

# Document 1

## Constitution of the United States

### Article I

#### Section 3.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote....

No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided....

#### **John Adams, 1st Vice President (1789-1797)**



On April 21, 1789, John Adams, the first vice president of the United States, began his duties as president of the Senate. Adams' role in the administration of George Washington was sharply constrained by the constitutional limits on the vice-presidency.... He enjoyed a cordial but distant relationship with President Washington, who sought his advice on occasion but relied primarily on the cabinet. Adams played a more active role in the Senate, however, particularly during his first term.

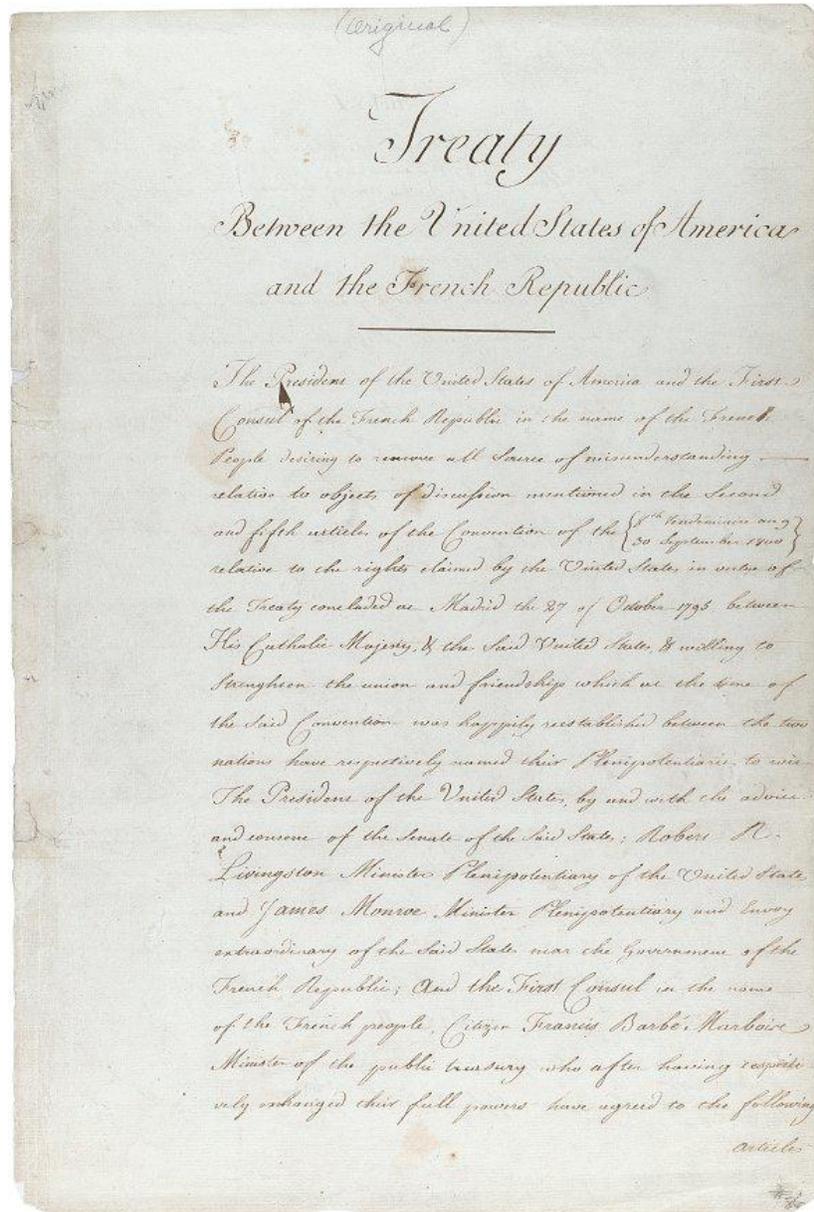
As president of the Senate, Adams cast twenty-nine tie-breaking votes—a record that no successor has ever threatened. His votes protected the president's sole authority over the removal of appointees, influenced the location of the national capital, and prevented war with Great Britain.

