

**United States Constitution**  
**Preamble excerpt**

**Committee of Detail Report in the  
Federal Convention, August 1787**

This is a transcription of excerpts from the Committee of  
Detail Report in the Federal Convention, August 1787, prior  
to revisions.

**Committee of Style Report in the  
Federal Convention, September 1787**

This is a transcription of excerpts from the Committee of Style  
Report in the Federal Convention, August 1787, including  
emendations in the hand of George Washington at the  
Convention.

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“We the People of the States  
of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-  
Island and Providence Plantations,  
Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey,  
Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland,  
Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina,  
and Georgia, do ordain, declare and  
establish the following Constitution for the  
Government of Ourselves and our  
Posterity.”

“We, the People of the United States,  
in order to form a more perfect union. . . .”

## United States Constitution Executive Branch excerpts

### Committee of Detail Report, August 1787

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Article X, Section 1. “The Executive Power of the United States shall be vested in a single person. His style shall be, “The President of the United States of America;” and his title shall be, “His Excellency.” He shall be elected by joint-ballot by the Legislature to which election a majority of the votes of the members present shall be required. He shall hold his office during the term of seven years; but shall not be elected a second time.”

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Article II. Sect. 1. “The executive power shall be vested in a president of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the vice-president, chosen for the same term, be elected as follows:

Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in Congress: . . . The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves.”

**United States Constitution  
War Powers excerpts**

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Article VII, Section 1 "All debts contracted and engagements entered into by, or under the authority of Congress shall be valid against the United States under this Constitution as under the Confederation. The Legislature of the United States shall have the power to . . .

To declare war;

To raise and support armies;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces

To make laws for organising, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States—reserving to the States, respectively the appointment of the Officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by the United States.

To establish uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies.

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Article I, Section 8 "The Congress shall have power . . .

To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water.

To raise and support armies: but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years.

To provide and maintain a navy.

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

**United States Constitution**  
**War Powers excerpts (continued)**

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To provide for calling forth the militia, in order to execute the laws of the Union, enforce treaties, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions; . . ."

Article X, Section 2 "[The executive] shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States"

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To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions."

Article II, Section 2 "The president shall be commander in chief of the army and navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several States when called into the actual service of the United States: . . ."

## United States Constitution Representation excerpts

### Committee of Detail Report, August 1787

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Article III "The legislative power shall be vested in a Congress to consist of two separate and distinct bodies of men, a House of Representatives and a Senate; The legislature shall meet at least once in every year; and that meeting shall be on the final Monday in December, unless a different day shall be appointed by law.

Article IV Sect. 1. The Members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen every second year, by the people of the several States comprehended within this Union.

Sect. 4. . . .the Legislature shall, in each of these cases, regulate the number of representatives by the number of inhabitants, according to provisions [rate for direct taxation] herein made at the [not exceeding the] rate of one for every forty thousand. [Provided that every state shall have at least one representative.]

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Article I "Sect. 1. ALL legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Sect. 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, . . .

Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons.

**United States Constitution  
Representation excerpts (continued)**

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Article V Sect. 1. The Senate of the United States shall be chosen by the Legislatures of the several States. Each Legislature shall chuse two members. Vacancies happening by refusals to accept resignations, or allowance, may be supplied by the Legislature of the State in the representation of which such vacancies shall happen, or by the Executive thereof until the next meeting of the Legislature. Each member shall have one vote."

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Sect. 3 The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof, for six years: and each senator shall have one vote."

**United States Constitution**  
**Taxation excerpts**

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Article VII "Sect. 3. The proportion of direct taxation shall be regulated by the whole number of white and other free citizens and inhabitants, of every age, sex and condition, including those bound to servitude for a term of years, and three fifths of all other persons not comprehended in the foregoing description, (except Indians not paying taxes) which number shall, within three years after the first meeting of the Legislature, and within the term of every ten years afterwards, be taken in such manner as the said Legislature shall direct.

Sect. 4. No tax or duty shall be laid by the Legislature on articles exported from any State;

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Article I, Section 2. "Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a number of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons.

Section 8. The Congress shall have the power To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises; to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States: but all duties, imports, and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

**United States Constitution**  
**Taxation excerpts (continued)**

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The migration or importation of such persons as the several States , now existing, shall think proper to admit shall not be prohibited by the Legislature prior to the year 1808.— but a tax or duty may be imported on such importation not exceeding Ten dollars for each Person.

Sect. 5. No capitation tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census herein before directed to be taken."

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Section 9. The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

No capitation tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumerations herein before directed to be taken.  
No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the Port of one State over those of another, nor shall vessels bound to or from one State be obliged to enter clear, or pay duties in another.

No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state."