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The Foundation of America

If the United States were a skyscraper, the Constitution would be its foundation and framework, and without it, the tower would tumble. Even though it was written in 1787, with the main authors being historical figures such as John Jay, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton, it still stands firm as the supreme law of the country. It illustrates the rights of a citizen, the do's, the don'ts, the how's, and the why's of the government, and provides a precedent that should be strictly followed. It establishes important processes and the branches that keep the government stable and running, which is why the skyscraper has stood firm all this time.

The Constitution starts with three now famous words, "We the people". This signifies that The Constitution is not just the framework for the government, but the people being ruled by it. The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments to the Constitution, and they were created to highlight the rights of a citizen and the limitations of the government. It conveys that U.S. citizens have a right to freedom of speech, of the press, to peaceably assemble, to petition against the government, etc. The Bill of Rights also limits the power of the government in terms of the judicial process, unreasonable searches and seizures, and unusual and cruel punishments. It also states that powers not mentioned are reserved to the states or the people. These Amendments

have been used to help many citizens maneuver through countless court cases and end up victorious.

One such case is the Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission in which a baker refused to bake a wedding cake for a gay couple due to his religious principles. The former argued that making a wedding cake for them against his principles would have violated his First Amendment rights. In the smaller courts, they lost, but when the case was taken to the Supreme Court, they were in favor of the cake shop. There was one case that changed every other case in the United States after it, including Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, and that was the Marbury v. Madison case.

William Marbury was an American businessman who was appointed as a justice of the peace by the President, John Adams. Adams however, left before Marbury could receive his commission. This in turn led him to sue the Secretary of the State, James Madison, as he was refused the commission. The Supreme Court was in favor of him, but by the Constitution, they could not enforce it. It was this case, in which the Chief of Justice John Marshall, created the process of judicial review. Judicial review is the process in which the Supreme Court declares if a legislative act is constitutional or not and it is also a power never mentioned by the constitution but became the precedent either way. Before it was created, power between the three branches was unbalanced, but this created a better balance between them as before this, the Judicial Branch had less power than the other two.

Unlike judicial review, the three branches of government were established by the

constitution. The Judicial, Legislative, and Executive branches are a genius way of separating and balancing the powers of the government. The Executive branch is the President and Vice President, the Legislative Branch consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the Judicial Branch is the Supreme Court and the other courts. Each of them has their respective duties to keep the government running. The Legislative Branch makes the laws, the Judicial Branch deals with court cases and can deem laws unconstitutional, and the Executive Branch has the job of enforcing them. This is the system that has kept the country running for over 200 years now and may continue to be in place for hundreds more.

In conclusion, the Constitution is an ingenious way of laying out the framework of how the U.S. should run. It addresses most things of importance but also provides room for it to be mended, and is engineered to be. The foundation of America will prevail and will stand strong for many years to come.