

Source Materials for Presidential 1776 Award

Selected by the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation

Pre-Colonial Era (5th Century B.C.E.-16th Century)

- Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War* (trans. Strassler), “Funeral Oration of Pericles” (Book II) (5th Century B.C.E.)
- Polybius, *The Histories* (trans. Waterfield), Book Six, Chs. 3-18 (3rd Century C.E.)
- Magna Carta (1215)
- “Brutus,” in *Constitutionalism and Resistance in the Sixteenth Century* (ed. J. H. Franklin), “*Vindiciae contra Tyrannos*” (1579)

Colonial Era (17th - mid 18th Century)

- Virginia Articles, Laws, and Orders (1610-1611)
- Mayflower Compact (1620)
- Petition of Right (1628)
- Charles I, “Propositions Made by Both Houses of Parliament with His Majesties Answer Thereunto” (1642)
- John Winthrop, “Little Speech on Liberty” (1645)
- The Agreement of the People (January 15, 1648/49)
- [English] Bill of Rights (1689)
- John Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*, Chapter VIII: “Of the Beginning of Political Societies;” Chapter IX: “Of the Ends of Political Society and Government;” (1690)
- Baron de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws* (trans. Allen): Book II: Chapters 1-2; Book III: Chapters 1-3 (1748); Book XI, Chapter 6 (1748)
- Jonathan Mayhew, “A Discourse concerning Unlimited Submission” (1750)
- James Otis, “The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved” (1763)
- John Adams, “Braintree Instructions” (1765)

Revolutionary Era (1768-1787)

- John Dickinson, “Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania” Letters V and IX (1768)
- Abraham, a Mohawk sachem, Address to Representatives from Congress (August 28, 1775)
- Phillis Wheatley, “His Excellency George Washington” (1775)
- Rev. Samuel West, “On the Right to Rebel against Governors” (1776)
- Rev. John Witherspoon, “Dominion of Providence over the Passions of Men” (May 17,

1776)

- Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (1776)
- Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776)
- Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776, Declaration of Rights (1776)
- Articles of Confederation (1777)
- Massachusetts Constitution of 1780, Part I, A Declaration of Rights (1780)
- George Washington, Circular Letter to the States (1783)
- George Washington's Newburgh Address (1783)
- George Washington's Farewell Address to the Army (1783)
- Treaty of Paris (1783)

Great Battles, Soldiers, and Sailors of the American Revolution (1775-1783)

Battles

- Battle of Bunker Hill (1775)
- Battle of Valcour Island (1776)
- Battle of Princeton (1777)
- Battle of Saratoga (1777)
- Battle of Brandywine Creek (1777)
- Battle of Monmouth (1778)
- Battle of Flamborough Head (1779)
- Battle of King's Mountain (1780)
- Battle of Charleston (1780)
- Battle of Yorktown (1781)

Biographies

- Crispus Attucks
- George Washington
- Henry Knox
- Margaret Corbin
- John Paul Jones
- John Barry
- Friedrich Wilhelm August Heinrich Ferdinand Baron de Steuben
- Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette
- Benedict Arnold
- Francis Marion

The Critical Period (1784-1789)

- Alexander Hamilton, “Letters from Phocion” (1784)
- James Madison, ‘Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments’ (1785)
- Thomas Jefferson, “Virginia Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom” (1786)
- Speech of the United Indian Nations, at their Confederate Council (1786)
- Address of the Annapolis Convention (1786)
- James Madison, “Vices of the Political System of the United States” (1787).
- James Madison, *Notes of Debates in the Philadelphia Convention of 1787*, May 25 – June 19; August 6-August 17.
- James Madison, *Notes of Debates in the Philadelphia Convention of 1787*, Speeches and vote on Bill of Rights, (September 12, 1787)
- U.S. Constitution, Articles I-VII, (1787)
- “Publius,” *The Federalist Nos. 1, 9-10, 23, 37, 49, 51, 52-60, 70, 78, and 84* (1787-1788)
- [Anti-Federalist] “Brutus,” Letters I, V (1787)
- [Anti-Federalist] “Centinel,” Letter I (1787)
- [Anti-Federalist] “The Federal Farmer,” Letter III (1787)
- Mercy Otis Warren, *Observations on the New Constitution, and on the Federal and State Conventions by a Columbian Patriot* (1788)
- James Madison, in *Annals of Congress*, Speech in U.S. House of Representatives, 1st Cong., 1st sess., secs. 448-59 (June 8, 1789)
- U.S. Constitution, Articles I-VII (1789)
- Bill of Rights (Amendments I-X) (1791)
- George Washington, “Thanksgiving Proclamation” (1789)

Early Republican Period (1789-1803)

- Petition from the Pennsylvania Abolition Society and Report of Select Committee of the House of Representatives (1790)
- George Washington, “Neutrality Proclamation,” (April 22, 1793)
- “Pacificus” [Alexander Hamilton] Letter I (June 29, 1793) and Letter II (July 3, 1793)
- “Helvidius” [James Madison], Letter I (August 24, 1793) and Letter II (August 31, 1793)
- George Washington, “Farewell Address” (1796)
- The Alien and Sedition Acts (1798)
- *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)