

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE

### LESSON 06 SESSION 02

#### 6.4 Individualistic government

"Equality of opportunity" carries with it the absolute right of every man to keep what is his own. There can be no confiscation of property without due process of law and just recompense to the rightful owner. Upon this foundation have been based most of the great accomplishments of the past as well as assurance for still greater achievements.

##### 6.4.1 Right to private property.

Each citizen enjoys the right to private property. Granted the privilege of working for one's self ambition is fired, initiative is encouraged, labor is not restricted, and the hard thinker and hard worker gets the reward denied the lazy and indifferent, creating thereby classes, caste, poverty, and wealth.

##### 6.4.2 Economic freedom.

The individualistic form of government promotes and guards the individual amid the difficulties and hardships of his struggle for existence and in the competitions of life.

The workman is protected because the nation needs his labor and the employer is protected because the nation needs his industry.

The productive power of free initiative has full play and a sure reward. Under its protection he finds joy and satisfaction in the fruits of his labor. There is incentive to invention, improvement, and the establishment of families and homes.

#### 6.4.3 Political rights.

It protects the citizen in his personal freedom. Equal political rights are assured. He has a voice in the Government which is "of the people, for the people, and by the people."

When a people are free to undertake things and take advantage of the opportunities open to them wealth, character, and national strength are developed.

#### 6.4.4 Protection to home and family.

The social unit of civilization is the family. Under this form of government the institution of marriage and the rights of childhood are respected, the home and the family are protected, and womanhood is inviolable.

#### 6.4.5 Respect for religion.

The "individualistic" form of government believes in the exercise of religious freedom and shows tolerance toward and respect for all religious beliefs.

The American Government rests upon the deep religious convictions of her people. If it is to continue it will be through unceasing respect for and confidence in the nobler things of life.

### **6.5 An American institution**

In the governments of the Old World, conditions which built up a fixed caste system and created an impassable barrier between certain groups of society gave exceptional advantages to the favored, and denied to the masses, all but a bare existence.

The early settlers of America, who came to escape the oppression of this order of society, at first incorporated into the local governments of the Colonies the policy of religious intolerance and class rule. It required 150 years of local experiment in colonial government before the inalienable rights of mankind were sufficiently understood and evaluated to develop the necessary public opinion and power to change the prevailing form of "State" government to that of a "Republican" form, under which "equality of opportunity" became an American institution.

"Individualism," an experiment in government, was unknown prior to the independence of America, and has proved its worth by its marked achievements.

It tolerated no restriction, recognized no exceptions, and demanded that the son of the farmer or frontiersman have the same opportunity as the son of the merchant prince or land-owning aristocrat.