, Carol. *Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence*. Vintage Books, 2006. Introduction, Chapters One, Three, Four.

Kammen, Michael, ed. *The Origins of the American Constitution: A Documentary History*. Penguin Books, 1986. pp. 53-122.

Staloff, Darren. *Hamilton, Adams, Jefferson: The Politics of Enlightenment and the American Founding*. Hill and Wang, 2005. pp. 1-131.

Wood, Gordon. *The American Revolution: A History*. Modern Library, 2002. pp. 65-176.

**Optional**

R. B. Bernstein. *Thomas Jefferson*. Oxford University Press, 2003.

Gibson, Alan. *Interpreting the Founding: Guide to the Enduring Debates over the Origins And Foundations of the American Republic*. University Press of Kansas, 2006.

Kurland, Philip and Lerner, Ralph. *The Founders' Constitution, Volume 1, Major Themes*. Liberty Fund, 1987.

Maier, Pauline. *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence*. Vintage Books, 1997.

Patrick, John, J. *Understanding Democracy: A Hip Pocket Guide*. Oxford University Press, 2006.

The Center for Civic Education. *We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution*.

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