

SLIDE	NOTES
1	In this module we discuss an overview of political conflict regarding the meaning of the constitution itself.
2	<p><b>HOUSE DIVIDED</b></p> <p><b>Anim1: Quote</b> Matthew 12:25 says            * This thought from the savior himself is about avoiding contradictions.            * This is the scripture Abraham Lincoln referenced in his famous "House Divided" speech regarding the coming civil war over slavery.            * In our day we are also divided.</p> <p><b>Anim2: Quote</b> Randy Barnett said:  <b>Q: Isn't The Constitution supposed to be a unifying document?</b>  <b>Q: How are we divided today over The Constitution?</b></p> <p><b>Anim3: Quote</b> (read the quote)            * Do not confuse this terminology with the democratic and republican <i>parties</i> which are not the same thing. Instead, think of it as a discussion on the origin of where rights come from.</p> <p><b>Anim4: Primacy Issues</b>  <b>Q: The core question arising from those 3 words is: does government grant rights or does government protect rights?</b></p> <p><b>Anim5:</b> The answer is: It depends on which theory of justice you adhere to, based on the Natural Rights Definition or the Social Good definition.</p> <p>Social Good would declare rights as "hands on"... Give me.            Natural Rights would declare rights as "hands off"... Don't tread on me.</p> <p><b>Primacy of Reality</b>            * Eternalism and Latter-day Saint doctrine firmly declares a "We The People" interpretation based on individual Natural Rights, which derives from Primacy of Reality.            * This means rights are independent of government, or the collective, and the primary role of government is to protect these individual rights from intrusion.</p> <p><b>Primacy of Consciousness</b>            A primacy of Consciousness interpretation says that the collective consciousness of the people (as a whole) has primacy, and the government is there to re-distribute benefits according to majority will.</p>
3	<p><b>POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY</b></p> <p><b>Quote</b> Another term you'll hear describing "We the People" is called <i>popular sovereignty</i>. It is (read the quote)            * The problem is that the phrases "vested in the people" and "general will" can mean different things to different people.</p> <p><b>Anim1: Q: So what are the attributes of a Democratic Constitution vs Republican Constitution?</b>            * Again, do not confuse this terminology with the democratic and republican <i>parties</i> which is not the same thing.</p> <p><b>Anim2:</b> What this comes down to is the <b>source of power</b>...            * These are philosophical beliefs about the primacy of governments or primacy of individual rights.</p>

	<p>* A democratic version is collective will of the majority. In a pure Democracy, a voting majority has almost unlimited power to make laws. In a pure Democracy, minorities have few protections from the will of the majority.</p> <p>* In a Republic however, the people elect representatives to make laws <i>within constraints</i> of a Natural Rights constitution. The Republican version is the sovereign rights of individuals.</p> <p><b>Anim3: Rights / Government</b>          * The democratic version (read)          * The Republican version says (read)</p> <p><b>Anim5: Quotes</b>          (read)</p> <p><b>Q: But isn't the history of America a fight for democracy?</b></p>
4	<p><b>DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC</b>          Yes, and no. Democratic Elements, doesn't mean an complete Democracy. There is a huge difference between pure democracy, and a republic which incorporates democratic principles.</p> <p><b>Anim1: Quote</b> Randy Barnett said: (read)          However, representation based on different interpretations of "We The People" has very different outcomes.</p> <p><b>Anim2: Quote</b> (read)</p> <p><b>Anim3: Quote</b> (read)          * The founders had their fill of the turbulence, changeableness, and follies of complete democracy living under the Articles of Confederation. Democracy under the Articles of Confederation was a disaster. However, within the Republican constitution, they didn't want to lose the democratic elements, where popular sovereignty goes out to everyone, majority and minority alike. Within the republic, every citizen has sovereignty</p> <p><b>Q: So what is the problem with pure democracy where the collective will of the majority is absolute?</b></p>
5	<p><b>TYRANNY OF MAJORITY</b>          Unchecked democracy is called the tyranny of majority.</p> <p><b>Anim1: Quote</b> it has been said that (read quote)          * Majority will can easily become tyrannical.          * A succinct metaphor is two wolves and a lamb sitting down to vote on what to have for lunch.          * Liberty is a well-armed lamb exercising its 2nd amendment rights.</p> <p>Democracy is far too easily hijacked by those who desire to vote themselves into power through irresponsible manipulation of the public treasury.</p> <p><b>Anim2: Quote</b> read the quote          * Once direct Democracy is exposed for what it truly is (mob rule), it becomes outrageous.</p>
6	<p><b>DEBT</b>          * A consequence of Welfare Statism and the majority voting themselves benefits from the public treasury, is that it comes with the belief that the government's job is to spend money on benefit programs where debt is no big deal.          * Back in 1917 during World War I, the National Debt became a concern to where congress enacted a formal "Debt Sealing" to which they were bound by law to stay below.</p>

