

## Forward

This book was written for readers who hated history in high school. They were bored silly having to memorize the dates of dead kings and old battles none of which were relevant to their own lives. They were right in their ennui. George Santayana once wrote in his book, *The Life of Reason*, that "Those who forget history are condemned to repeat it." History teachers who forget this important maxim are doing their students a serious disservice by making their lessons a dull recitation of data irrelevant to current problems. This book attempts to address this issue by bringing the lessons of history into the writing of our Constitution.

This document is an amazing piece of literature. Nothing like it had ever been written in the history of mankind. It's an original *par excellence*. Hammurabi had his laws of behavior. The Jews have Torah. The English have their Magna Carta. All of them were great advances in legal thinking and what civilized living is all about. But none of them encapsulate in a few words how an entire nation can conduct every daily affair of a nation. Yet, it does, and its success has been imitated elsewhere. This story tells how this miracle came to be part of the world's existence.

My mother once told of an experience she had as a university freshman taking a world history course. The professor stood behind his desk, raised the textbook, looked at it, and then dropped it from his hand. He then said, "Remember this, students. More history has been made between the bedsheets than around any conference table." In 1925, these were shocking words for young people just emerging from the Victorian age of repressed behavior. Yet, they are as true today as they were then.

History is a story of people. Some are wise; some are fools. Together they make a broth of swirling ideas and actions that result in comedy, tragedy, and triumph. This has been true of our Constitution. Ancient Jewish kings, Turkish Sultans, English rulers, philosophers, common farmers, and merchants... all cast their legacies into the soup that eventually resulted in our unique Constitution. Steeping this brew was a slow process extending over millennia but what a dish has been served unto the world. We will study many of these cooks to see how they have influenced us to this day.

History is also a messy investigation. It is not the linear procession of uninterrupted progress that is presented in most textbooks. Success is not preordained with kings marching forth into assured battle. Progress lurches forward one step and two backwards then regains to move three steps forward. This image will be seen throughout the narrative in this history. Be patient because it reflects the relevant reality of life.

Readers will notice how this text is heavily cited for sources with bibliographies following each chapter. Furthermore, the material being cited is mostly derived from public internet sources such as Wikipedia. This has been a deliberate choice on my part. The story of this history covers a lot of material without going into a lot of detail about any particular subject. When readers find something of significant interest to them, they will easily find a plethora of citations that will lead them into the details they wish to explore. Wikipedia will be a godsend for students just diving into their studies and I have exploited it as much as possible.

As with all histories, I am indebted to several people whose contributions here must be acknowledged. The first is Dr. Ricardo Lasso. He was a Panamanian attorney who had a personal experience with dictator that no one could imagine. As he was advocating for human liberties there, he received a call from a Manuel Noriega. It was not a pleasant conversation. Rather, Dr. Lasso was succinctly told that his throat would be slit from ear to ear upon their next arrival. He and his family left their home to become political vagabonds until they reached the United States where they are now living. He now spends his time writing histories and poetry about his love of democracy. His books can be found on Amazon.com. Following him is Rabbi Yaacov Benamou who taught the story of Torah's law to me. It's a complex system with both written and oral traditions, but it has worked for thousands of years. From it came ideas for our Constitution. Next is Coln Clarke. He is an Irishman who is a born teacher of his country's

tragedies and emigrations to new lands in hopes of finding lives filled with peace and prosperity. The story of these immigrants here is a metaphor for all those who came penniless but rich in dreams. Following Coln are two Black men who are personal heroes: Paul Thurston and Mike Kegler. They tell of lives filled with fear, hatred, and despair but who have persevered through personal oppression from the bigotry that sadly exists in this nation. I hang my head in humble honor in their presence. Finally, Native Americans, Indians, who saw their lives and cultures destroyed in the blink of an eye after millennia of living in the American continents. Theirs is story of gigantic Greek tragedy between two peoples with views of life that were incompatible. As did Hector of Troy, the Indians turned to face their opponents and do something of importance in protection of their way of life. May they find eventually find harmony and peace. Finally, my long-time editor, Karen Gardner, to whom I owe a multitude of thanks for her patience, keen eye for poor writing, and ideas for improvement. This book could not have been written without you.

As with all things, I am indebted to these contributors to this story, but the ideas presented here are mine and all errors are mine. They ask for forgiveness.

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