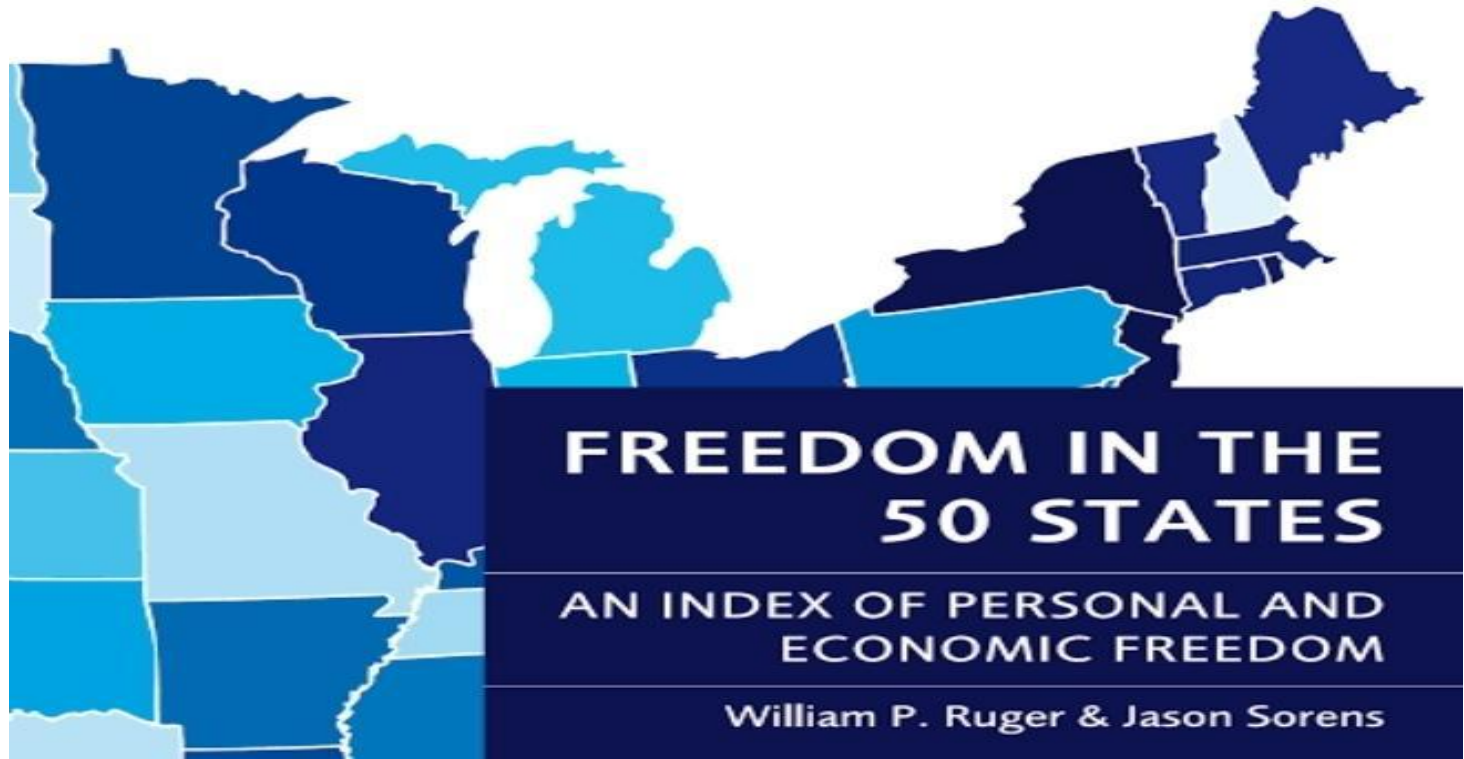


Comparison: USA v UK

Separation of Church and State



State freedom



Right to bear arms



The Head of the State



Codified v Uncodified

The US Constitution

Advantages

- Defines people's liberties
- Safeguard against tyrannical government
- Public can access and understand easier.

Disadvantages

- Hard to agree on
- Inflexible (hard to change)
- Too much power to judges (new interpretations)

The UK Constitution

Advantages

- Flexible - easily changed (no amendment process)
- Modern - constantly evolving
- Democracies can function without codified e.g. UK, NZ, Israel

Disadvantages

- Dangerous govt can exploit it
- Hard for public to understand
- Allows civil liberties to be overridden

Key Differences between UK and US Constitutions

	UK	USA
How it came about	Evolution over hundreds of years	Revolution- American wars of independence
System of govt. philosophy	Parliamentary system conservative- tradition	Presidential system liberal – limited government
Type of constitution	Uncodified Statue law, common law, conventions, treaties	Codified
principles	Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentary sovereignty • Unitary state • Rule of law 	Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation of power • Checks and balances • federalism
change	Flexible- easy to adapt and change (Scottish Parliament created by UK Parliament in 1997)	Inflexible- hard to amend (process of amendment is very difficult)
Role and power of the judiciary	Judiciary- no judicial review so laws cannot be overturned	Judiciary has power of judicial review and can overturn laws Power of Supreme Court Abortion, civil rights, death penalty etc
rights	Rights not guaranteed (Human Right Act 1999)	Rights guaranteed (Bill of Rights)
supremacy	Parliament supreme	Constitution is supreme