

AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION

A PRAYER LESSON

We wanted to celebrate our nation's birthday by sharing the three Founding Documents: The Declaration of Independence; The Constitution and The Bill of Rights. Originally, the Constitution had Ten Amendments. We have added another seventeen, so we have a total of 27 Amendments that have now been added to our Constitution. On The Feature Article Tab you will be able to read the Declaration of Independence and an article from December 2022, that will help you realize our nation is in trouble from socialism. On the Intercession Tab you can read the original Constitution without the Bill of Rights and two chapters of the book, "70 Years of American Captivity: The Polity of God, The Birth of a Nation and The Betrayal of Government."

Few of our citizens realize that our Founding Documents are compacts and that compacts are covenants grouped together as governing documents. These compacts are agreements between people, and groups of people or institutions. Our covenants have a direct connection to church governing documents. The nature of a covenant originated from God Himself through the Jewish people. I'm going to be facetious here, but is it possible cavemen groups came in agreement as groups and you could say they were making a covenant? Of course you could, but was it written as a governing document? Nobody knows. There are many other agreements between early mankind that have been documented as covenants.

What we have as proof for our nation is through the Bible as God making a covenant through Abraham, even before the nation of Israel was formed. The Muslims claim Abraham as their own. If they decide to restore the Abrahamic covenant, God will honor it if integrity is the goal. While I'm talking about other people groups, Christopher Columbus was quite a religious man. First, let's read the Bill of Rights, or the first Ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

The U.S. Bill of Rights¹

Note: The following text is a transcription of the first ten amendments to the Constitution in their original form. These amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the "Bill of Rights."

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

¹ This copy is from the National Archives. Here is the link: < <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript> >

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.²

Christopher Columbus and Prayer

There are quite a few authorities who will disagree with the statement I'm about to make, but there are quite a few experts who will agree with it: Our nation was started by a church relocation program. While that might be a bit simplistic, it is truth. You will have to read the "70 Year of American Captivity" book to get the rest of the story. Let me share a chapter from Section Three, Chapter One: "Historical Facts." Reprinted with Permission:

Section Three

Historical Facts

Chapter

O N E

² Note: The capitalization and punctuation in this version is from the enrolled original of the Joint Resolution of Congress proposing the [Bill of Rights](#), which is on permanent display in the [Rotunda of the National Archives Building](#), Washington, D.C.

WITH AN EYE TOWARD COVENANT (FOR ALL WHO CHOOSE TO READ)

“Getting back to our church relocation program, I really did try to do an ‘archaeological dig’ of history by using those researchers who did as much balanced work as I could find. I started by counting ships landing in North America proper and the United States mainland specifically. I also counted expeditions, especially coming up from South America.¹ I searched for as consolidated a timeline as possible concerning the history of events in this land from about 1500-1850.² As I continued the dig, I realized “dirt and brushes” are not something I have a passion for. That’s because I started to realize with the exception of St. Augustine in Florida during the 1500s, none of these ships or expeditions produced lasting colonies which affected or made their way into our current laws or government structure until the 1600s. For sure you had native cultures in North America, but none of them produced a lasting governmental or religious effect. I am not saying there are no vestiges of them here today. Instead, that they produced no foundational pathway to government except in the laws molding specific covenants made with them by the latter Federal authorities. Those authorities had already been formed by then. In fact, today’s compacts with various Indian tribes are a direct result of those early covenants.

Of the more modern expeditions (1500 through 1850), most were religious and some had elements of religion attached to them. There seem to have been a few whose desire was economic only and solely. It seems the Spanish were more involved with that practice than the French or the English. While little archeological evidence exists of them, most recently a site in northwestern North Carolina has been excavated within those parameters. The garrison was built by Captain Juan Pardo and was settled around 1567. It was inhabited for only two years and, like others of its kind, produced no lasting results in foundational governing structure.³ I was surprised to find an attitude in academia within some

circles of ignoring a religious attachment to any of our founding expeditions. To me it would be important to be mentioned as history. This would give a more comprehensive overview of who these folks were.