	<p><b>Anim1:</b> <b>Quote</b> (read)  <b>Q: What was the consequence of this?</b></p> <p><b>Anim2:</b> <b>Quote</b> (read)  * The drunken joyride of national debt just keeps going and going, with congress continually voting to increase the debt limit.  * 84 times since 1917...Never once decreased.  * We are reminded of the joke that goes like this:  "A guy jumps off a 55 story building and half-way down says 'so far so good'".  Only where we are at with our national debt isn't a joke...</p> <p><b>Anim3:</b> <b>Quote</b> This is a chart of the rise of national debt since 1917</p> <p><b>Anim4:</b> <b>Quote</b> Entitlement programs and the United States embracing the welfare state are accelerating to where our debt is growing exponentially now.  <b>Q: How long can this continue?</b>  <b>Q: Who will pay back the debt?</b></p>
7	<p><b>WELFARE STATE</b>  * It is unjust to spend money our children and grandchildren will have to pay back. Our yet unborn children and grandchildren will inherit a great burden.  * But we don't just have an inflationary problem. We have a criminal problem of rights being violated.</p> <p><b>Anim1:</b> <b>Quote</b> George Bernard Shaw said (read)</p> <p><b>Anim2:</b> <b>Quote</b> Frederic Bastiat said  Benefiting one group, through the destruction of Natural Rights of another group, is <i>plunder</i>, not <i>benevolence</i>.</p>
8	<p><b>WELFARE STATE</b>  <b>Quote</b> President Benson said (read)  * To understand the true nature of the welfare state we need to understand the concepts of Liberty, License, and Tyranny.</p> <p><b>Anim1:</b> <b>Quote</b> License is (read quote)</p> <p><b>Anim2:</b> <b>Q: What is the difference between liberty and license?</b>  <b>Anim3:</b> License = is When individuals infringe on the liberty and rights of each other.</p> <p><b>Anim4:</b> <b>Q: What is the difference between liberty and tyranny?</b>  <b>Anim5:</b> Tyranny = is When the government infringes on the liberty and rights of its citizens.</p>
9	<p><b>LIBERTY, LICENSE, TYRANNY</b>  To better understand this issue of "legalized plunder" think about the actions of a common street thug.</p> <p><b>Anim1:</b> <b>Street Thug</b>  * License = is those who through use of force take away your property which is needed to sustain your life.  * Obviously we would assume the thief does NOT have the liberty to do this. We call it license.</p> <p><b>Anim2:</b> <b>Welfare State</b>  * Now consider the modern welfare state.</p>

	<p>* If a street thug were to rob you of your money, this act would certainly be considered immoral and criminal.</p> <p>* Yet there are those who have no moral problem with the government using majority rule, and force to confiscate and redistribute wealth. We call this tyranny.</p> <p><b>Q: Is this not just legalized plunder?</b></p> <p>* Direct Democracy or "Majoritarianism" is just another name for mob rule.</p> <p><b>Q: What is government but a monopoly of force?</b></p> <p>* To ask "What is the proper role of government" is really to ask "What is the proper role of force."</p> <p>* <b>Q: Is it for forcible redistribution of wealth disguised as benevolence?</b></p> <p>* <b>Q: Or is it for restricting excessive liberty (license) of those who would tread on natural rights?.</b></p> <p>* The founding fathers clearly understood this issue.</p> <p><b>Anim3: Quote</b> James Madison said (read quote) Government it is force that needs to be handled carefully like fire. In the end, legal plunder in the name of redistributing wealth, undermines a civil society.</p>
10	<p><b>GREAT IS THE INDIVIDUAL</b></p> <p>The restored gospel of Jesus Christ is very much about the individual, not the collective.</p> <p><b>Anim1:</b> The primacy issue of Man/State or Collective/Individual is an Eternal issue that will be with us forever.</p> <p>* This was the essence of the pre-mortal war we all fought in, it is the essence of the war we are still fighting today, and I it will be the essence of future conflicts whenever the plan of salvation is implemented in future Kingdoms as well.</p> <p><b>Anim2: Quote</b> Elder Widtsoe said:</p> <p><b>Anim3:</b> Statism</p> <p>* The Latter-day Saint political view upholding individualism, is foundational. It is a radical departure from the false traditions, coercive institutions and collective mentality of historical mankind.</p> <p>* Statist's of various stripes would have it—the other way around. Statists give primacy to the State over Man, to the Collective over the Individual.</p> <p>* Collectivism is Lucifer's version of mass salvation. Collectivism not only ignores the individual, but oppresses and tyrannizes the individual through force, robbing the individual of agency.</p>
11	Questions?