

## Julian's Introduction

Good evening, I'm Julian Taylor with The Great Collaboration. Many of you are reading and we all thank you for your service. Please feel free, if you are the next reader, to step forward a little early and be ready to step in quickly when the current reader finishes. Everyone should also know that when a reader is reading words that are in italics, they are reading an amended portion of the Constitution. The reader will hold up their crossed fingers like this to show that what they are saying is no longer quite true.

{pause}

Welcome all. We are about to read a revolutionary document. It is revolutionary for two reasons. The first is because it was written by bona fide revolutionaries — men who revolted against the reign of King George and indeed against all kings. It is also revolutionary because it fundamentally changed the way the World understood representative democracy. It was an innovative document defining a configuration of government that challenged existing ideologies. Section by section we see the influence of science and ancient Greek lawgivers. It was, and is, a great experiment and even our Founding Fathers saw it that way. Thomas Jefferson wrote that he hoped the "American experiment would prove that men can be governed by reason and reason alone." it is an innovative revolutionary experiment that is ongoing to this day.

Welcome to the revolution.

Now I'd like a show of hands. How many of you, patriots all, have a small devotional in your homes to our nation's goddess? <pause> Oh my. This is very disappointing. Our Founding Fathers, consistent with the traditions of the day, went to the trouble of establishing a goddess to oversee their great enterprise and her name is... Anyone. <peruse the room> Anyone.

<show the poster of Columbia>

Her name is Columbia. It was Columbia's breasts that John Ashcroft covered with an expensive tarp under the George W. Bush administration. Columbia is the gem of the ocean. That's why Washington D.C. is called the District of Columbia. It is the seat of the goddess.

During our reading I'd like you to listen for three things.

1. Listen for a date. It's one thousand eight hundred and eight. That's the year that the issue of slavery could be discussed in Congress. In order to bring in the southern states and get them to sign on to the Constitution, the founding fathers reached this painfully wrong and yet maybe critically necessary agreement. Slavery was off the table and could not be discussed for twenty years; not until one thousand eight hundred and eight.

2. Listen carefully to Article 1 Section 8. Count the number of sentences. You will be surprised.
3. Listen carefully when the Constitution describes an oath. Who is required to swear on the Bible? You will be surprised.

And now, the Constitution of The United States of America.

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Dismiss with "Long live the revolution!"