Prologue

September 1951

Library of Congress Ceremony

- 5 -

The right to trial by jury,

the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure,

the right of habeas corpus,

the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment,

the guarantees of freedom of the press,

freedom of assembly and freedom of religion --

all these were basic concepts in the days of our Revolution.

They were concepts for which men had worked

and even given up their lives for centuries.

But they had never been made the foundation stones

of a government until they were put in the

Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution;

and its first ten amendments --

the Bill of Rights --

which are just as fundamental a part of our basic law

as the original version of the Constitution

that we are sealing up here today.

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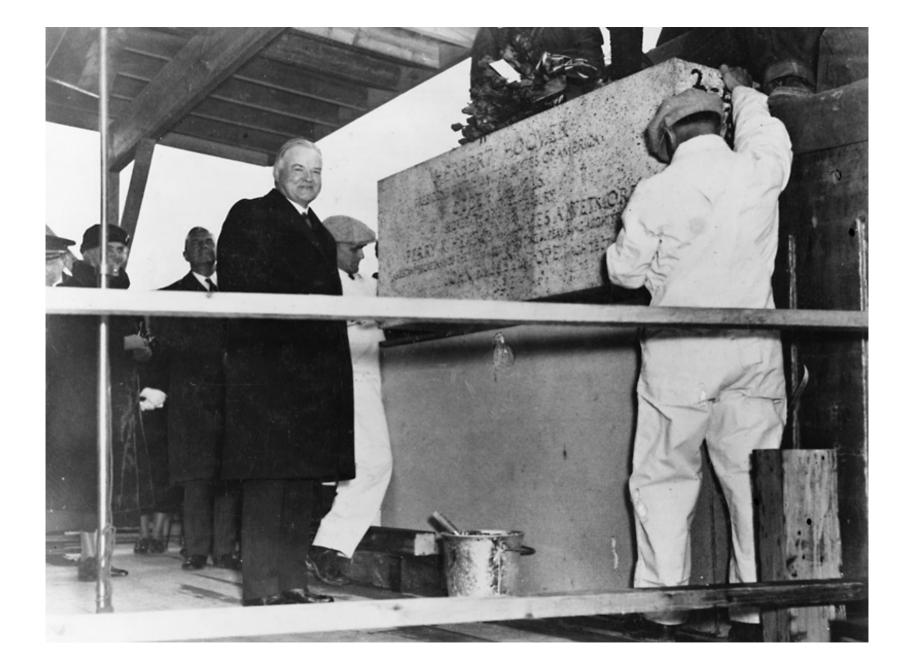
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History and Context Declaration of Independence Constitution Bill of Rights

How and When Were They Created?

Where Have They Been?

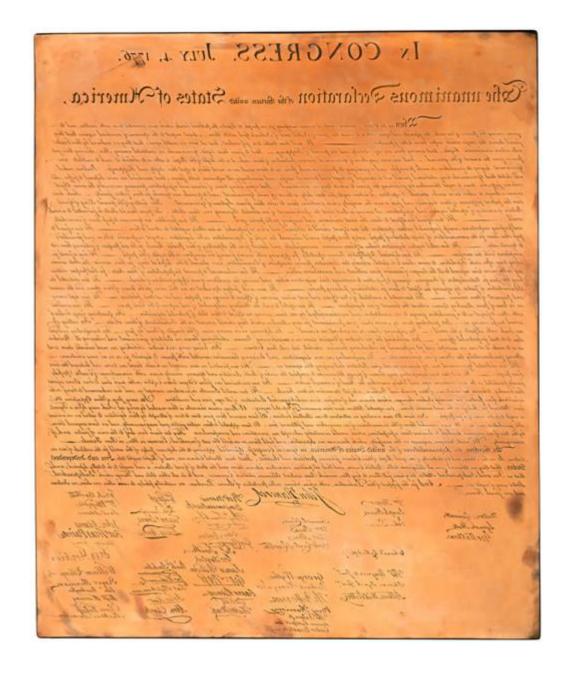
How Did They Become the Charters of Freedom?

