

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## SELF PRESERVATION

### LESSON 11 SESSION 01

#### **11.1 Self-preservation the first law of nature.**

Possessed at first with a slight intelligence man's reliance was upon his physical powers; though brutal in quality, they were necessary for the preservation of life.

By the successive steps of groups, tribes, and small states, mankind evolved better means of protection: cultivated intelligence; developed habits, customs, and laws, which in a measure abridged the need of physical force.

#### **11.2 Preservation of life and property.**

To insure the preservation of life and property America has written into her Constitution absolute guaranties. In no other country is life and property so hedged about with protective laws — all securing the inalienable rights of the individual citizen.

The preservation of these rights is a dominant principle of the American philosophy of government. It limits that government, in writing, to certain definite powers, and the right is reserved to discharge any and all governmental servants who infringe upon the written will of the people.

By the system of government set up by our Constitution the people have been able to regulate the agencies of government and control and direct corporations, capital, and labor. Mighty as is their power they must not infringe upon the rights of any private citizen. Neither must the individual citizen infringe upon the rights of another.

Self-preservation for every citizen is guaranteed by the Constitution and guarded by the Supreme Court of the United States

#### **11.3 National defense the bulwark of self-preservation.**

That which preserves our rights has the right to be preserved. The Declaration of Independence was a "scrap of paper" until made immortal by the blood and sacrifice of our patriotic ancestors. The sufferings of Valley Forge, the courage of Washington, the victory of Yorktown, secured American liberties and wrote this great document into the hearts of liberty-loving people.

This colony (Massachusetts) is ready, at all times, to spend and be spent in the cause of America. — *Warren — Message to Continental Congress.*

When the Constitution of the United States was adopted, with the exception of a small area along the Atlantic coast, America was a wilderness. She had a population of approximately 3,000,000 people.

By the liberties granted and with unrestricted opportunity the colonials and pioneers conquered the wilderness, converting it into a land of fertile fields, great industries, and contented homes, an achievement of little more than 100 years.

#### 11.3.1 Freedom not a gift.

Freedom is not a gift. It has been bought and paid for in the sacrifices of peace and war. It is laid in long hours of toil, the swing of the ax in the forest, the campfire of the lonely pioneer, the sod house of the early settler, the community stockade and the frontier Army post. Freedom has traveled a long, hard road. None but the strong and courageous have possessed it and by none others can it be retained.

### **11.4 Preservation of philosophy of government.**

Some interpret American liberty as the opportunity to exploit the Nation's resources and people by propaganda that aims to destroy American institutions. Under the guise of freedom of speech and press every possible effort is being made to undermine and destroy the blessings of liberty. The problem of national defense deals not only with the question of elements but it is also the question of the preservation of that philosophy of government devised by the founders of this Republic.

### **11.5 Preparedness a necessity.**

With our growth of population, wealth, and standing among the nations, we have learned that lack of adequate preparation in time of peace was the most certain way to encourage attack by other nations.

The security of the Nation has been endangered and lives unnecessarily sacrificed because of insufficient training and an inadequate number of trained officers and soldiers to give instruction or assume command.

Wars have been begun which would never have been declared had America been prepared. Wars have been prolonged through lack of material and trained men to carry them rapidly forward to a successful issue. Hardships have been suffered by lack of supplies.

Our lack of preparedness, with its rush of preparation, personnel inadequately trained, lack of materiel or its means of manufacture, plus the immediate danger to national existence, not only created all the elements required for hasty and extravagant expenditures of money, but caused the criminal sacrifice of many of our best American citizens.

The Preamble to the Constitution states that one reason for its establishment is "to provide for the common defense," assigning that duty to the Federal Government. The "people," through their representatives in Congress, declare war; the task of carrying on the struggle devolves on the Army and Navy.

A million men springing to arms overnight would evidence patriotism; but an army of a million untrained patriots in this advanced day of scientific warfare means annihilation.