

Topics omitted from *Idiot-proofing Democracy* and errata

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As publication of *Idiot-proofing Democracy* took place quickly, I want to address issues which are not covered, intentionally or not. As noted in *The Challenge of Complete Requirements* section, it's very easy to omit topics that are so obvious you forget to include them, and I'm guilty of that too. Some issues have come up recently (September 2025), such as redistricting between censuses and foreign ownership of farmland.

The great challenge of writing a good Constitution is having enough detail to capture critical rights, structures, and processes, without being so specific that it micromanages the State and needs to be amended frequently.

Topic	Meaning
Animal personhood	Animal personhood is discussed but not addressed in the Constitution.
Code of Ethics	A formal code of ethics is not defined, such as that currently for the House ¹ or Senate. ² The Financial Assessment in section 6.7.3 is to help prevent financial conflicts of interest. A code of conduct, such as that defined in 2023 for the Supreme Court, ³ which lacks objective external oversight and enforcement, is meaningless. See also the 14 General Principles of Ethical Conduct at 5 CFR 2635.101.
Drug advertising	Prescription drug advertising directly to consumers has been allowed since 1983. This is a terrible idea, and only one other country allows it. Cigarette advertising was banned on radio and television in 1971 ⁴ and the ban is supported by the World Health Organization. ⁵
Drug legalization	No mention is made of legalizing marijuana or other common recreational drugs.
Fairness doctrine	The Fairness Doctrine of the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC), introduced in 1949, was a policy that required the holders of broadcast licenses both to present controversial issues of public importance and to do so in a manner that fairly reflected differing viewpoints. It was repealed by the FCC in 1987 under the Reagan administration.

¹ <https://ethics.house.gov/publications/code-official-conduct/>

² <https://www.ethics.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/ethicsrules>

³ https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/Code-of-Conduct-for-Justices_November_13_2023.pdf

⁴ [Public Health Cigarette Smoking Act](#) of 1970.

⁵ https://www.who.int/europe/health-topics/tobacco/banning-tobacco-advertising-sponsorship-and-promotion#tab=tab_1

Topic	Meaning
Foreign ownership	Foreign ownership of land and businesses is not addressed. It is a sensitive issue, especially large-scale foreign ownership of farmland, but there are no existing federal standards for limiting it.
Hatch Act	The 1939 Hatch Act limits what kinds of political activities are allowed by federal employees. It has been largely ignored recently, with frequent campaign activities taking place on federal property.
Medicaid and Medicare	These programs are not addressed explicitly, but universal healthcare and guaranteed minimum food, water, and shelter are rights (sections 5.1.3 and 5.1.2).
Monroe Doctrine	The Monroe Doctrine came from a message to Congress by President Monroe in 1823. ⁶ It told Europe they should respect the Western Hemisphere as the United States' sphere of interest. This is pure colonial garbage and has no place in the 21 st century.
Mortgage deduction	The unfairness of mortgage interest being income tax deductible, but rental payments are not, is discussed but not included in the Constitution.
National symbols	Many Constitutions describe the State's flag, motto, national anthem, national animal, etc. These have not been discussed. "In God We Trust" was defined as the United States' motto in 1956 but has obvious conflict with religious freedom rights.
Oaths of office	Specific wording for the oaths of office for the President, VP, Congress, Supreme Courts, etc. have not been included.
Perfidy	Perfidy is using deception during combat, such as disguising a military vehicle as civilian or medical. Perfidy is never allowed. ⁷
Post Office	The role and ownership of the Postal Service is not directly addressed, but services affecting the whole country are specified to be federally managed, such as education, roads, rail, marine, aircraft, etc.
Qualified immunity	Qualified immunity is a legal doctrine that protects government officials from liability in civil lawsuits, unless their conduct violates clearly established statutory or constitutional rights, and there is no reasonable dispute that those rights were violated. Presidential immunity is addressed in this Constitution, section 4.3.4.
Redistricting	When the Census is discussed in section 6.6, it should state that redistricting (definition of Electoral District boundaries) may only be done after a full Census, or within a new state after a territory becomes a state. Redistricting between Censuses is not allowed.
Social Security	The Social Security Administration is not addressed. It is currently in the Executive Branch under the President, but not part of the Cabinet. It was created in 1935 by the Social Security Act after the Great Depression as a form of federally managed savings for retirement and disability insurance.

⁶ <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/monroe-doctrine>

⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perfidy>

Topic	Meaning
Territory representation	The status of territories and the District of Columbia is discussed in Section 6.11, but the definition of Electoral Districts in section 3.1 does not explicitly state whether they have House and Senate representation. They should have both, with full voting rights.

