

MS CONSTITUTION 101

Module 5: The Bill of Rights 5.8: Incorporation Timeline



INCORPORATION TIMELINE

1) 1791

Bill of Rights is
ratified.

The Bill of Rights included protections for freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the protection against unreasonable searches, and many more rights.

2) 1833

Barron v. Baltimore is
decided.

The Supreme Court made it clear in this case that the protections offered by the Bill of Rights only applied to the federal government.

3) 1861-1865

The Civil War

The fight between the states and its resolution changed how Americans thought about the country and citizenship. Prior to the Civil War, many Northern politicians criticized the South for violating core rights like free speech, a free press, the freedom to assemble, the right to petition, and religious liberty in Southern efforts to suppress abolitionist speaking, writing, preaching, and meeting prior to the Civil War. The critiques continued during and after the Civil War.

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4) 1873

The Slaughter-House Cases

The Supreme Court ruled to limit the 14th Amendment's reach, rejecting an early effort to apply the 14th Amendment to abuses within the states and reading the Privileges or Immunities Clause narrowly.

5) 1925

Gitlow v. New York is decided.

In this decision, the Supreme Court used the 14th Amendment to apply the First Amendment's protection of the freedom of speech/press to a violation within a state.

6) 1940

Cantwell v. Connecticut is decided.

The Supreme Court ruled that the 14th Amendment meant that the First Amendment right to free exercise of religion applied to the states.

7) 1947

Everson v. Board of Education is decided.

The Supreme Court ruled that the 14th Amendment meant that the First Amendment's Establishment Clause applied to the states.

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