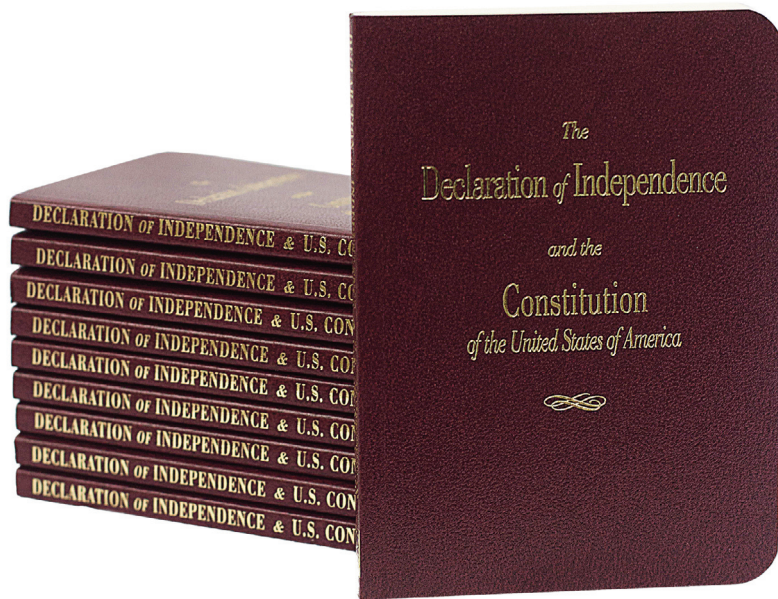


25 Years and 8 Million Pocket Constitutions Later

The project of making Americans aware of our rights and our system of government continues

“We are all created equal, as defined by our natural rights; thus, no one has rights superior to those of anyone else. Moreover, we are born with those rights, we do not get them from government—indeed, whatever rights or powers government has come from us, from ‘the Consent of the Governed.’ And our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness imply the right to live our lives as we wish—to pursue happiness as we think best, by our own lights—provided only that we respect the equal rights of others to do the same. Drawing by implication upon the common law tradition of liberty, property, and contract—its principles rooted in ‘right reason’—the Founders thus outlined the moral foundations of a free society.”

— FROM THE POCKET CONSTITUTION PREFACE BY ROGER PILON



In 1998 the Cato Institute first published a pocket-sized edition of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution “to encourage people everywhere to better understand and appreciate the principles of government that are set forth in America’s founding documents.” Initially they were sent to justices, judges, members of Congress and the executive branch, and select state officials. We had no idea at that time what the demand for such a pocket Constitution would be.

Now, 25 years later, at least 8 million copies have been distributed directly through Cato and through online purchases.

In 2004 we produced a Spanish-English version during Hispanic Heritage

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Cato News Notes

NEW DIRECTORS

Max Hyman, who has worked in the Senate for nearly nine years, and Lawrence Montreuil, a former legislative director at the American Legion, are new directors of government affairs.

NEW ROLES



LINCICOME

Beginning in April 2023, Scott Lincicome is Cato’s new vice president of general economics, in addition to his role as director of the Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies, and Alex Nowrasteh is the vice president of economic and social policy studies.

SPHERE ON CAMPUS

Cato’s Sphere project hosted a two-day event at West Virginia University titled “The Beauty of Experimentation: Society, Civic Culture, and Your Classroom.” Featured speakers included Nadine Strossen and Deirdre McCloskey.

NEW ORLEANS BOOK FESTIVAL

When discussing who would participate in the New Orleans Book Festival, cochair Walter Isaacson said on MSNBC’s *Morning Joe*, “In this country we don’t get a good diversity of opinion sometimes; I think the Cato Institute has been helping us to get a more libertarian view so that students at Tulane [where the festival is being held] and the New Orleans community can, in a civil way, listen to all sides of discussions.”



NADINE STROSSEN
 Author "HATE: Why We Should Resist
 It with Free Speech, Not Censorship"



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Month, and the following year we began printing an Arabic-English version as well. All three versions are still available with hundreds of thousands of copies distributed every year.

Over the years, senators, journalists, and other prominent figures have turned up in news photos with Cato's pocket Constitution in hand. Copies have been distributed to all members of Congress, all state legislators, all federal judges, many student groups, and a group of 2,000 Russian political leaders visiting the United States through the auspices of the Library of Congress.

Cato's longtime executive vice president David Boaz says Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) frequently waved his Cato Constitution at his fellow senators in urging them to remember their Article I powers and rein in executive abuse of power. Boaz once told the *New York Times* in an email interview: "Unlike most senators, Senator Byrd remembers that the Constitution delegates the power to make law and the power to make war to Congress, not the president. But if he really took the Constitution seriously, he'd realize that the limited powers it gives the federal government wouldn't include many of the New Deal and Great Society programs that have opened up whole new vistas for pork in West Virginia."

An easily accessible version of these founding documents could not be more vital to the project of making more Americans aware of our rights and our system of government. When the Founders met in Philadelphia in 1787 to draft the Constitution, they understood that government is necessary to secure our rights, but also dangerous because unrestrained government could easily trample rights under the guise of securing them. ■

FIND THE POCKET CONSTITUTION AT CATO.ORG/BOOKS/CATO-POCKET-CONSTITUTION.