

Part One, American Government and U.S. Constitution

Lesson 3 of 27: Principle 1

Name: _____

Reading Assignment: *The 5000 Year Leap*: pp. 37-48

Part II: The Founders' Basic Principles – 28 great Ideas that Changed the World

1st Principle : The Genius of Natural Law

Lesson 3; Principle 1 :

THE MOST PROMISING METHOD OF SECURING A VIRTUOUS AND MORALLY STABLE PEOPLE IS TO ELECT VIRTUOUS LEADERS.

Lesson 3 objectives: As a result of this lesson. the student should be able to discuss the following questions/topics:

1. According to Samuel Adams, what is one way to identify the true friends of liberty?
(pages 59-60)

One who tries to promote it's **virtue**; one who will only **promote wise and virtuous people**.

2. By what method did the founders want citizens to qualify themselves for public office?
(60-62)

By **personal merit**, not wealth and reputation of his ancestors

Aristocracy =

<u>Artificial</u>	Vs.	<u>*Natural</u>
-inherit		-virtue
-wealth		-talents
-social status		-proven ability
		-accomplishments

* Government is best which provides a pure selection process of the natural *aristoi* and puts them into public office.– Jefferson

3. Describe the founders' view of the whole subject of politics. (62-64)

Cicero on Politics: “A godly function because it preserves people’s rights and freedom”

John Adams: “Politics are the Divine Science.” [not an emotion]

*Natural Progression of Liberty -politics and war -math and philosophy

-natural history, commerce, agriculture -painting, poetry, music etc.

THUS– It is more virtuous to run for office than to just pawn it off on others.

4. How did Benjamin Franklin describe the two weaknesses that tempt people in public office?

(64-67)

Making Public Office an Honor Rather Than a Position of Profit?

* A post of Honor for recognized accomplishments

* Not a post of profit to make money

The Example of Washington

-Wanted to be a farmer

-Called by his countrymen:

– War

– Const. Conv.

– Pres.

Franklin Position:

*Most public business done gratis

*Two conditions driving to public office: *ambition & avarice*

5. What did Franklin prophesy would most likely happen to public officials over time?

(67-69)

Pay raises; money and power dominate and control: therefore keep their salaries LOW!

6. Describe the founders' efforts to prevent public offices from becoming monetary attractions.

(69-73)

Lessen the profits by legislature.

How to develop character and virtue sufficient?

-Have a system of strong basic beliefs

-Have courage to reject false philosophies

-Keep yourself serviceable

Answer Key (2 pages)

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Lesson 4 of 27:

Name: _____

Part II: The Founders' Basic Principles – 28 great Ideas that Changed the World

3rd Principle : Election of Virtuous Leaders

Reading Assignment: *The 5000 Year Leap*: (pages 25-49)

Lesson 3 objectives: You should be able to:

[*Natural Law* mystifies most Americans—even though the founding fathers mentioned it often. It is because Americans today have never Studied *Natural Law*.]

1. Describe *Marcus Tullius Cicero*, The Roman Statesman (page 37-39)

a. His Life:

Law in Rome, Philosophy in Athens, Lawyer rising to highest office Rom. Consul, exiled after 5 yrs, murdered after 6th, resisted trend toward dictatorship.

b. His Writings: *Republic, Laws*

c. His Fundamental teachings:

Right Conduct = *Laws of Creator,

*Recognized intelligent design of the Universe,

*Called the Creator's order of things Nat. Law.,

*Common-Sense and reasonable.

*Laws of Nature and Nature's God.

2. The Main Characteristics of Natural Law: (pp. 39-40)

p.40 *True Law is righteous and agrees with Nature.

* External, universal, reasonable, cannot be altered or repealed, comprehensible, totally correct.

* "True law is right reason in agreement with Nature....".

3. The Unique trait that God and Man have in Common: (according to *Cicero*)? (p.41)

<Divine Gift of Reason>

* Only Man shares "reason" with God.

* Perfect reason = wisdom.

* Reason and Law are common to God and man.

4. The Concepts of Natural Law are closely aligned with Christian beliefs. Why? (P.42-43)

<The First Great Commandment>

* A lawyer's confrontation with Jesus

- What is the greatest commandment?

- Love God totally = love all truth, right laws

- recognize the significance of obedience

< The Second Great Commandment>

* All are equal before God

* Love thy neighbor as thyself

* The Golden Rule

* Neighborly love and kindness is the glue which holds society together

5. Cicero would give what advise to modern Lawmakers and Citizens of nations?

<Legislation>

- * “If it violates Natural Law, it is no law” – quote [no more gravity=changes not reality!]
- * “All laws should be measured against Natural Law” - quote
- * Cicero’s vision of an ideal society (quote) p 46

6. Concepts of our American System of Government have their basis in Natural Law. Pp. 46-47.
Name some of them:

<Examples of Natural Law>

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| * Unalienable rights property | * Self preservation |
| * Unalienable duties | * Right to Contract |
| * Habeus Corpus - [right to know accusers claims] | * Family & Marriage |
| * Limited Government | * Reparation to Victim |
| * Separation of Powers | * No Tax without |
| * checks and Balances | Representation |