

SS.7.C.3.6

Evaluate constitutional rights and their impact on individuals and society.

SS.7.C.3.6 Benchmark Clarification 4: Students will evaluate the impact of the government upholding and/or restricting individual constitutional rights.

The **Founding Fathers** knew that the needs of the public could change over time. In the Constitution, they gave the government the ability to either protect or limit **individual rights**. The government's job is to protect both the Constitution and the **public interest**.

Some people are concerned that protecting the public interest too much may hurt individual rights. Others are concerned that protecting individual rights too much may hurt the public interest.

Founding Fathers - representatives from each of the 13 colonies who participated in writing the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution

individual rights - rights guaranteed or belonging to a person

public interest - common benefit, the general benefit of the public