

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CENTER & MUSEUM

July 4, 2022, Program (Part One of the Three American Foundings Series)

WORDS to WORLD:

Mon., July 4, 2022, 2:30 – 4 p.m. ET (on-site and online)

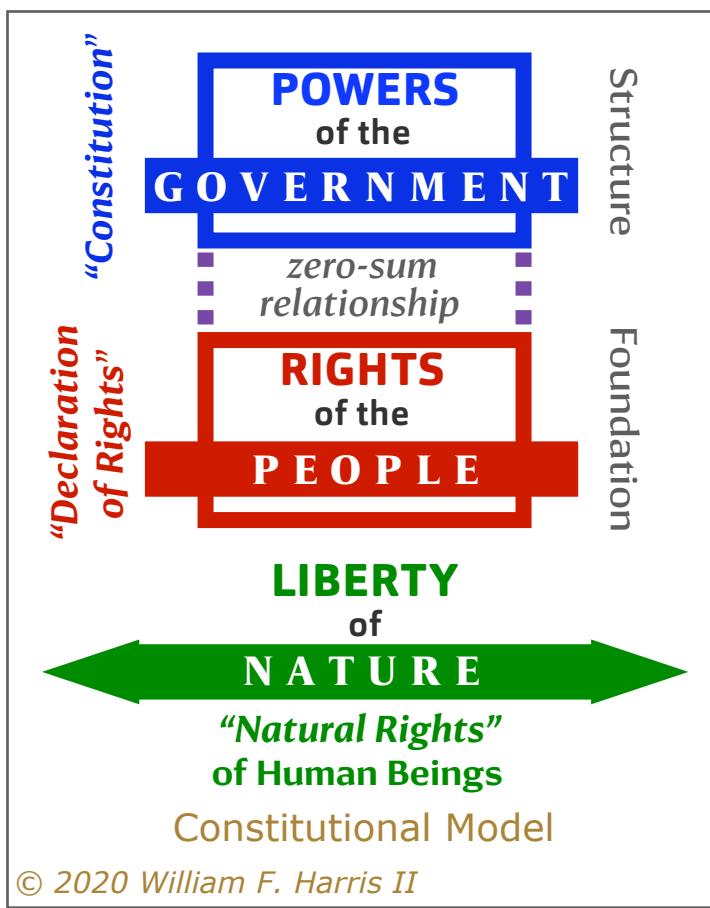
**What kind of civic world
would the public words of the
Declaration of Independence make?**

***What can we keep, and develop further,
from the First Stage of Founding the United States?***

Professor Will Harris

University of Pennsylvania
Principal Scholar, ICRCM

What can we build from the statements and commitments of the actual founding document? It literally prefigures the fundamental values and interactive relationships of a made-up world — a **fantasy polity**. But that is, after all, what constitution-making is all about.



How do we put it into motion as a workable system?

The design laid out in what we call the "Declaration of Independence," from the First Founding in the period around 1776, is the first layer of the constitutional order that makes up the current civic **domain of the United States**. What components are needed, or would be very useful, in constructing such a civic edifice for the real life of the people? We will look at the document closely, and from a distance, to observe what can be seen about the beginnings of this country as a constitutional project engaging the most significant aspects of human creativity.

Are there basic principles that we have forgotten or distorted which might otherwise help us deal more appropriately with the challenges posed by the public affairs of today — **whether these might have to do with equitable relations among citizens or privacy against government intrusion or other pressing issues?**

Subsequent programs in 2022 will deal with the **Second** and **Third** **Foundings**, as they are related to the **civil rights mission** of the Initiative for the New Constitution at the International Civil Rights Center & Museum.

Register at www.sitinmovement.org

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