

with this country. There is no resulting broad principle, however, that the Fourth Amendment constrains federal officials wherever and against whomever they act.

The Interest Protected.—For the Fourth Amendment to apply to a particular set of facts, there must be a “search” and a “seizure,” occurring typically in a criminal case, with a subsequent attempt to use judicially what was seized.³³ Whether there was a search and seizure within the meaning of the Amendment, and whether a complainant’s interests were constitutionally infringed, will often turn upon consideration of his interest and whether it was officially abused. What does the Amendment protect? Under the common law, there was no doubt. In *Entick v. Carrington*,³⁴ Lord Camden wrote: “The great end for which men entered in society was to secure their property. That right is preserved sacred and incommunicable in all instances where it has not been taken away or abridged by some public law for the good of the whole. . . . By the laws of England, every invasion of private property, be it ever so minute, is a trespass. No man can set foot upon my ground without my license but he is liable to an action though the damage be nothing” Protection of property interests as the basis of the Fourth Amendment found easy acceptance in the Supreme Court³⁵ and that acceptance controlled the decision in numerous cases.³⁶ For example, in *Olmstead v. United States*,³⁷ one of the two premises underlying the holding that wiretapping was not covered by the Amendment was that there had been no actual physical invasion of the defendant’s premises;

³³ See, e.g., *California v. Hodari D.*, 499 U.S. 621, 626 (1991) (because there was no “seizure” of the defendant as he fled from police before being tackled, the drugs that he abandoned in flight could not be excluded as the fruits of an unreasonable seizure).

³⁴ 19 Howell’s State Trials 1029, 1035, 95 Eng. Reg. 807, 817–18 (1765).

³⁵ *Boyd v. United States*, 116 U.S. 616, 627 (1886); *Adams v. New York*, 192 U.S. 585, 598 (1904).

³⁶ Thus, the rule that “mere evidence” could not be seized but rather only the fruits of crime, its instrumentalities, or contraband, turned upon the question of the right of the public to possess the materials or the police power to make possession by the possessor unlawful. *Gouled v. United States*, 255 U.S. 298 (1921), overruled by *Warden v. Hayden*, 387 U.S. 294 (1967). See also *Davis v. United States*, 328 U.S. 582 (1946). Standing to contest unlawful searches and seizures was based upon property interests, *United States v. Jeffers*, 342 U.S. 48 (1951); *Jones v. United States*, 362 U.S. 257 (1960), as well as decision upon the validity of a consent to search. *Chapman v. United States*, 365 U.S. 610 (1961); *Stoner v. California*, 376 U.S. 483 (1964); *Frazier v. Culp*, 394 U.S. 731, 740 (1969).

³⁷ 277 U.S. 438 (1928). See also *Goldman v. United States*, 316 U.S. 129 (1942) (detectaphone placed against wall of adjoining room; no search and seizure).