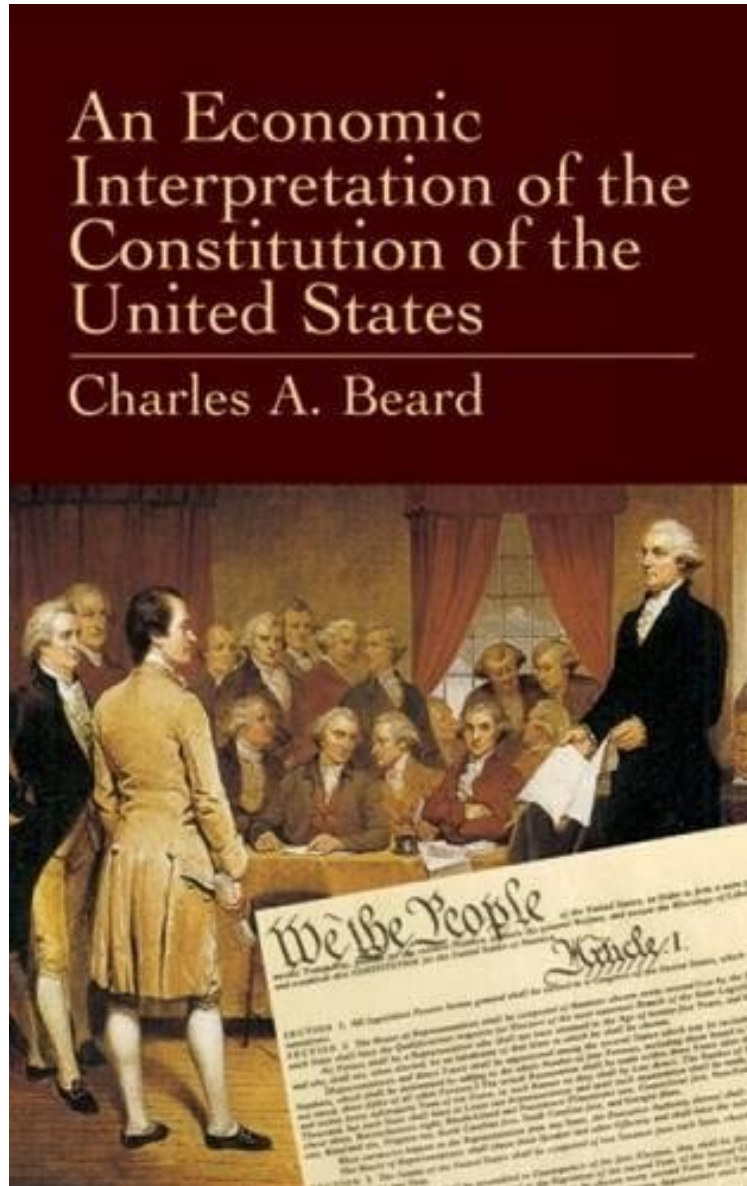


(Download ebook) An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States

# An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States

Charles A. Beard

ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#78021 in Books Charles A Beard 2004-05-20 2004-05-20 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.56 x .68 x 5.421, .80 #File Name: 048643365X336 pages An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States | File size: 73.Mb

