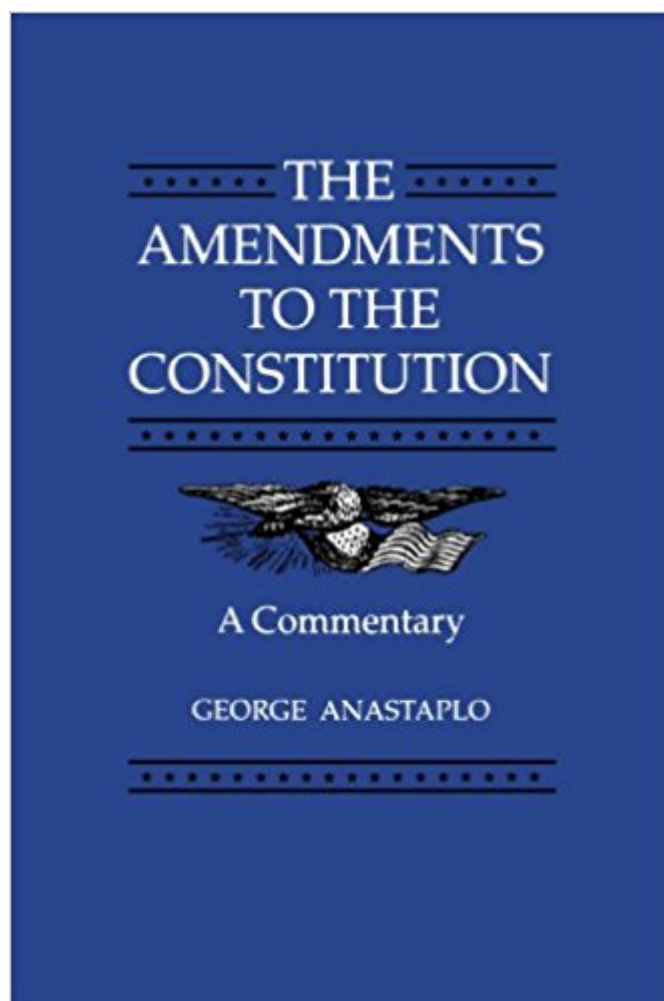


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# The Amendments To The Constitution: A Commentary



## Synopsis

A companion to the widely acclaimed *The Constitution of 1787*, this new book by eminent constitutional scholar George Anastaplo examines the nature and effects of the twenty-seven amendments to the U.S. Constitution. For Anastaplo, these amendments implement the equality, liberty, and rule of law principles that are fundamental to the American system of government. His appendixes of critical documents and his reflections on the Bill of Rights and on the Emancipation Proclamation set this volume apart from other treatises on the amendments to the Constitution.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Provocative, engaging, and not an inappropriate introduction to George Anastaplo. Discourse on the 'right of revolution,' it turns out, was precisely what got him into trouble with the Illinois bar 45 years ago. He remains important as much for what he has written since as for what he did then." (Law and Politics Book Review)"This companion to Anastaplo's *The Constitution of 1787*... argues that the constitutional amendments implement the equality, liberty, and rule of law principles fundamental to the American system of government." (Law and Social Inquiry)

"Those desiring to engage in the enterprise of 'thinking about the Constitution' in the company of a resourceful and knowledgeable guide will find this book quite interesting and enjoyable." (Judge Edward Dumbauld *Journal of American History*)"A marvelous instrument for introducing citizens to their Constitution." (Mortimer J. Adler)

thank you The book is in great shape

Thank YOu.

Very interesting reading as well as informative. This is the stuff that your "American History" class (if that is still taught) does not discuss, unfortunately.

This is the "sequel" to his earlier commentary on the original, unamended, Constitution of 1787. Readers should have and consult both. Per the preface, the book is derived from lectures "prepared for audiences made up of students and faculty of Lenoir-Rhyne College and the townspeople of Hickory, North Carolina." The lectures were delivered between September 1990 and April 1991. Contents:- Preface (6-pgs)- 17 Primary chapters, pgs. 1-238, including: -- Chpt 5 Amendment I (pgs. 47-58) -- Chpt 6 Amendments II, III, and IV -- Chpt 8 Amendments IX, X, XI, and XII -- Chpt 12 Amendments XIII, XIV, and XV -- Chpt 14 Amendments XVIII and XXI -- Chpt 16 Amendments XXIII, XXIV, XXVI, and XXVII- Appendixes A-M, with sub-divisions within, e.g., J-1 thru J-6, pgs. 239-384- Notes, pgs. 385-454- Index, pgs. 455-466I appreciated his discussion about the latest amendment, XXVII, proposed and submitted as part of the original Bill of Rights, which wasn't finally ratified until 1992!I cannot say enough good things about the notes! They alone are worth the price of admission. Any reader would do well to study them thoroughly. I only wish Anastaplo had included more of them in the direct text. They really bring out so many important details. For example, this book is outstanding at discussing amendments that were proposed or were proposed and sent by Congress to the States for ratification but were never ratified. Take the fascinating proposed 1861 amendment (ratified by 3 States) that would have perpetuated slavery in the USA for eternity. As Anastaplo points out, as happened with the XXVII amendment (part of the original 12 amendments of the Bill of Rights), this could still theoretically be ratified by States. He proposes that Congress take steps to remove or withdraw old proposed amendments from any future ratification. The same is also true of the Appendixes. They really bring out the subject at hand. The number and type of them are outstanding! Primary ones include the Magna Carta (1215), the Petition of Right (1628), the English Bill of Rights (1689), the Declaration of Independence (1776), the original 12 amendments submitted by Congress to the States that became the 10 article Bill of Rights (1789), the Constitution of the Confederate States of America (1861), and the Constitution of the United States of America (1787 and with its later Amendments).I was fascinated by Anastaplo's

discussion of the Confederate Constitution (Chpt. 10) and comparisons between it and the then extant US Constitution. One can better appreciate divergent interpretation theories at that time by seeing the specific changes made by the CSA in this one major attempt at comprehensive constitutional revision. I doubt anyone who takes the Constitution seriously will ever completely agree with any one person's thoughts on this magnificent, important document. I certainly don't with Anastaplo. But I always respect his opinions and appreciate the fairness he brings to the discussion. He does a good job of presenting many divergent views on a particular issue. I think partisans may be frustrated in certain areas. For example, the 2nd Amendment (where Anastaplo hews toward a collective right to keep & bear arms and believes the issue should be resolved politically), affirmative action (he discusses "one case for the authority to use affirmative-action programs may be made" and "I have suggested that the affirmative-action issue has yet to be sensibly settled by the Courts"), and the area of privacy (where he tries to balance the need for societies to promote what they believe is moral, the individual, and the role of politics in resolving difficult questions). Yet even on these most disputed of areas he doesn't come across as someone trying to force his opinion on the reader. He always takes a very respectful, nuanced, and historical approach to the discussion. [The biography of the author is most fascinating. He is an American original! I would encourage anyone who is interested in this work to first learn about Anastaplo and his battle in the 1950s regarding character tests and admission to the Illinois bar, which he ultimately lost in a 5-4 decision before the US Supreme Court. Fortunately for him, his outstanding legal skills and his ability to teach led him into a fruitful history of education and writing.]

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