

SS.7.C.3.6

Evaluate constitutional rights and their impact on individuals and society.

SS.7.C.3.6 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will recognize how the social, political, and economic systems in the United States are dependent upon individual rights.

Social, political, and economic systems depend on **individual rights** and freedoms. For the government to represent the people well, the people's right to express their opinions about the government must be protected. For example, freedom of the press would not mean very much if there was no freedom of speech, because the press gives the people a voice in expressing their concerns about government.

The U.S. economic system also depends on individual freedoms, such as the freedom people have to build businesses and hire workers. Economic freedom may be limited by the **Fifth Amendment**, which says that the government has the power of **eminent domain** (the right to take private property from individuals if it is for the public good). However, when property is taken from people under eminent domain, those people must be compensated (paid) with a fair price for their property.

One of the biggest challenges that citizens face is balancing the protection of individual rights with the protection of the entire society.

eminent domain - the right of the government to take private property for public use; the Fifth Amendment requires that people be paid fairly (compensated) for their property if it is taken by the government

Fifth Amendment - an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that provides protections to a person accused of a crime, including the right of due process.

individual rights - rights guaranteed or belonging to a person