**Charles A. Beard : An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Poor quality Kindle edition  
By DK  
The book itself is an intriguing look at the Constitution as well as the early 20th century view of the body politic. It's a shame that the Kindle edition reviewed here was such a poor copy. Do not go Kindle with this one. People buying a paper-back copy had a much easier time reading the material and understanding the footnotes. Something lost in the Kindle edition which placed the footnotes in the same size font and without line break to distinguish this information from the text. An important, controversial work of economic history - an important addition to any historian's library. Just not this edition.  
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is an excellent book to consider if you desire to have a ...  
By T. Donoghue  
This is an excellent book to consider if you desire to have a greater knowledge of the details of the members, at least those who were allowed to participate, at the Continental Congress. All of the information is cited and well presented. It is also extremely topical today as the debates still rage over what the Founding Fathers truly intended for our Republic. Many Conservatives and Libertarians mistakenly reference this book as the reason for the dominance of free market economics in our politics but the book clearly refutes that premise and instead clearly presents the historical reality of how special interests, as described by Mr. Beard as the holders of scripts, or debt as we now call it, and their efforts suppress the will and efforts of the free holders, or the subsistence farmers, of any real influence at the Convention and the individual state elections to ratify the proposed Constitution. It is also a well established fact that these very same men wanted to shape an English style parliamentary style government here in the colonies, that would prevent any sudden or rapid changes ignited by the people to occur. Fast forward to today and if you care about our country, no matter what your political beliefs or delusions are, you should read this book and hopefully experience a reality check. As Mark Twain once said 146 years ago "These lobbyists are called our invisible government in Washington, with headquarters on Wall Street. The rich corporations have to be shielded and protected in the Congress, and this requires vast sums of money to keep their political party in power. And they understand that the members of Congress did not get elected to serve their country for nothing. There are a lot of poor people in the Congress, every Congress, and they need looking after. They're an expensive lot." It painfully clearly that frame work of this system occurred at the inception of our country, a frame work driven by self interests. It is also clear that the US Constitution is not written to only benefit the rich and powerful but it is how they, the special interests, interpreted it and ultimately manipulate us, the electorate, to accept. As much now as back then we must all stand for liberty and justice if we are truly to reach a more perfect union, but we must not accept that the needs of few never outweigh the needs of the many. Or consider this. John Adams once said this 'I have come to the conclusion that one useless man is a disgrace, that two become a lawfirm, and that three or more become a congress.'  
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Right, wrong or disputable, "Economic Interpretation of the Constitution" is a key work  
By Charlie Aukerman  
When I was in college, Beard's classic "An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution" was on the required reading list for a bachelor's degree in political science. It is still a classic work, but some of its arguments have been disputed by later prominent historians. Beard looked at everything through the lens of economics. When this work was published, it was a new way of looking at American history, and somewhat debunked the idea that the Founding Fathers were altruistic in their work on the Constitution. Regardless of whether you accept Beard's view, or that of later historians, this book provides a way of looking at the Founding that will forever influence you.

In this famous study, the author turned the hagiography of many earlier American historians on its head. Unlike those writers, who had stressed idealistic impulses as factors determining the structure of the American government, Beard questioned the Founding Fathers' motivations in drafting the Constitution and viewed the results as a product of economic self-interest. Brimming with human interest, insights, and information every student of American history will prize, this volume one of the most controversial books of its time continues to prompt new perceptions of the supreme law of the land. "A staple for history and economics collections." *Library Journal*. "Replete with human interest and compact with information of importance to every student of American history or of political science." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

From *Library Journal*  
In this 1913 volume, Beard, the founder of the New School for Social Research, contends that the Founding Fathers included a clear strategy for Colonial economics in the writing of the Constitution. A staple for history and economics collections. (Classic Returns, LJ 11/1/98) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
"Here again is the original constitutional skeptic to remind Americans that our republic's authors had not only intellects but interests. Charles Beard set out to jolt his contemporaries out of their pious admiration of the constitution's framers. His economic interpretation remains a lively, surprisingly humorous and sharp-witted analysis of the nation's beginnings. Reading it today, the book aims a keen and pointed thrust at the originalism of our own age." (Professor Eric Rauchway, University of California Davis Department of History)  
"One hundred years after it first appeared, Charles Beard's *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution* still commands our attention as a classic of historical scholarship -- not because every view Beard put forward has stood the test of time but because the questions he raised about the intersections of economic and political power are just as relevant today as when he wrote." (Professor Eric Foner, Columbia University Department of History)  
"This is the book that started us all on the

journey to understanding the complex motives and conflicting interests that shaped our constitution. 100 years after its publication, it still has the power to excite and exasperate, to stir fierce debate and to inspire new interpretations." (Carol Berkin, Presidential Professor of History, Emerita, Baruch College The Graduate Center, CUNY) About the Author Louis Filler (1911-1998) was a Fulbright fellow at the University of Bristol and taught as a visiting professor in literature and history departments from the City University of New York to the University of California, San Francisco. His books include the classic *Muckrakers*, best-selling *Crusade Against Slavery*, *Dictionary of American Social Reform*, *Unknown, Edwin Markham*, *Dictionary of American Conservatism*, *Vanguards and Followers*, *Distinguished Shades: Americans Whose Lives Live On*, and *Abolition and Social Justice in the Era of Reform*, among many others, as well as biographies of Randolph Bourne and David Graham Phillips. Charles A. Beard (1874-1948) is regarded as one of the most influential American historians in the first half of the twentieth century. He is famous for his evaluation of the founding fathers of the United States, who he believed were motivated by economics as opposed to philosophical principles. Some of his works include *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States*, *Economic Origins of Jeffersonian Democracy*, and *The Administration and Politics of Tokyo*.