

The first of these was the **Declaration of Independence**, which was adopted on July 4, 1776. This document declared that the thirteen colonies were no longer part of the British Empire and that they were now free and independent states. The second was the **Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union**, which were adopted in 1777. These articles provided for a central government, but it was very weak and could not do much to help the states. The third was the **Constitution of the United States**, which was adopted in 1787. This document provided for a strong central government with three branches: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The Constitution also provided for a system of checks and balances to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful.

The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land. It is the foundation of the government and provides for the structure and powers of the federal government. The Constitution is divided into seven articles. Article I provides for the legislative branch, the United States Congress. Article II provides for the executive branch, the President. Article III provides for the judicial branch, the Supreme Court. Article IV provides for the relationship between the states and the federal government. Article V provides for the process of amending the Constitution. Article VI provides for the supremacy of the Constitution. Article VII provides for the ratification of the Constitution.

The Constitution of the United States is a unique document in world history. It is the only written constitution in the world that has remained in effect for so long. The Constitution has been amended twenty-seven times, but the basic structure of the government has remained the same. The Constitution has provided for a stable and effective government for over two centuries. The Constitution is the source of the power of the federal government and the source of the rights of the citizens. The Constitution is the foundation of the American way of life.

The Constitution of the United States is a living document. It has been interpreted and applied in many different ways over the years. The Supreme Court has played a key role in interpreting the Constitution. The Court has decided many important cases that have shaped the course of American history. The Constitution is a source of inspiration and guidance for all Americans. The Constitution is the heart of the American dream.