Declaration of Independence

1776 – 1789 Continental Congress Confederation Congress

1789 – 1921 State Department

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IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

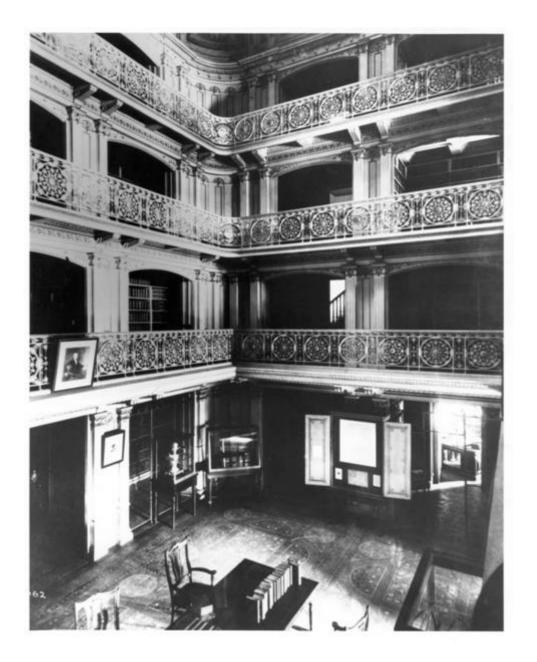
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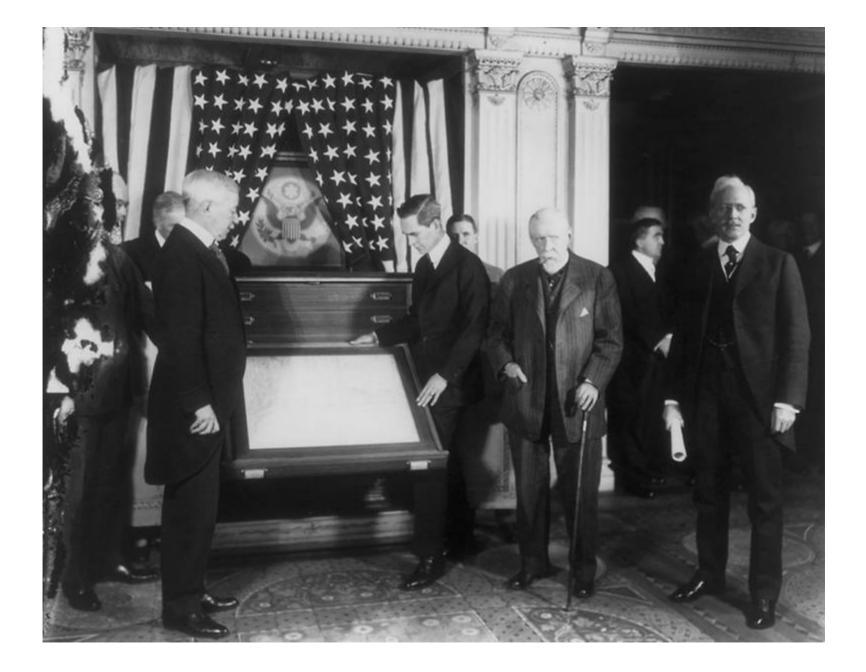


Constitution

1789 – 1921

State Department





Bill of Rights

1789 – 1938 State Department

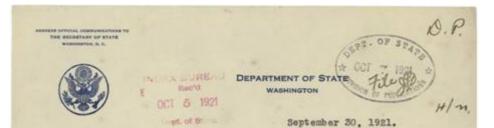
1938 – 1952 National Archives

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Declaration of Independence and Constitution at the Library of Congress 1921 - 1952





I have today received from the Secretary of State the original Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States, transferred to the custody of the Library of Congress by the President's Order of September 29, 1921.

Thebran

Librarian of Congress.

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The Plot and The Transfer

1951 - 1952



