



Founders' Influence:  
SS.7.CG.1.1  
**Ancient and Religious Influences**  
**READING #4**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**SS.7.CG.1.1 Benchmark Clarification 4:** Students will explain how the Judeo-Christian ethical ideas of justice, individual worth, personal responsibility and the rule of law influenced America's constitutional republic.

Christianity and Judaism (Judeo-Christian) are religious beliefs that focus on ethical principles. Christianity and Judaism are transmitted to adherents in churches and synagogues throughout U.S. communities and communities across the world. The influence of Judeo-Christian ethical ideas on America's constitutional republic is rooted in the principles, ideas, and concepts outlined in founding documents such as the **Declaration of Independence**, the **U.S. Constitution**, and the American legal system.

The idea of justice is present in the Jewish and Christian holy texts and emphasized in how they administer justice to maintain fairness. The idea of justice is present in the Jewish and Christian holy texts, which emphasize the administration of justice and personal and professional conduct. This idea is most prevalent in the American legal system, which stands as a symbol of justice and the goal of supporting appropriate personal and professional conduct to maintain stable societies.

The idea of individual worth in both Jewish and Christian religious traditions emphasizes the value of every individual. This idea is present across most founding documents. The Preamble of the Declaration of Independence highlights a belief in individual worth by stating that all people have certain **natural rights** that cannot be taken away. Also, the U.S. Constitution highlights the concept of **popular sovereignty** through the words "We the People," stating that the government receives its power from the people and exists to serve them. The American legal system ensures that people accused of crimes retain specific rights, such as a trial by jury and the right to an attorney, as they move through the criminal justice system.

The idea of personal responsibility in both Jewish and Christian religious traditions holds individuals accountable for their actions. The American legal system ensures legal accountability for actions and upholds the idea of personal responsibility.

The idea of the **rule of law** in both Jewish and Christian religious traditions emphasizes following laws, such as the Ten Commandments. The structure of the American legal system embodies the idea of the rule of law, and the U.S. Constitution outlines the idea of the rule of law for government leaders.

**Declaration of Independence** - a document written in 1776 that listed the basis for democratic government and the grievances of the colonists.

**natural rights** - the belief that individuals are born with basic rights that cannot be taken away by governments

**popular sovereignty** – the belief that government receives its power from the people and exists only to serve them.

**rule of law** - the idea that those who govern must follow the laws; no one is above the law

**U.S. Constitution** – a document written in 1787 that is the supreme law of the United States of America.