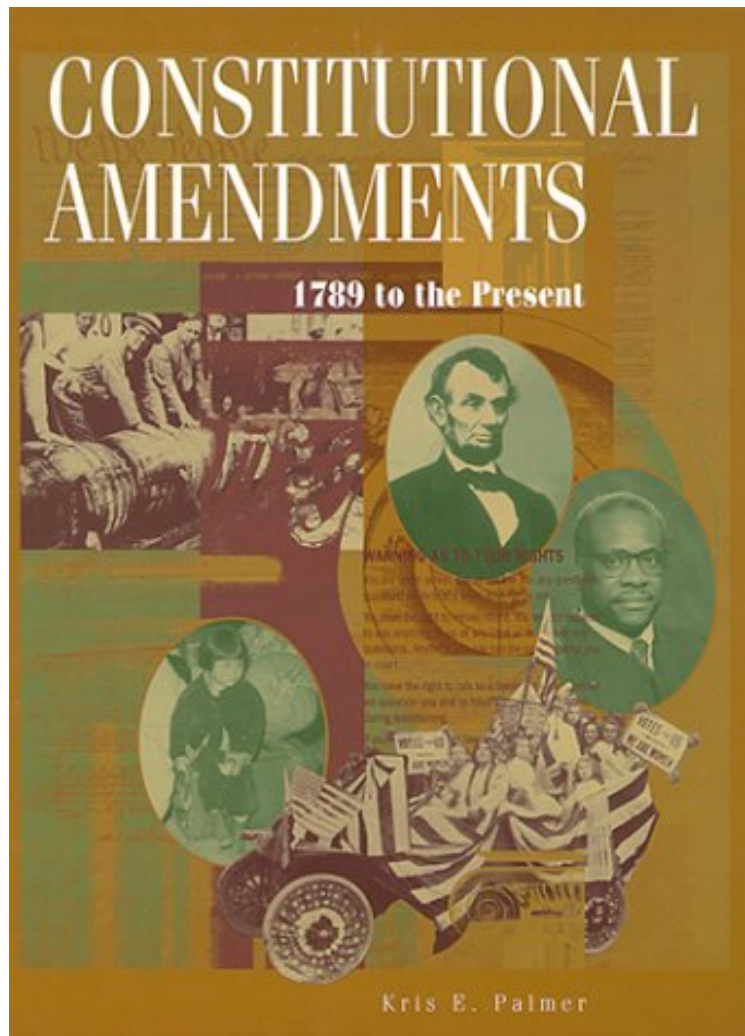


Constitutional Amendments

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Gale Group : Constitutional Amendments before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Constitutional Amendments:

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This book explains some of the complex issues and interpretations of the Amendments. I recommend this book for someone who is looking for plain, straightforward language explaining the rights provided for under each amendment.

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From School Library Journal
Grade 9 Up-This clearly written, accessible volume examines the 27 ratified amendments

to the Constitution as well as those that were proposed and defeated. An introductory essay focuses on the Bill of Rights. The chapters that follow each cover one of the amendments. They include its text and a discussion of the political and social forces and the individuals that contributed to its passage. The amendment's influence, interpretations, and resulting rights and court decisions are also discussed. A capsule of facts is provided in the margin of the first page of each chapter; other insets include court opinions and pertinent additional information. Black-and-white political cartoons, photographs, and reproductions are sprinkled throughout the text. Each chapter concludes with a bibliography. Appendixes include the text of the Constitution, an index of court cases, and a comprehensive general index. A welcome, one-stop reference. Dana McDougald, Cedar Shoals High School, Athens, GA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Several sources have been published recently on constitutional amendments, among them *Amending America* (Times, 1993), ABC-CLIO's *Encyclopedia of Constitutional Amendments, Proposed Amendments, and Amending Issues, 1789[^]-1995* [RBB D 1 96] and Macmillan's four-volume *The Constitution and Its Amendments* [RBB Mr 15 99]. This latest addition to the field is worth consideration because the varied backgrounds of the editor and the other contributors enabled them to produce an authoritative but highly readable work that will appeal to many. The editor is identified as an attorney, a writer, and an editor who has created materials for high-school audiences; the contributors are professors of constitutional and legal history, a tax attorney, two professional writers, a court administrator, a curriculum developer, and a former clerk of court. The preface describes the amendment process and clarifies the roles of the president, the courts, state legislatures, and Congress in changing (or attempting to change) our U.S. Constitution. Interestingly, although more than 10,000 amendments have been proposed since 1789, only "about a third of one percent passed." Following a chronology that runs from the arrival of migrants from Asia to North America between 5,000 and 8,000 B.C. to 1999 political events (including President Clinton's acquittal of impeachment charges), there is an overview of the Bill of Rights, which initially applied only to the federal government but was extended to the state laws. Each of the first 27 chapters addresses one of the amendments thus far ratified, revealing the political and social forces that led to its proposal, the impact it has had, and the court decisions and interpretations that have resulted. The chapters range in length from 7 to 35 pages; each one includes the text of the relevant amendment, an overview of its evolution, black-and-white illustrations (key personnel, political cartoons, images of the times), sidebars that further illuminate the ramifications of an amendment, and a list of sources. Chapter 28 covers all the failed amendments to date, those that were proposed to the states but not ratified for various interesting reasons. Trends are noted, along with explanations for the ultimate decisions. The book concludes with the full-text of the Constitution, a glossary, a general bibliography, a table of cases, and a detailed index. School and public libraries serving the middle-school level and up and owning Macmillan's *The Constitution and Its Amendments* may not need this volume even for updating, although it does give good attention to the amendments that did not pass, and it is fascinating reading. *Amending America* enjoyed popular attention from those interested in the fundamentals of our government, and this updates and supplements that information. Recommended for public, high-school, and academic libraries.