

We the People . . . Rarely Agree



September 17, Constitution Day, commemorates the 1787 signing of the Constitution. Ever since its creation, the Constitution has provoked patriotic passion and heated debate. Match the quotes below to the historical figure whose view of the Constitution they reveal.

1. "Our Constitution is so simple and practical that it is possible always to meet extraordinary needs by changes in emphasis and arrangement without loss of essential form."

- Herbert Hoover
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Woodrow Wilson
- Abraham Lincoln

2. "In examining the Constitution of the United States, which is the most perfect federal constitution that ever existed, one is startled, on the other hand, at the variety of information and the excellence of discretion which it presupposes in the people whom it is meant to govern."

- Pierre-Etienne Du Ponceau
- Benjamin Franklin
- Alexis de Tocqueville
- Marquis de Lafayette

3. "A sacred compact, forsooth! We pronounce it the most bloody and heaven-daring arrangement ever made by men for the continuance and protection of a system of the most atrocious villainy ever exhibited on earth."

- William Lloyd Garrison
- Frederick Douglass
- John Murray Spear
- Lydia Maria Child

4. "The Constitution was founded on the law of gravitation. The government was to exist and move by virtue of the efficacy of 'checks and balances.' The trouble with the theory is that government is not a machine, but a living thing."

- Woodrow Wilson
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Theodore Roosevelt
- Lyndon B. Johnson

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