



Constitutionalism in American Life Conference

1986

1 box (0.25 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS140

Collection overview

A conference hosted by the University of Massachusetts Amherst on November 7-9, 1986, that examined the impact of the constitution on politics and government, foreign policy, race relations, and the economy, and also discussed the impact on the constitution of popular struggles and the emergence of "rights consciousness". Includes papers presented at the conference that were to be subsequently published in a special bicentennial issue of the Journal of American History.

See similar SCUA collections:

[Antiracism](#) [Civil rights](#) [Social change](#) [Social justice](#) [UMass \(1947- \)](#)

Scope of collection

On November 7-9, 1986, University of Massachusetts Amherst hosted a conference, organized by an advisory board of the Journal of American History and cosponsored by the Department of History at the University, entitled Constitutionalism in American Life. Papers presented at the conference were to be subsequently published in a special bicentennial issue of the Journal.

In the first of two sessions, historians examined the impact of the constitution on politics and government, foreign policy, race relations, and the economy, with papers presented by Morton Keller of Brandeis, Walter La Feber of Cornell, Derrick Bell of Harvard, and Donald Pisani of Texas A. & M. The second session discussed the impact on the constitution of popular struggles and the emergence of "rights consciousness". Papers were presented by Ellen Du Bois of SUNY-Buffalo, Eric Foner of Columbia, Mark Tushnet of Georgetown, Leon Fink of the University of North Carolina, Staughton Lynd of Youngstown, Martha Minow of Harvard, Carol Wisbrot of Connecticut, Kent Newmyer of Connecticut, and Thomas Haskell of Rice. Concluding observations were offered by Joyce Appleby of UCLA. Other participants included Harry Scheiber of the University of California-Berkeley, Hendrick Hartog of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, David Thelen, editor of the Journal of American History, and historians and legal scholars from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Inventory

"Promotion and Regulation: The Constitution and the American Economy", Donald Pisani, Texas A. & M.	Box 1: 2
"Politics, Government and the Constitution", Morton Keller, Brandeis.	Box 1: 3
"The Uses of Race in Constitutional Interpretation", Derrick Bell, Harvard Law School.	Box 1: 3
"The Constitution and U.S. Foreign Policy: An Interpretation", Walter La Feber, Cornell.	Box 1: 4
"Girls Just Want to Have Rights: Equal Rights, Woman Suffrage and the U.S. Constitution, 1820-1875", Ellen Du Bois, SUNY Buffalo.	Box 1: 4
"Rights and the Constitution in Black Life During the Civil War and Reconstruction", Eric Foner, Columbia.	Box 1: 5
"The Equal Protection Clause, Dr. Du Bois, and Charles Hamilton Houston", Mark Tushnet, Georgetown.	Box 1: 5
"Labor, Liberty, and the Law: Trade Unionism and the Problem of Collective Action Within the American Constitutional Order", Leon Fink, University of North Carolina.	Box 1: 6
"The Genesis of the Idea of a Community Right to Industrial Property in Youngstown and Pittsburgh, 1977-1986", Staughton Lynd, Youngstown.	Box 1: 6
"Rights Consciousness and American Families", Martha Minow, Harvard.	Box 1: 7
"Family, Church and State: An essay on Constitutionalism and Religious Authority", Carol Weisbrod, Connecticut.	Box 1: 7
"Harvard Law School, New England Legal Culture, and the Dialectic Of Antebellum Jurisprudence", Kent Newmyer, Connecticut.	Box 1: 8
"The Paradoxical Persistence of Rights Talk in the 'Age of Interpretation'", Thomas Haskell, Rice.	Box 1: 8

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Acquired from Robert Griffith, November 1986

Processing Information

Processed by SCUA staff.

Language:

English

Acknowledgments

Encoding funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Copyright and Use(More information 

Cite as: Constitutionalism in American Life Conference, Papers Delivered (MS 140). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

- Constitutional history--United States--Congresses.
- Constitutional law--United States--Congresses.
- Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghart), 1868-1963
- Journal of American History.

Contributors

- Constitutionalism in American Life Conference[**main entry**]
- University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dept. of History.

Link to similar SCUA collections

[Antiracism](#) [Civil rights](#) [Social change](#) [Social justice](#) [UMass \(1947- \)](#)