An example of this would be Columbus' 1492 expedition. In fact, Christopher Columbus was so religious he is quoted writing about the how and why of his voyage: "I found our Lord well-disposed toward my heart's desire,Who doubts that this illumination was from the Holy Spirit? He, with marvelous rays of light, consoled me through the holy and sacred Scriptures, a strong and clear testimony encouraging me to proceed and continually without ceasing for a moment, they inflame me with a sense of great urgency."⁴ I read many modern voices who said Columbus kept his first voyage secular in nature because there were no clergy on the three ships. The standard for the definition of secular seems to be the lack of clergy. I tend to disagree. That's because they did keep what they called daily vesper services.⁵ These are nightly prayer meetings. My thought is if they kept nightly prayer meetings, why would you say they were strictly secular? By any standard a nightly prayer meeting is not secular. We never hear about Columbus' faith. His faith might seem remote to some now, but it was the overriding reason he undertook his voyages: He believed God was sending him on a mission.

I would like to debunk some other myths I have read and heard over the years. The crown of Spain did not take forever to sign Columbus up for the journey because they were afraid to mess with the church over the flat-earth myth. First of all, the crown of Spain had just taken areas back from Muslim domination and they were still struggling militarily and financially. They didn't have the money to waste. The Muslims had blocked a safe way to the East and Africa. In an effort to basically kill two birds with one stone (promote the Catholic Gospel of Jesus Christ and get the goods they needed in a cheaper and safer way), the monarchy agreed to support Columbus' voyage. Oh, and the flat-earth myth? It was promoted by two atheist authors of great influence in the

late 1800s in an effort to shame and cause hatred for the church (Andrew Dickson White and John William Draper). That myth had been around for many decades before they put it in print. They, as well as many before them, ignored documented medieval scholars of the time such as Venerable Bede, Roger Bacon and Thomas Aquinas, who built on the ancient Greek's knowledge of the earth's circumference by debating the size of the oceans and the earth's mass.⁶

The scholarly and educated within the church and outside the church believed in the concept of "Orbis Terrarum." This meant water made up most of the **GLOBE** with small land masses spread out around it.⁷ They understood the word globe meant *round*, not flat! What the church tried to keep quiet was the thought of large people groups who had not been evangelized. They wanted to boast that the church at Rome had reached the entire world with the Gospel, thus hastening Jesus' Second Coming. Remember what I said about kids with loaded guns? Columbus ran into a similar problem as Galileo will after him: jealousy and power struggles. The church was only a player in those struggles along with many other courtiers and financiers of the time.

The flat-earth myth doesn't show up in text books pre-1870s. It was Earth, NOT as-the-center-of-the-Universe (Copernican theory), which gave the ignorant of the clergy ulcers. The scholars of Columbus' time knew full well the earth was round. Finding other continents with masses of people groups was one target for heresy. For me, this "flat-earth" myth is proof of the sad fact hatred or disrespect for the thoughtful ideas of others, even when we disagree with them, produces stunted discoveries in research. Of course, even Columbus thought he landed in Japan and Malaysia. Discovery through research is a process. We don't always "arrive" immediately to the truth. By the third journey, he knew something was wrong with his theories and figured he hit the Garden of Eden!

Other explorers were coming upon this new land and finally, in 1507, a German monk by the name of Peter Martyr had his theory published

which suggested another continent existed between Europe and Asia.⁸ Over time, this sent the church into the reality they could evangelize more souls. Hence, with many an expedition, especially from Spain and France, monks and other clergy were sent to evangelize the natives. Even if treasure was the real goal, there was no dividing line between church and state for the goal of evangelization and treasure— both equally greedy for their own desires— both equally stated as the reason for the voyage.

Saints, scoundrels and many others came to these shores leaving behind great stories of adventure. Many made lasting claims on the memorial stones placed in their memory. For me there are countless stories to tell, but I had to restrict them to what made a lasting effect on our structural systems in the form of covenant. One could argue the colonization by the Spanish of the states we now know as Florida, Texas, New Mexico and California contributed mightily to our nation. I would agree. The Spanish left a lasting effect on the nation, especially through the promotion of Catholicism. We very often forget— or worse, are never told— that the first two Thanksgiving meals held in this country were not held by the Protestant New Englanders but by the Catholics in St. Augustine, Florida in 1565, and in Texas in 1568.⁹ We call Native Americans “Indians” because many at the time thought Columbus had landed in the lands loosely termed *indies*. Of course, the Catholic French as well as the Protestant English left many customs and traditions behind for all of us as well.

Unfortunately though, reading the colonization period can be like reading a book of fiction written by a serial killer! So many murdered over settlements by the natives, the Spanish, the French and the English. By the way, believers and non-believers alike! In the mayhem of colonizing the continent so much can be lost by the bloody conquests, grants, land purchases and other dizzying history, both of religious customs and non-religious stories about the people, their countries of origin and the leaders who governed them.¹⁰ Until the empire building by

the countries of England, France and Spain dies down during the late 1800s, you really might miss the flavor and the lasting structural mores anchoring what was by then a vibrant and mostly civil society (compared to what it had been before).

