

THE CONSTITUTION

“STATES ARE RISING”

On November 2nd, in 1889, North Dakota (ND) & South Dakota (SD) become States¹ (#39 & #40) Here is a story representing balance and yet divided politics. Taking 7 years to complete Statehood, the territory of the Dakotas was split as to how their politics were run, and where the capital should be located. The final answers were to split the territory into North and South, recognizing that as far as the US Congress was concerned, they would bring a balanced vote to Congress with South Dakota leaning Republican and North Dakota Democrat.²



Why are the States key to understanding the Constitution?

The Constitution is a Contract between the States, written by the States and for the States. In order for all the States to agree to this **“More perfect union”** they agreed that **the Federal Government would only have those limited enumerated powers bestowed upon them that the States allowed**. These rights were to be managed by the Legislative and Executive branches. All other rights were retained by the States as clarified with the 10th Amendment, a part of the initial Bill of Rights passed by the States.³

In 1980, Candidate Ronald Reagan, stated *“I still believe the answer to any problem lies with the people. I believe in states' rights. I believe in people doing as much as they can for themselves at the community level and at the private level, and I believe we've distorted the balance of our government today by giving powers that were never intended in the Constitution to that federal establishment.”*

Regarding American Exceptionalism:

Further Insights, on American Exceptionalism. **Allen Guelzo concludes as he writes in the City-Journal:** *“The task of restoring confidence in our exceptionalism will nevertheless be a daunting one. **Exceptionalism will have to become what Lincoln called a “civil religion,” to be “breathed by every American mother, to the lisping babe, that prattles on her lap . . . taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges . . . written in Primmers, spelling books, and in Almanacs . . . preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice.”** The task will require a determined pushback against progressive unexceptionalism and the idea that only government can ensure efficiency and happiness. It will involve the revival of the rule of law (rather than agencies), the rejuvenation of our voluntary associations, and the celebration of their role in our public life. And it will force us to lift the burden of economic sclerosis, not merely with the aim of producing simple material abundance but also with the goal of promoting a national empathy, in which, as Georges Fisch saw in 1863, Americans rise and fall, and rise and fall again, without the stigma that consigns half the nation to a basket of deplorables.”*

“Can this, realistically, be done? Can we disentangle our public life from the grasp of the new hierarchy of bureaucrats and, overseas, pull back from foreign-policy crusades? Can we, in short, recur successfully to our first principles?”

Well, we did it once before.”⁴

¹Section 6: Statehood | North Dakota Studies (ndstudies.gov)

²<https://www.dakotane.wsnews.com/content/news/Have-you-ever-wondered-Why-was-Dakota-Territory-split-into-two-states-437917693.html>

³<https://constitution.laws.com/states-rights>

⁴<https://www.city-journal.org/american-exceptionalism>