[https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/VP\\_John\\_Adams.htm](https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/VP_John_Adams.htm)

## Document 2 – Louisiana Purchase

October 20, 1803

In 1803 President Jefferson sent a delegation to negotiate the purchase of the port of New Orleans and the panhandle of Florida from the French. Napoleon, who was busy waging war against Great Britain, offered the entire Louisiana Territory for \$15 million. On October 20, 1803, the Senate approved this treaty with France by which the United States purchased the Louisiana territory. As a result of this treaty, the nation doubled in size, adding territory that would become the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and parts of Minnesota, New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. The vote in the Senate was 24 to 7.



## Document 3 – NY Times Article



WASHINGTON

— The Senate on Thursday confirmed Judge Sonia Sotomayor as the nation’s first Hispanic Supreme Court justice, concluding a 10-week battle with a resounding victory for the White House.

The largely party-line vote, 68 to 31, brought Judge Sotomayor, 55, to the threshold of one of the United States’ most prestigious institutions, completing an extraordinary narrative arc that began in a Bronx housing project where the Puerto Rican girl was raised by her widowed mother.

In brief remarks at the White House, President Obama hailed her confirmation as “breaking yet another barrier and moving us yet another step closer to a more perfect union.”

“With this historic vote,” he said, “the Senate has affirmed that Judge Sotomayor has the intellect, the temperament, the history, the integrity and the independence of mind to ably serve on our nation’s highest court.”

A White House spokesman said the judge watched the vote on television in her chambers in New York City, and she released no statement. But when Judge Sotomayor returned to her West Village home Thursday night, she beamed and waved at neighbors who lined the sidewalks to clap and shout encouragement.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. is expected to swear the new justice in at a private ceremony at the Supreme Court on Saturday morning, a court spokeswoman said....

*Colin Moynihan contributed reporting from New York.*

A version of this article appeared in print in the *New York Times* on August 7, 2009, on page A1 of the New York edition.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/07/us/politics/07confirm.html>

## Document 4 – Letter from President Johnson to the Senate

Andrew Johnson became President of the United States upon the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. He was a southern democrat who had grown up with slavery and who, as an adult, had himself owned slaves.

**March 27, 1866**

To the Senate of the United States:

I regret that the bill which has passed both Houses of Congress, entitled “An Act to protect all persons in the United States in their civil rights, and furnish the means of their vindication,” contains provisions which I cannot approve, consistently with my sense of duty to the whole people, and my obligations to the Constitution of the United States. I am, therefore, constrained to return it to the Senate (the House in which it originated) with my objections to its becoming law....

Andrew Johnson  
Washington, D.C., March 27, 1866.

Source: *Andrew Johnson, His Life and Speeches* by Lillian Foster, New York: Richardson & Co., 1866.

GRANTING PARDON TO RICHARD NIXON

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Richard Nixon became the thirty-seventh President of the United States on January 20, 1969 and was reelected in 1972 for a second term by the electors of forty-nine of the fifty states. His term in office continued until his resignation on August 9, 1974.

Pursuant to resolutions of the House of Representatives, its Committee on the Judiciary conducted an inquiry and investigation on the impeachment of the President extending over more than eight months. The hearings of the Committee and its deliberations, which received wide national publicity over television, radio, and in printed media, resulted in votes adverse to Richard Nixon on recommended Articles of Impeachment.

As a result of certain acts or omissions occurring before his resignation from the Office of President, Richard Nixon has become liable to possible indictment and trial for offenses against the United States. Whether or not he shall be so prosecuted depends on findings of the appropriate grand jury and on the discretion of the authorized prosecutor. Should an indictment ensue, the accused shall then be entitled to a fair trial by an impartial jury, as guaranteed to every individual by the Constitution.

