



#FoundingFathers: Full Transcript

[01:00:05:10] TITLES: *Is the United States Constitution perfect?*

[01:00:10:08] - INTRO VO - In these difficult political times, people are looking back to the fundamental principles of our democracy. One intrepid blogger decided to go straight to the source.

[01:00:27:07] - JEFFERSON - Don't choke, James.

[01:00:31:07] - FRANKLIN - Shouldn't that woman be here by now?

[01:00:32:19] - JEFFERSON - I thought so. But you know... the way that she speaks it's so peculiar.

[01:00:35:07] - MADISON -Gentlemen, while I respect your right to free speech, I do wish you'd shut up.

[01:00:52:03] - ANNA - Hey guys! Oh..Oh my god. Um, are you...Um?

[01:00:56:16] - JEFFERSON - Thomas Jefferson. And may I introduce Mr. Ben Franklin and James Madison.

[01:01:01:23] - ANNA - Wow! You guys don't look anything like your pictures.

[01:01:05:07] - FRANKLIN - After two and a quarter centuries, America has changed, and so have we.

[01:01:14:06] - MADISON - Please, let's have a seat.

[01:01:16:12] - ANNA - Thank you

[01:01:17:02] - JEFFERSON - You're welcome.

[01:01:20:06] - ANNA - Thanks so much for doing this. People really want answers to this whole constitution thing.

[01:01:29:11] -ANNA - We're in!

[01:01:31:04] - BECKY - Hello, Founding Fathers!

[01:02:35:06] - BECKY (CONT'D) - I just wanted to know: why are you called the "Founding Fathers?"

[01:01:40:05] - FRANKLIN - What?

[01:01:41:09] - MADISON - Well, did you know, that once upon a time, there was no America?

[01:01:45:10] - JEFFERSON - Mhmm.

[01:01:45:19] - MADISON - And that it fell to—

[01:01:46:14] - FRANKLIN - A group of exceptional men--

[01:01:49:05] - MADISON - --us, to establish a new system of government-

[01:01:51:21] - JEFFERSON - And new laws-

[01:01:53:16] - MADISON - And so...America.

[01:01:56:03] - JEFFERSON - Pretty much our idea.

[01:02:01:09] - ANNA - Alright! Next question.

[01:02:03:11] - ROGER - Hey guys. Since you left, the government has been harvesting data off our phones and computers. Is that, like, legal?

[01:02:13:01] - JEFFERSON - Of course it's not legal!

[01:02:14:10] - FRANKLIN - Now Thomas, that's not quite so clear--

[01:02:15:13] - MADISON - Actually I did write a few -

[01:02:17:23] - JEFFERSON - The fourth amendment! "The right of the people to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated!"

[01:02:25:01] - ROGER - The fourth amendment protects individual property, not the phone company.

[01:02:32:00] - JEFFERSON - The phone company. See, this is what I was saying in 1787. The constitution should be rewritten every 19 years.

[01:02:39:02] - ANNA - So, my generation -

[01:02:40:16] - FRANKLIN - Should be hard at work on the 12th draft, yes. And how's that coming along for you?

[01:02:45:17] - ANNA - Umm... next question.

[01:02:48:10] - CHRIS - Guns.

[01:02:50:15] - ANNA - That's not a question.

[01:02:51:23] - CHRIS - The Constitution says I get to have guns.

[01:02:55:01] - JEFFERSON - The Constitution says "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state..."

[01:03:01:07] - CHRIS - "The right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

[01:03:04:10] - FRANKLIN - Are you part of the militia?

[01:03:06:09] - CHRIS - No, but I do believe in my second amendment right to own a gun.

[01:03:11:23] - MADISON - Look, we had to put a lot of stuff in there. There were competing voices, there were different agendas from separate states... It's not easy

[01:03:22:15] - ANNA - That is not an answer, Mr. - Ms. Madison!

[01:03:25:09] - FRANKLIN - But it's still true, isn't it?

[01:03:28:06] - JEFFERSON - "The Constitution: It's Not Easy."

[01:03:30:22] - ANNA - It's not easy to get answers from you.

[01:03:33:18] - JEFFERSON - Young lady, you seem to be missing the point here.

[01:03:37:04] - MADISON - The reason that the Constitution is so durable is because so much was left out.

[01:03:44:09] - ANNA - Okay, but if the Constitution is so flexible, don't we run the risk of some demagogue coming in and changing it like way too much?

[01:03:52:06] - FRANKLIN - Some idiot could muck it up.

[01:03:54:08] - JEFFERSON - A lot of thought went into that document.

[01:03:55:08] -MADISON - The citizens must decide! The document protects the few from the many, and establishes a framework of self-governance.

But as I always say...

[01:04:05:13] - FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON - Here we go...

[01:04:08:03] - MADISON -The Constitution is just a piece of paper...until it is stamped with the approval of those to whom it is addressed: THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES!

[01:04:18:10] - FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON - (weakly) Bravo, bravo.

[01:04:22:01] - MADISON - Thanks, Mike.

[01:04:24:11] - GAFFER ANGEL - Love you, boo.

[01:04:25:18] - MADISON - It's a wrap. It's a wrap.

[01:04:27:00] - JEFFERSON - You really have a way with words. It's impressive.

[01:04:31:00] - FRANKLIN - I enjoyed it, I did.