

Why has the Constitution been able to survive for more than 200 years?

- DO NOW: Explain TWO ways in which life today is different than it was in 1789.



Flexibility of the Constitution

1. The Elastic Clause

2. Amendments

3. Judicial Interpretation

- As social attitudes have changes, so too have justices' interpretations of the Constitution

4. The Unwritten Constitution

- Practices and Institutions that are important to our system of government but that are not in the constitution

- Elastic Clause – Congress shall have “the power to make all laws necessary and proper to carry out its foregoing powers”

Amendments

- 13th – abolished slavery
- 14th – citizenship rights and equal protection under the laws for African Americans
- 15th – right to vote for African Americans

14th Amendment

- “no state shall . . . deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”
 - Meaning?

The Unwritten Constitution

- Judicial Review – Power of the Supreme Court to decide the Constitutionality of laws
- The President's Cabinet
- Political Parties
- Committee system in Congress
 - Division of labor
 - Different bills originate in different committees depending on subject of the bill
- Special Interest Groups and Lobbying

Congressional Committees

- [U.S. Congress List of Committees - GovTrack.us](#)

Lobbying

- people trying to influence legislation, regulation, or other government decisions, actions, or policies on behalf of a group or individual who hires them.
- [Jon Stewart Lobbying](#)
- [Kavanaugh Hearing SNL](#)