

# Sample Topics: Rights and Responsibilities in History

- Busting the Trusts: Progressives and the Government Duty to Ensure Competition
- The Elizabethan Poor Law: Rights vs. Responsibilities
- Jefferson, War and Embargo? The Embargo Act of 1807 and the Constitution
- Nazi Germany and the Rights and Responsibilities of a "Superior" Race
- A. Philip Randolph: Labor and Civil Rights Activist
- "Reaching the Heart of Africa": The Africa Inland Mission and Evangelism
- The FHA, HUD and Federal Responsibilities for Housing in 20th-century America
- The British East India Company: Rights, Responsibilities and Profits
- Horace Mann and the State's Duty to Provide Education
- The Geneva Convention and the Rights of POWs
- Eisenhower and the Integration of Central High: Civil Rights and Federal Responsibilities
- Emmeline Pankhurst and the Fight for Women's Suffrage in England
- Keeping the Workers Quiet: Corporate Welfare in 1920s America
- No Right to Leave: The Berlin Wall
- The ACLU and the Defense of Liberty in America
- Emilio Aguinaldo: Fighting for Filipino Rights
- Put the Preachers in Jail: The Great Awakening in Connecticut
- The Inquisition: Enforcing Orthodoxy vs. the Right to Dissent
- Rights Trampled: Andrew Jackson vs. the Cherokees
- Blacks, Whites, Coloreds, Indians: Competing Rights in South Africa
- The Wagner Act and the Rights of Labor
- Trade Rights During the Napoleonic Wars: Freedom of the Seas?
- Truth Is a Defense: John Peter Zenger and Freedom of the Press
- Pure Democracy in Actions: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens in Classical Athens
- Married Women's Property Acts in 19th-century America
- Andrei Sakharov and Human Rights in the Soviet Union
- Lonely Voices: Conscientious Objectors in World War II America
- Nobles, Knights and Serfs: Rights and Responsibilities in Medieval France
- The Great Railroad Strike of 1877: Workers' Rights, Government Responsibilities
- Justifying Rebellion: John Locke and the Right to Revolution
- A Duty to Protect Children: The Children's Bureau
- Spanish Colonists and the Right to Mita Labor in Colonial Peru
- "No Taxation Without Representation": The Stamp Act and the Coming of the America Revolution
- No Rights Left: Comfort Women and the Japanese Imperial Army, 1932-1945
- The American Indian Movement (AIM)
- The Quebecois: Minority Rights in Canada
- The Treaty System: National Obligations and the Origins of World War I
- The Curt Flood Case: Free Agency for Athletes
- The Mexican Revolution and the Rights of Peons
- The "Praying Indian": Rights and Responsibilities in Puritan New England
- Changing Ideas of Citizenship in Ancient Rome
- The Scopes Trial and the Right to Teach Evolution in America

- Pledge to Mutual Defense: NATO's Role in the Cold War
- John Muir and the Duty to Save the Environment
- Daniel O'Connell and Catholic Emancipation in 19th-century Ireland
- Mormons and Freedom of Religion in America
- Restricting the Rights of Parents: Family Planning in China
- Mary Church Terrell: Advocate for Women and African-American Rights
- The Platt Amendment: Limits on Cuba's National Rights
- The New York City Draft Riots and the Duty of Military Service
- Bartholomew de las Casas and the Rights of Indians in Colonial Latin America
- The National Organization for Women and the Struggle for the Equal Rights Amendment
- Bismarck and the Creation of a Welfare State in Germany
- Development of Water Rights: Struggle Over the Colorado River
- Adam Smith and the Right of Free Trade
- The Regulators: Rights and Responsibilities in the Carolina Backcountry
- The Treaty of Versailles and National Self-Determination
- Miranda v. Arizona and the Rights of the Accused
- How to Dress: Changing Rights of Muslim Women
- Japanese-American Rights and Responsibilities in World War II
- The Struggle for Aboriginal Rights in Australia
- The Duty of Revenge and the Practice of Adoption Among the Iroquois in Colonial America

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If there were no other reasons, the strengthening and protection of the vital role of State and local governments would be reasons enough to act against the denial of the right to vote for any of our citizens.

But there are other reasons to act -- clear, compelling and present reasons.

1. The challenge now presented is more than a challenge to our Constitution -- it is a blatant affront to the conscience of this generation of Americans. Discrimination based on race or color is reprehensible and intolerable to the great American majority. In every national forum, where they have chosen to test popular sentiment, defenders of discrimination have met resounding rejection. Americans now are not willing that the acid of the few shall be allowed to corrode the souls of the many.

The Congress, the Courts, and the Executive, acting together in clear response to the will of the people and the mandate of the Constitution, have achieved more progress toward equality of rights in recent years than in all the years gone before. This tide will not be turned. The purposeful many need not and will not bow to the willful few.

2. In our system, the first right and most vital of all our rights is the right to vote. Jefferson described the elective franchise as "the ark of our safety." It is from the exercise of this right that the guarantee of all our other rights flows.

Unless the right to vote be secure and undenied, all other rights are insecure and subject to denial for all our citizens. The challenge to this right is a challenge to America itself. We must meet this challenge as decisively as we would meet a challenge mounted against our land from enemies abroad.

LBJ Message on Voting Rights, National Archives