Quotes Class 1

"If it be asked, what is the most sacred duty and the greatest source of our security in a Republic? The answer would be an inviolable respect for the Constitution and Laws."

Alexander Hamilton

"On every question of construction, let us carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates, and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text, or invented against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed."

 Thomas Jefferson,

"Our peculiar security is in the possession of a written Constitution. Let us not make it a blank paper by construction."

Thomas Jefferson

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

 John Adams

“Constitutions, of the written variety especially, are usefully viewed as a means of freezing time by controlling the future through the “hardness” of language encoded in a monumental document, which is then left for later interpreters to decipher. .. The purpose of such control is to reserve the particular vision held by constitutional founders and to prevent its overthrow in future generations.”

Sanford Levinson

[W]hatever veneration might be entertained for the body of men who formed our Constitution, the sense of that body could never be regarded as the oracular guide in expounding the Constitution. As the instrument came from them it was nothing more than the draft of a plan, nothing but a dead letter, until life and validity were breathed into it by the voice of the people, speaking through the several State Conventions. If we were to look, therefore; for the meaning of the instrument beyond the face of the instrument, we must look for it, not in the General Convention, which proposed, but in the State Conventions, which accepted and ratified the Constitution.

James Madison

Speech before House of Representatives, Farrand's Records (in the American Memory Collection of the Library of Congress), April 6, 1796, page 374.

“Our constitution protects aliens, drunks and U.S. Senators.”

 Will Rogers