

Properly understood, rights are not guarantees that something will be provided for us but guarantees that what is ours will not be unjustly taken from us. That is, properly speaking, rights are not positive but negative.

—Dr. Calvin Beisner—

# Congress of the United States,

convened and held at the City of New York, on  
Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

THE Committee of members of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent any alteration of the powers that pertain to the Executive and Judiciary, should be added, that no standing army or regular troops, shall be kept in the service of the United States, without the consent of the Congress, shall be reported to the Congress, and shall be subject to the same as the militia.

RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that the following Article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all of which, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as in and to the said Constitution: viz.

ARTICLE I. — Section 1. — The number of Representatives of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and subject to the determination of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

Article the first. — After the first enumeration required by the first Article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representative for every thirty thousand, until the number shall amount to one hundred; after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall not be less than one hundred Representatives, nor less than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons, until the number of Representatives shall amount to two hundred; after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall not be less than two hundred Representatives, nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons.

Article the second. — Section 2. — The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for Electors in the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Article the third. — Congress shall have the sole and exclusive Power of declaring War; granting Letters of Marque and Reprisal; and making Rules concerning the Capture and Treatment of Persons.

Article the fourth. — A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article the fifth. — No State shall be deprived of its equal Footing in the Senate, without the Consent of the Senate, nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall any person be subject to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall any person be subject to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall any person be subject to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb.

Article the sixth. — The right of the people to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State or Territory where the crime shall have been committed, in all criminal prosecutions, shall be inviolable; and the accused shall enjoy the right of a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State or Territory where the crime shall have been committed, in all criminal prosecutions.

Article the seventh. — No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall any person be subject to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall any person be subject to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb.

Article the eighth. — In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State or Territory where the crime shall have been committed, in all criminal prosecutions.