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# American Constitutional History: A Brief Introduction

*Jack Fruchtman*

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## AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

### A Brief Introduction

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**Jack Fruchtman : American Constitutional History: A Brief Introduction** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Constitutional History: A Brief Introduction:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A very good start in understanding the US Constitution By Walter W. Olson, Ph.D, P.E. This is a very good book for gaining an introduction into what the US Constitution means. The author has provided a very balanced look at how the document has been interpreted and changed since its inception. If I was to draw any conclusions, it is this: the United States Constitution is not the same document drafted by its founders during the Summer of 1787. But rather it is the document and its implied interpretations by the all of the United States

Supreme Court Justices that served the United States. Thus, to say that the original document must be interpreted according to the words written either by the sense of the original authors, if that can be determined, or by the current meanings is inherently a false proposition: the Supreme Court Justices have not, despite their best efforts, done this. Even the late Justice Scalia, who is held as a model Originalist, said, in 2014 in *Utility Regulatory Group v. The Environmental Protection Agency*, "we must do our best, bearing in mind the fundamental canon of statutory construction that the words of a statute must be read in their context and with a view to their place in the overall statutory scheme. [quoted from page 254, *American Constitutional History: a Brief Introduction* by James Fruchtman.] Thus no simple reading and understanding of the words of the United States Constitution as amended will provide its meaning and validity. The US Constitution has been violated in almost every way from the original document by the President, the Congress and the States with many of those violations continue to this day. The violations exist and will continue to exist into the future because they are unchallenged by people with standing in the appropriate courts. Mr. Fruchtman provides a concise and understandable history for a casual reader interested in the fundamental governing document of the United States. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. but with enough depth and detail that even those with a good understanding of the Constitution will find it interesting. By R. Taylor Concise and written for the lay person, but with enough depth and detail that even those with a good understanding of the Constitution will find it interesting. It provides a lot of context not just regarding the text of the Constitution itself, but the Supreme Court's history of interpreting and re-interpreting the Constitution in ways which were not always consistent with one another.

*American Constitutional History* presents a concise introduction to the constitutional developments that have taken place over the past 225 years, treating trends from history, law, and political science. Presents readers with a brief and accessible introduction to more than two centuries of U.S. constitutional history Explores constitutional history chronologically, breaking U.S. history into five distinct periods Reveals the full sweep of constitutional changes through a focus on issues relating to economic developments, civil rights and civil liberties, and executive power Reflects the evolution of constitutional changes all the way up to the conclusion of the June 2015 Supreme Court term

'First, the book is in a format that is readable. Second, the topics the book covers are arranged in such a manner that the reader gains insights into the historical developments that impacted the Constitution's evolution. And third, many students majoring in American politics focus on the legislative and executive branches, ignoring in large measure the critical role the judiciary had and has in American politics. This book fills that void and should be read by all students interested in a deeper understanding of American politics.' - M. DeRosa, Florida Atlantic University in CHOICE March 2017 From the Back Cover How is it that the U.S. Constitution has managed to endure and adapt through more than two centuries of sweeping changes in American history? *American Constitutional History* presents a concise introduction to the numerous constitutional developments that have taken place over the past 225 years. Focusing primarily on constitutional changes related to economic developments, individual rights, and executive power, chapters cover both formal revisions made through constitutional amendments, and informal yet equally critical changes resulting from Supreme Court decisions, executive actions by U.S. Presidents, and laws implemented by Congress. Readers will gain a thorough grasp of America's most treasured document as it has evolved through five distinct stages of U.S. history: the New Republic, the Slave Republic, the Free-Market Republic, the Social Welfare Republic, and the Contemporary Republic. The text is enhanced by brief chapter overviews of historic timeframes along with discussions of additional constitutional amendments. Reflecting the most up-to-date Supreme Court decisions at the close of the June 2015 term, *American Constitutional History* offers illuminating insights into the origins and evolution of the longest lasting written constitution in world history. About the Author Jack Fruchtman is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Program in Law and American Civilization at Towson University, Maryland. His most recent books include *The Political Philosophy of Thomas Paine* (2009) and *The Supreme Court: Rulings on American Government and Society* (2nd Edition, 2014).