Exceptional People who are Not White Men

A few more examples of wonderful people who were overlooked or oppressed for not being white men include:

- Math genius Thomas Fuller
- Feminist author Kate Chopin
- Inventor Elijah McCoy (basis for the expression “the real McCoy”)
- Black history scholar Arthur Schomburg

They are discussed in more detail in this essay:

<https://socialsciencepapers.wordpress.com/2025/11/09/assorted-essays/>

Salary

Since this Constitution eliminates much of the side income for government officials, a slightly higher salary should be established, and increased at the start of each term based on the consumer cost of living index. For scaling a fair salary for these positions, without attracting the greedy, use the median income for adults who work full time. At present this number is about \$63,360/year.⁸ I’ll abbreviate this value as the Median Full Time Adult Income (MFTAI). The following annual salaries are proposed:

- For the President: 10x MFTAI
- For the Vice President: 8X MFTAI
- For the Cabinet: 6x MFTAI
- For the Supreme Court justices: 6x MFTAI
- For the National Court justices: 5x MFTAI
- For Congress: 5x MFTAI

At current MFTAI levels, this would give a raise for Congress from \$174k to about \$317k. The President would go from \$400k to \$634k.

In addition to salary, allowances for benefits, support staff, business expenses, etc. can be determined.

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_income_in_the_United_States

Pensions

Lifetime pensions are a carrot to attract people who want the job just for the pension benefits.⁹ Accordingly, limit pensions to the following:

- For President and VP: Pension of half their salary for half of the duration they were in office.
- For the National and Supreme Court justices: Pension of half their salary for half of the duration they were in office.
- For the Cabinet: Pension of half their salary for half of the duration they were in office.
- For Congress: Pension of half their salary for half of the duration they were in office.

Since no term limit exceeds twelve years, the longest pension for any high-level government position would be six years. Naturally this does not supersede any other pensions they have earned from military service or civilian positions.

Military Laws and Granting Quarter

The Armed Forces currently follow the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)¹⁰ which is defined by Congressional laws under Title 10, Chapter 47 of the federal laws (U.S. Code). These seem to be an excellent foundation for the Unified States and are consistent with relevant international law.

Of particular interest recently (December 2025) is the concept of “granting quarter,” which is banning attacks on combatants who are no longer capable of being a threat. A great example of granting quarter from WWII is when German pilot Franz Stigler had crippled the B-17 airplane of US pilot Charles Brown, but instead of downing the B-17 escorted it to American airspace and safety.

The opposite of granting quarter is “no quarter” which means to kill off every enemy regardless of threat. The classic example of no quarter is bombing survivors of a ship which has been destroyed. No quarter was banned under the Hague Convention of 1907, Article 23.¹¹

⁹ <https://www.ntu.org/foundation/detail/marjorie-taylor-greenes-resignation-timing-secures-her-congressional-pension-by-three-days>

¹⁰ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2012-title10/pdf/USCODE-2012-title10-subtitleA-partII-chap47.pdf>

¹¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_quarter

Three Branch Clarification

The three-branch structure was based on the 1748 *The Spirit of the Laws* by French philosopher Montesquieu.¹²

Projected House and Senate Composition

Based on the 2020 Census for the United States, here is how Congress would look for the Unified States of America. Notice that all populated territories and the District of Columbia have equal representation and voting rights.

Under this Constitution, the least populous nine states and territories would each get one Representative and one Senator. The most populous state, California, would get fifty Representatives and ten Senators.

State / Territory	2020 Population	Representatives	Senators
Alabama	5,025,369	7	2
Alaska	733,395	1	1
American Samoa	49,710	1	1
Arizona	7,158,110	9	2
Arkansas	3,011,553	4	1
California	39,555,674	50	10
Colorado	5,775,324	8	2
Connecticut	3,607,701	5	1
Delaware	989,955	2	1
District of Columbia	689,545	1	1
Florida	21,538,192	27	6
Georgia	10,713,755	14	3
Guam	153,836	1	1
Hawaii	1,455,252	2	1
Idaho	1,839,140	3	1
Illinois	12,821,814	17	4
Indiana	6,786,587	9	2
Iowa	3,190,546	4	1
Kansas	2,937,745	4	1
Kentucky	4,506,302	6	2
Louisiana	4,657,874	6	2
Maine	1,363,196	2	1