It is believed that a trial of Richard Nixon, if it became necessary, could not fairly begin until a year or more has elapsed. In the meantime, the tranquility to which this nation has been restored by the events of recent weeks could be irreparably lost by the prospects of bringing to trial a former President of the United States. The prospects of such



trial will cause prolonged and divisive debate over the propriety of exposing to further punishment and degradation a man who has already paid the unprecedented penalty of relinquishing the highest elective office of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States, pursuant to the pardon power conferred upon me by Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution, have granted and by these presents do grant a full, free, and absolute pardon unto Richard Nixon for all offenses against the United States which he, Richard Nixon, has committed or may have committed or taken part in during the period from January 20, 1969 through August 9, 1974.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-ninth.

*Gerald R. Ford*



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# Document 6 – Speech from President Franklin D. Roosevelt

DRAFT No. 1

December 7, 1941.

## PROPOSED MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in ~~world history~~ <sup>infamy</sup>  
the United States of America was ~~suddenly~~ <sup>suddenly</sup> and deliberately attacked  
by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan, ~~with out warning~~.

The United States was at the moment at peace with that nation and was  
~~still in~~ <sup>still in</sup> continuing the conversations with its Government and its Emperor looking  
toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after  
Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in ~~Hawaii and the Philippines~~ <sup>Oahu</sup>

the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered  
to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a ~~former~~ <sup>recent American</sup> message, ~~from the~~

~~Secretary~~ <sup>While</sup> ~~This reply contained a statement that diplomatic negotiations~~ <sup>started</sup> ~~must be considered at an end, it~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~contained no threat~~ <sup>it seemed useless</sup> ~~and no hint of~~ <sup>to continue the</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>war or</sup>  
armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance ~~of Hawaii, and especially~~ <sup>of</sup>  
Hawaii, from Japan make <sup>it</sup> obvious that the ~~attack~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>deliberately</sup>  
planned many ~~days~~ <sup>or 10 or 15 weeks</sup> ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Govern-  
ment has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false  
statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

*infamy*  
*suddenly*  
*with out warning*  
*still in*  
*Oahu*  
*recent American*  
*While*  
*started*  
*it seemed useless*  
*to continue the*  
*war or*

The attack <sup>the Hawaiian Islands</sup> yesterday on ~~Manila and on the Island of Oahu~~ <sup>has</sup>

caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ~~ships~~ ships have been torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

*Last night Japanese forces attacked Saipan. Japan has, therefore, undertaken a "surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications ~~these attacks~~ <sup>of such</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> ~~safety~~ <sup>safety</sup> of our nation.*

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have, ~~of course,~~ directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Long will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

*A No matter how long it may take us to overcome this permitted invasion the American people will in their righteous might win through to absolute victory.*