I know some might say by searching religious structural foundations that I miss the sound of crashing waves onshore for a single molecular structure of H₂O. I thought so at first too. But it was that single droplet of water which turned into millions of them which produced the sound on the beach. That's what got my attention. If you will hold on for those two hydrogen and one oxygen molecule, I will prove the framework of this book as well as the nation.

For those waves, history seemed quite emphatic to me. There seemed to be only three colonies with original intent to colonize which were successful in making an effect on the structural framework of the nation. Those effects made their way through charters, compacts, state constitutions and eventually our three-part Federal documents, which our Federal Constitution is a part of. Surely, many principles influenced laws later. We will look at them as well, specifically when they built upon the original work. Any school child could tell you the names of the three: Jamestown in 1607; Plymouth Colony in 1620 and Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630. The last colony having much more in number of colonists and resources than the other two. While many dislike the fact the New England Protestants get the bulk of the credit for founding our nation, there are reasons why they get that credit. Their work was lasting and foundational. With these three, the formation of self-rule government, charters, compacts, towns and cities were made. This is the basic framework for what we see today.

Because of our autonomy from a crown, we don't always realize what impact various monarchies had on our original laws. From the time of the late 1400s to Jamestown's first self-governing assembly in 1619, none of what went on was done without one of the three countries monarchy's say-so (Spain, France and England). Generally, the custom

was to give the explorer or emissary a stake in the land or some other decision-making rule for governing. The monarchs, especially in England, did their best to control what, over time, was becoming an unruly continent. In varying degrees they were able to do that until the Revolutionary War. Spain and England played a game of football with Florida at the Treaty of Paris in 1763, turning it over to England; and then, in the Treaty of 1783, it was turned back over to Spain. France finally gave up Louisiana in 1803. The ‘football game’ stopped when the United States purchased Florida from Spain in 1819 and it was surrendered in 1821.

So you can see, to draw a sweet line in the sand and say it all went down on this date and we all had the same mindset and voila!— It HAPPENED— is just not how history played out. Those “drops of water” I talked about before became the idea for freedom. These played out over time, and became the sound of waves crashing on our shores. Those ideas of freedom, like pennies from heaven, are what we will travel through history to look at.

ENDNOTES

- 1 <<http://www.packrat-pro-com/ships/shiplist.htm>> © 1996-2015 Sharry Anne Stevens Packrat Productions. Accessed 2/25/16.
- 2 <<http://wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/timefram.html>> © 2015 Washington State University; timeline pages authored, written & updated by Donna M. Campbell, Ph.D., 1997-2012; accessed 2/25/16.
- 3 <<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2013/07/27/medieval-spanish-gold-hunters-fort-found-in-north-carolina/>> accessed 3/17/16
- 4 Christopher Columbus. “Book of Prophecies,” Fols. 5 revs., 4; There are several sites that quote this. Text can be found at this site by scrolling down and clicking on the link to the aforementioned book <<http://www.christianheritagemins.org/articles/>> There are several good history sites that take into account the recent evidence found concerning Columbus. One of the least religious but accurate is <http://history-world.org/christopher_columbus.htm> accessed 3/17/16
- 5 <http://www.christianchronicler.com/history1/colonization_of.html> site articles written by Michael Hines; accessed 2/25/16

- 6 <<http://www.eagleforum.org/educate/columbus/columbus.shtml>> “The myth about Christopher Columbus,” by Phyllis Schlafly; accessed 3/21/16.
- 7 <http://www.christianchronicler.com/history1/colonization_of.html> site articles written by Michael Hines; accessed 2/25/16
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 <http://www.traditioninaction.org/History/B_024_Augustine.html> © 2002-2016. Tradition in Action, Inc.; article by Marian T. Horvat, Ph.D., accessed 2/25/16.
- 10 <<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/revolutionary-war/colonies/original-thirteen-colonies.htm>> © 2003-2014 Son of the South; accessed 2/15/16. Much of the history on this site is repeated elsewhere. I use it because of the ease of consolidation. Sites are overflowing with northern as well as middle colonial “flavor.” Even with those that mention southern colonies, Virginia usually dominates their discussion— and for good reason. This site’s example of representing the southern colonies and history from that vantage point, presents more balance in reporting the history in general.”