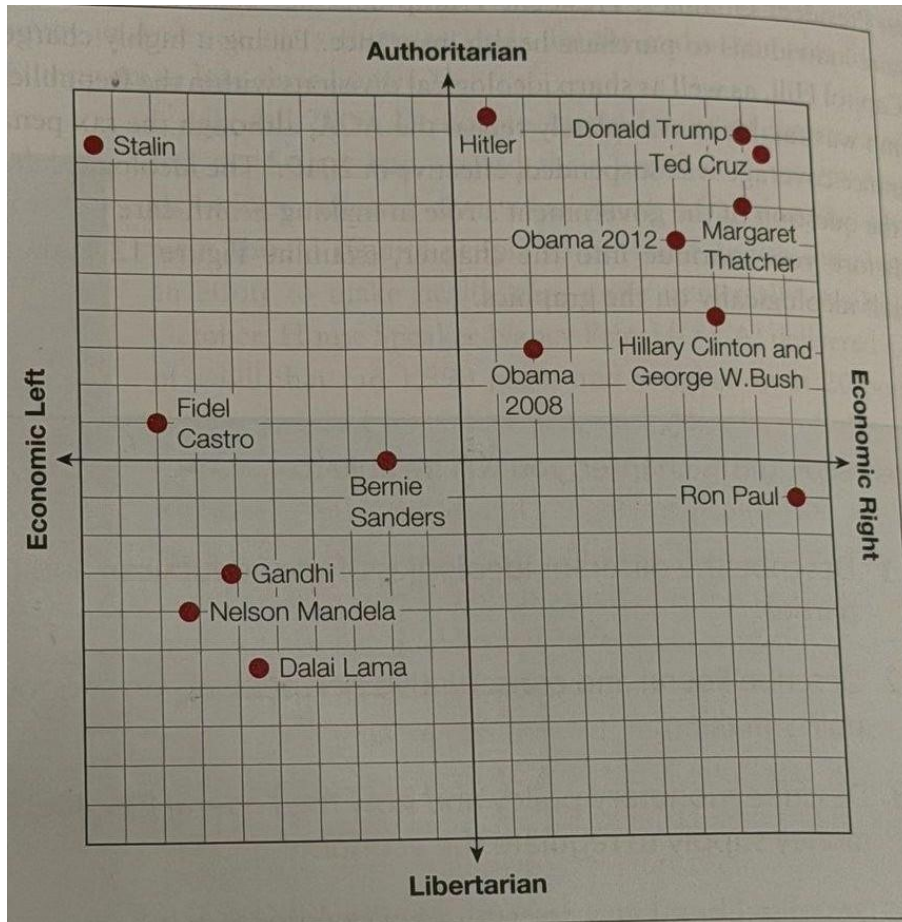
¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Spirit_of_Law

State / Territory	2020 Population	Representatives	Senators
Maryland	6,181,629	8	2
Massachusetts	7,033,132	9	2
Michigan	10,079,338	13	3
Minnesota	5,706,692	8	2
Mississippi	2,961,278	4	1
Missouri	6,154,854	8	2
Montana	1,084,216	2	1
Nebraska	1,961,996	3	1
Nevada	3,105,595	4	1
New Hampshire	1,377,546	2	1
New Jersey	9,289,014	12	3
New Mexico	2,117,555	3	1
New York	20,203,772	26	6
North Carolina	10,441,499	14	3
North Dakota	779,046	1	1
Northern Mariana Islands, Commonwealth of the	47,329	1	1
Ohio	11,799,453	15	3
Oklahoma	3,959,405	5	1
Oregon	4,237,224	6	2
Pennsylvania	13,002,909	17	4
Puerto Rico	3,285,874	5	1
Rhode Island	1,097,354	2	1
South Carolina	5,118,252	7	2
South Dakota	886,729	2	1
Tennessee	6,912,347	9	2
Texas	29,149,458	37	8
U.S. Virgin Islands	87,146	1	1
Utah	3,271,608	5	1
Vermont	643,082	1	1
Virginia	8,631,388	11	3
Washington	7,707,586	10	2
West Virginia	1,793,736	3	1
Wisconsin	5,894,170	8	2
Wyoming	576,844	1	1
TOTALS	335,139,631	446	115

The current United States Congress has 435 voting Representatives and 100 Senators, plus six non-voting Representatives for the territories and D.C.

Political Compass

A high school AP American Government textbook was attacked by Republicans for showing Adolf Hitler near Donald Trump in a political compass image.¹ The original article was by U.S. News reporter Jeremiah Hassel on 4/7/2026. Apparently, the Republicans weren't upset by Stalin being just as Authoritarian as Trump.



¹ I didn't think the Face Eating Leopards would eat MY face, Jon Gray response to post by Natasha Hall, 4/9/2026.