

Document	Who wrote it? Year it was written.	Why was it written and/or events leading up to document	What was the outcome? What rights were won?
Magna Carta	English nobles 1215	The king had complete power	ruler must obey the laws the fine must fit the crime could not be jailed unfairly property cannot be taken away (helped only the nobles)
First Charter of Virginia	Virginia Company of London / king 1606/1607	Business agreement Virginia Company wanted gold	outlined the government granted colonists the same rights as citizens in England
Mayflower Compact	41 pilgrims on the Mayflower 1620	To set up the government and rules for running the new colony	people choose their leaders people vote directly free male citizens vote laws are written down laws would be just and equal people promise to obey the laws for the good of the community everyone is equal under the law
English Bill of Rights	Parliament 1689 William & Mary	To establish Parliament as the only maker of laws	fundamental civil liberties granted to citizens Parliament could make laws, raise taxes, and control army
Virginia Declaration of Rights	George Mason June 12, 1776	Declaration of Independence was about to be signed to break away from England. Virginia wanted a list of guarantees for its citizens	guaranteed basic rights trial by jury equity and freedom not tax without consent no cruel punishment created a three-branch government

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<b>Declaration of Independence</b>	Thomas Jefferson July 4, 1776	King had not treated colonies with equity Declared the colonies free from English rule	listed complaints against the king: the king broke social contract colonies had no representation in Parliament high taxes resulted in war with Britain and 13 independent states
<b>Virginia Constitution</b>	James Madison 1776	To provide a plan of government for Virginia and its citizens	legislative branch (two-house legislature) executive branch (governor & Lt. governor) judicial branch (courts system) right to create local governments
<b>Articles of Confederation</b>	Members of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress 1778-1779	To bring the states together into a single country	one-house legislature each state had one vote had limited powers could not enforce laws could not collect taxes lasted until 1787 (1789)
<b>Virginia Statue of Religious Freedom</b>	Thomas Jefferson 1785	To guarantee the "natural right" of religious freedom	citizens can decide if they want to attend church (or not) may not be deprived of the right to religious beliefs
<b>United States Constitution</b>	James Madison 1787 (signed) 1789 (ratified)	To have a written plan of government. The Articles of Confederation too weak; States had too much power	federalism (division of powers into two levels) popular sovereignty (voting) separation of powers (3 branches) limited government (checks and balances) it inspired other countries to create democracies