

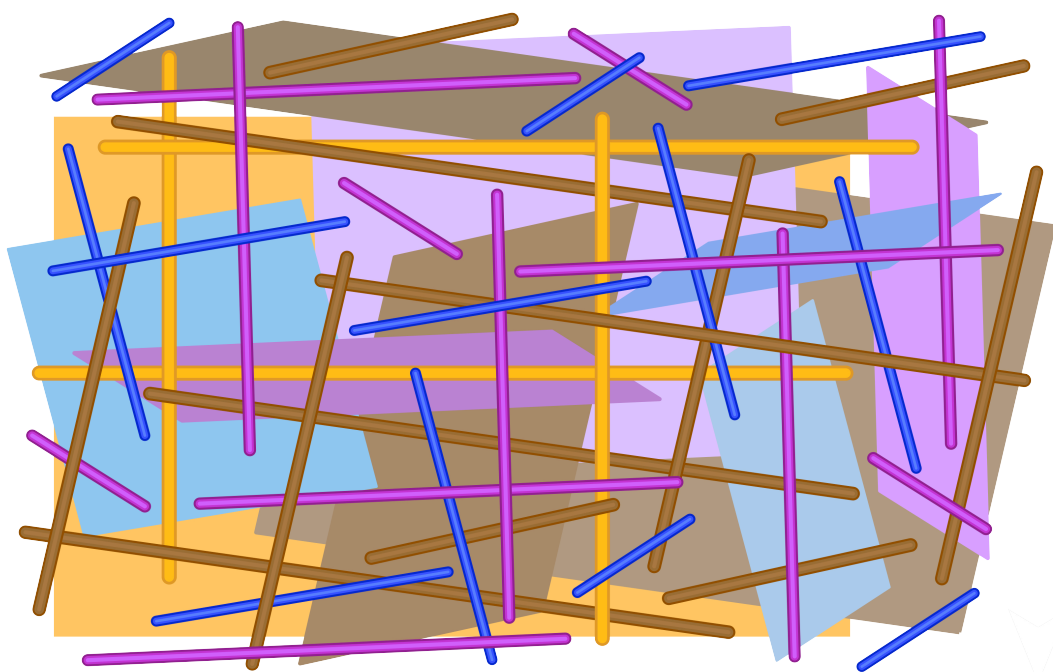
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Let's Start Thinking
Seriously for a Change.
CENTER & MUSEUM

THE **INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS**

*Fitting
It All Together:*

The Consolidated American Constitution of the Three Foundings



“THE NEW CONSTITUTION”

• **SATURDAY, March 20, 2–3:30 p.m.**

*On-Line Zoom Presentation
and Questions*

• **MONDAY, March 22, 7–8:30 p.m.**

*Follow-Up Structured
but Open-Ended Discussion*

The United States is the product of **three stages of Constitutional Founding** — in 1776, 1787, and 1868. These reflect significantly different models of the well-ordered human community: “**Republican**,” “**Federalist**,” and “**Citizen-Association**.” We can designate these as the Three Paradigms of the American Constitutional Order. Each has essential implications for the country as a “Civil Rights Regime,” where **Good Government, Just Polity, and Full Citizenship** might still come together coherently to make an enlightened nation, learning the lessons of our mistakes. The result would be substantially more than a standard constitutional democracy. Instead, it might generate **a national community exemplifying a new type of its own**, a distinctive political composition that does not even have a name yet.

We can think of these layered Foundings as similar to an archeological site where an excavation reveals **separate stages of civilization stacked on top of each other**. In more contemporary terms, it makes sense to understand these stages of American constitution making as **operating systems — U.S. O/S 1.0, U.S. OS 2.0, and U.S. O/S 3.0**. Each has integrity and value. And, in this case, each later one does not displace the earlier one(s), for none of them is complete in itself. Instead, they persist together. Some people may focus on one more than the others. **But how do they fit into a complex whole?** How do we accommodate incompatibilities?

There needs to be **a fourth stage, where the three previous stages of creation are composed into a consolidated form that we may not have seen before**. If we can resume the creative capacities of Constitutional Founders at this stage as well, with attentive imagination in our own day, we may be able to use these to make something more complete and harmonious. But that work very much remains to be done.