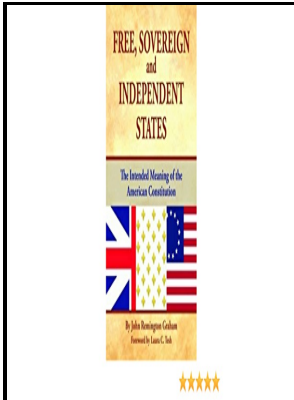


# Free, sovereign, and independent states - the intended meaning of the American Constitution

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## 50 Free, Sovereign, and Independent Nations—And a Singular Political

Historically, the federal idea referred to a compact between sovereign and independent states. But if this were the case, how could nine States ratify a new Constitution while four States remained part of another Union in clear violation of the language of the Articles of Confederation. What part of the world was first called America? States may not enter into a treaty with a foreign nation; that power is given to the president, with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Senate present.

### First Amendment

Although this phrase originally was intended to outlaw certain gruesome methods of punishments—such as torture, burning at the stake, or crucifixion—it has been broadened over the years to protect against punishments that are grossly disproportionate to meaning much too harsh for the particular crime. For example, as initially interpreted, the Eleventh Amendment did not bar suits against states when a matter of federal law was at issue nor did it prevent suits brought against a state by its own citizens.

## Free, Sovereign, and Independent States: The Intended Meaning of the American Constitution by John Grahaam

It was also politically risky. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The division of government sovereignty introduced into American politics an element of ambiguity beyond that which naturally exists in political life.

### First Amendment

The 10 amendments to the Constitution adopted by Congress and ratified by the states in 1791 were intended as a bill of rights limiting the power of the federal government. Jefferson himself authored the Kentucky Resolutions of 1798, a clear indication that he believed as much. In this context, federalism can be defined as a system of government in which powers are divided among two levels of government of equal status.

## **Amendment II. BEARING ARMS**

In the end, the Federalists yielded to the notorious three-fifths formula for calculating the representation of southern slave populations in Congress, in exchange for a provision ending the importation of slaves by 1808. Whereas the Democratic Republicans followed Virginians Jefferson and Madison in envisioning America as a vast confederacy of plantations and farms, American nationalists recognized that the might of the new nation would be determined by its capabilities in manufacturing and commerce. To this, Hamilton replied that the Constitution authorized any activity that was needed to attain the purposes for which government was established, so long as they were not explicitly unconstitutional or immoral.

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The Supreme Court has final say on matters of federal law that come before it.

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By contrast, the genuinely aristocratic Jefferson walked to his inauguration with the Virginia militia, established the order of pell-mell at leisurely functions in the White House, and sent his messages unostentatiously to Congress in writing rather than appearing in person. The Senate would consist of two Senators from each state, chosen by the state legislature. The Constitution: Federal Republicanism Based on Divided Sovereignty  
Instability in the state governments and the impossibility of amending the Articles of Confederation persuaded Congress to approve a proposal for a convention to be held in Philadelphia in 1787.

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