# **CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

J. Alexander Branham Fall 2016

# **INTRODUCTION**

Civil Liberties

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# CIVIL LIBERTIES

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  - · Constitutional amendments, lawmaking
- The president to a lesser extent

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- Not originally included in Constitution because Hamilton & others thought it irrelevant

· Originally applied only to the federal government (dual citizenship)

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- The 14th amendment (post Civil War) provides for a single national citizenship, but the Court doesn't start to expand protections provided by the Bill of Rights to the states until late 1800s, but especially the 1930s & 60s

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- · Wall of separation?

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- · Difference in practice and action

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- · Some controversy about whether spending money on campaigns is speech

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- · Hugely protected (no censorship unless extraordinary circumstances)
- · May publish secret documents that were given to them illegally<sup>1</sup>

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 $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$  Freedom of assembly and freedom to petition

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- Flag burning

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- Peaceful demonstration (in public areas)

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- The right to bear arms
- Recently applied to the states<sup>2</sup>

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· Protection against unreasonable searches and seizures (4th amendment)

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- Protection against self-incrimination (5th)
  - Miranda rights<sup>3</sup>

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• Right to counsel (6th)<sup>4</sup>

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- Right to counsel (6th)<sup>4</sup>
- Protection against cruel and unusual punishments (8th)

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• Banned by the Supreme Court in 1972 for being applied in a capricious manner, reinstated in 1976

State	Total executions	2015	2016 (to date)
TX	532	13	6
OK	112	1	0
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FL	92	2	1
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- 1976 2015 the U.S. executed 1,422 people<sup>5</sup>

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Arguments for?

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- · Should we use it?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Roe v. Wade

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

Has been used to justify:

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  - · Birth control
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  - Homosexuality
  - · Death

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# CIVIL RIGHTS

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- Civil liberties are what government can't do, civil rights are oftentimes obligations that government must meet

# **CIVIL RIGHTS**

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  - Equal all people who enjoy a right have an equal ability or opportunity to practice that right

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- Black people especially target

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... nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

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- 1920 Women vote

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  - Registration list purges

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  - · Segregation no longer allowed under the law, but remains prevalent anyway

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- · Monday Sep 4th 1957 Elizabeth Eckford attempts to go to school



 September 24th - President Eisenhower sends the Army to Little Rock and federalizes the AK National Guard · April - Letter from a Birmingham Jail

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  - · LBJ asserts strong support for civil rights legislation

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- King assassinated 1968 in Memphis

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