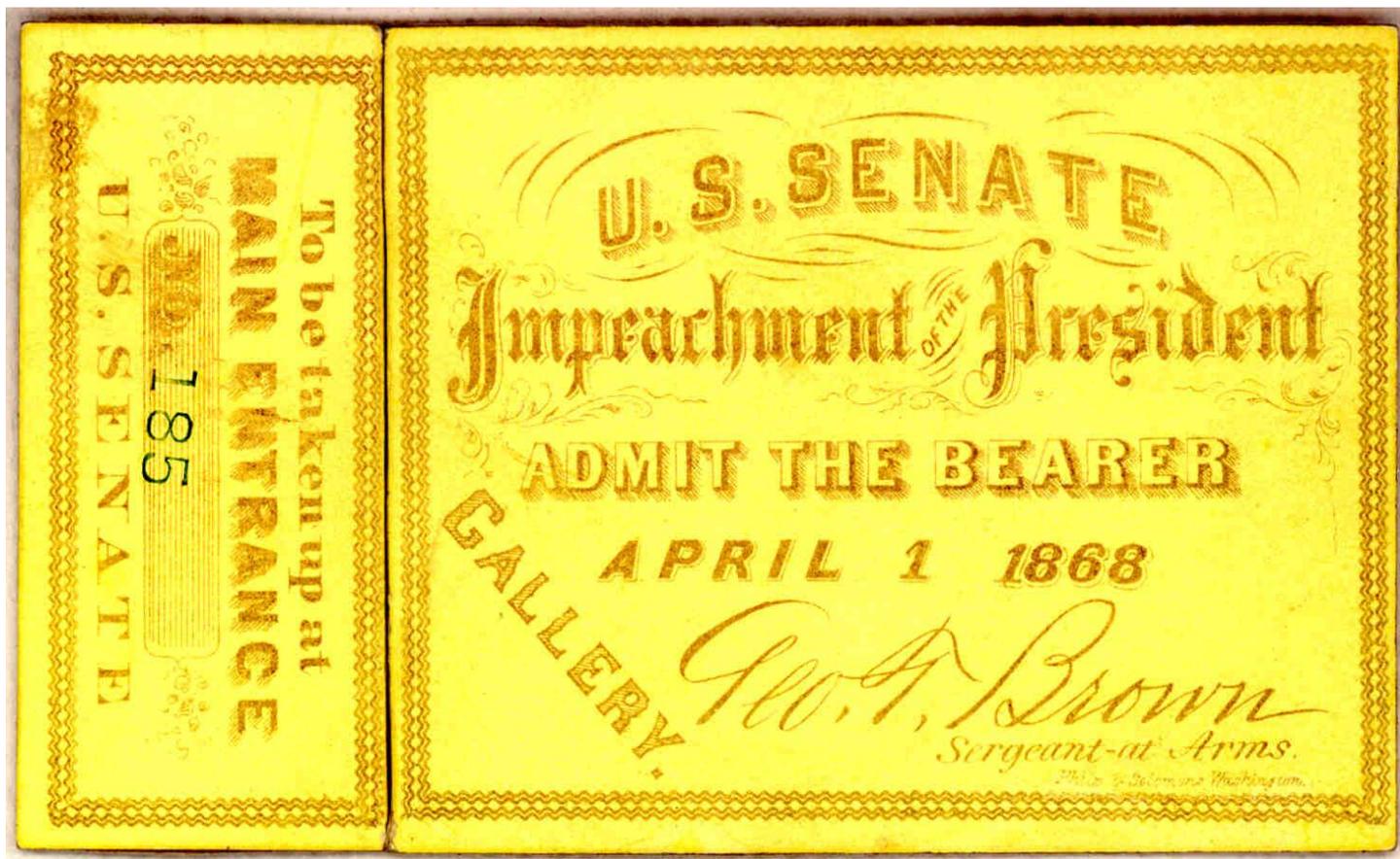
I speak the will of the Congress and of the people ~~of this~~  
~~country~~ when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to  
the uttermost but will see to it that this form of treachery shall  
never endanger us again. Hostilities exist. There is no mincing  
the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in  
grave danger.

I, therefore, ask that the Congress declare that since the  
unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December  
seventh, a state of war <sup>has</sup> <sup>not</sup> existed between the United States and the  
Japanese Empire.

