

WHY A NEW CONSTITUTION?

I think there are a number of people who will agree with me when I say that the US constitution has outgrown the eighteenth century in which it was written, so I decided to write a placement.

It has taken three years, and the research was certainly an education. I have so much more respect for the Founding Fathers, who wrote their constitution during a sweltering summer in a closed room, without electric fans or air conditioning.

My constitution doesn't stand a chance of being ratified (at least on this planet), so for now it's largely an intellectual exercise. But who knows? Perhaps someday it will be used as a form of government for human, off world colonies.

My society is constructed as a collection of worker cooperatives, which must collaborate with one another to produce the goods and services that everyone needs. It's not a Republic, but a Direct Democracy where the all the laws are made by the people, through the referendum process.

Admittedly it's very progressive in nature, which will undoubtedly disturb many on the right of the political spectrum, and probably a fair number on the left as well.

I've also tried to make it as understandable as possible for modern readers, avoiding "legalese" wherever possible. I even provide footnotes to explain why I wrote certain of its provisions.

There are those who will take issue with the name, "The Family of Man." It has been called misogynistic by some, but this is a systemic problem with most languages. English, however, isn't as bad as some others that assign a gender to almost every noun and verb.

But this is a work in progress and I'm open to suggestions of a different title. Might I suggest, though, that you take a look at the 1955 photo exhibit, [The Family of Man](#), that inspired the name.

I don't know if you'll like or dislike what I've written, but hopefully it will spark a much needed conversation.

Take a look at the major differences between the US constitution and this one, then leave a comment from the pull-down menu.

28 MAJOR DIFFERENCES FROM THE US CONSTITUTION

1. Established as a Direct Democracy where all laws are made by a vote of the people, not a republic. (*Statement of Purpose*)
2. Voting is mandatory. (Article XIII, Section Three - Paragraph 1)
3. The nation's population is organized into guilds which, through their lodges, provide essential goods and services for everyone. (*Article II*)
4. It has a Resource Based Economy. There is no currency, or money of any kind. (*Article X, Section Two - Number 7, Paragraph 2*)
5. The Attorney General and the Justice Department are independent of the Executive Branch. (Article XI)

6. The office of “National Sage” is established as a combination of the “wise elder” and Plato’s Philosopher/King, with broad powers to initiate public debate, but no ability to create public policy. (Article XII)
7. Prohibits “gerrymandering” of a community’s boundaries. (*Article III, Section Two*)
8. Prohibits copyrights and patents. (Article XV, Section Sixteen)
9. Establishes a constitutional right to reproductive choice for women. (Article I, Section Two - Sub-Section B, Number 7)
10. Guarantees certain privacy rights. Prohibits indiscriminate surveillance of people in public spaces, and bans the data mining of personal information of nameless individuals to reveal their identities. (Article XV, Section Eight)
11. Marriage is a civil contract that can be a union of more than two people, of any gender. (Article XV, Section Fourteen)
12. Establishes an inviolate separation of church and state, and prohibits proselytizing in public spaces. (Article XV, Section Thirteen)
13. From birth, everyone has a constitutional right to the necessities of life, including clean air, clean water, unadulterated food, housing, clothing, and comprehensive health care. (Article I, Section Two - Sub-Section A, Numbers 1-5)
14. Children have a constitutional right to an education, based on critical thinking and verifiable facts. (Article I, Section Two - Sub-Section A, Number 6)
15. Every person is guaranteed time off from work. (Article I, Section Two - Sub-Section B, Number 9)
16. All able-bodied, adult citizens belong to a citizen’s militia. There is no standing army. (Article IV, Section Six)
17. There is no private ownership of guns, explosives, or military weapons of any kind. (Article IV, Section Six)
18. All adults citizens must take an oath to protect and defend the constitution, not the flag or country. (Article I, Section Three - Number 5)
19. Establishes a Non-Adversarial legal system, where there is no trial by jury. (Article XV, Section Five)
20. No court may interpret the constitution, no Right to Judicial Review. (Article XV, Section ten)
21. The only penalty for a misdemeanor offense is a period of community service. (Article XV, Section Six - Paragraph 2)
22. Prisons for convicted felons have no need of walls, armed guards, or even locks on the doors. (Article XV, Section Six - Paragraph 3)
23. Prohibits capital punishment. (Article XV, Section Nine - Paragraph 4)
24. Corporal punishment of children or adults is strictly forbidden. (Article XV, Section Nine - Paragraph 3)
25. Prohibits private ownership of land. (Article XV, Section Fifteen)
26. Legalizes sex workers as part of the medical profession. (Article II, Section Seven)
27. Allows a rigorous process for a community to secede from the nation. (Article XVII)

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