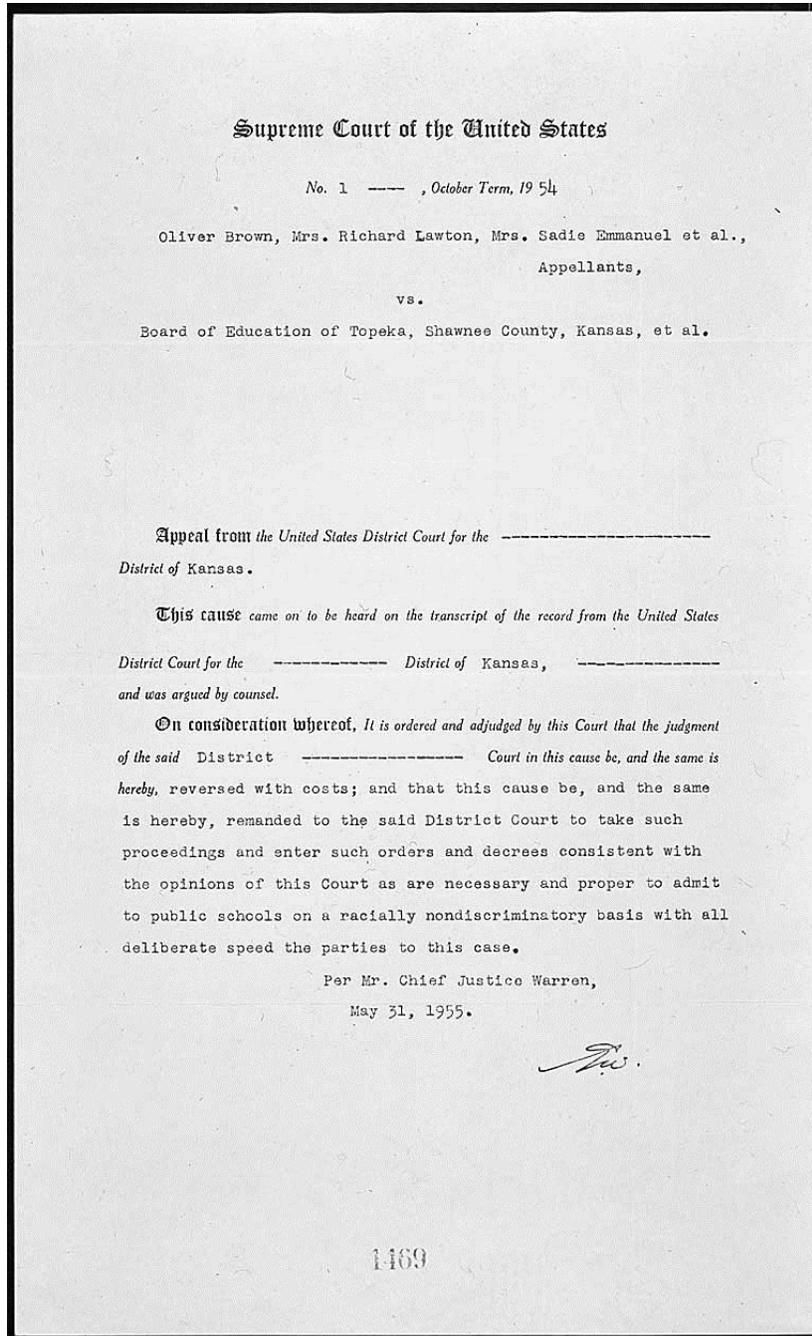
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~~Our people in  
full confidence in our might~~

Document 7 – Primary source related to Andrew Johnson's Presidency



## Document 8



On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court unanimously announced an end to public segregation in schools in the famous *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* case.

Linda Brown was an African-American third-grader whose father, Oliver Brown, had sued the school system in Topeka, Kan., alleging that the school his daughter went to, which had only African-American students, was not equal to the school that only white Americans went to. Further, Brown alleged, the school system was discriminating against African-American students in violation of the 14th Amendment, which granted all Americans the right to equal protection and, by extension, the right to an equal education.

Direct precedent in the case pointed to an 1898 case, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which had upheld segregation in public railway cars. But in an opinion of historic magnitude, the Court struck down *Plessy*, saying the Court was applying the 14th Amendment to the realm of public education as it stood in the present day. Thus, "Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal" and "such segregation is a denial of the equal protection of the laws."

Desegregation in schools happened slowly and with further verification from the Supreme Court and from lower courts, but it did happen.

# Document 9

## In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

February 24, 1944.

The House of Representatives having proceeded to reconsider the bill (H.R. 3687) entitled "An Act to provide revenue, and for other purposes", returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, it was

Resolved, That the said bill pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives agreeing to pass the same.

Attest:



Clerk.