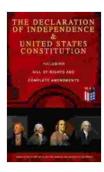
The Declaration of Independence and the **United States Constitution: The Foundational Documents of American Democracy**

The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution are two of the most important documents in American history. They are the foundational documents of our democracy, and they continue to shape our laws and our way of life today.



The Declaration of Independence & United States Constitution – Including Bill of Rights and Complete **Amendments: The Principles on Which Our Identity as** ... John Adams and Thomas Jefferson) by Peter Dale Scott



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The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. It declared the thirteen American colonies to be free and independent from Great Britain. The Declaration set forth the principles that would guide the new nation, including the belief that all men are created equal and have certain unalienable rights, such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Declaration of Independence was a bold and courageous act. The colonists were risking their lives and fortunes by declaring their independence from one of the most powerful empires in the world. But they believed that they were fighting for a just cause, and they were determined to create a new nation that would be based on the principles of freedom and equality.

The United States Constitution

The United States Constitution was adopted by the Constitutional Convention in 1787. It established the framework for the federal government and set forth the basic principles of our democracy. The Constitution has been amended many times over the years, but its basic principles remain the same.

The Constitution divides the federal government into three branches: the legislative branch, the executive branch, and the judicial branch. The legislative branch is responsible for making laws. The executive branch is responsible for enforcing laws. The judicial branch is responsible for interpreting laws.

The Constitution also establishes a system of checks and balances to ensure that no one branch of government becomes too powerful. The legislative branch can override presidential vetoes. The executive branch can veto laws passed by Congress. The judicial branch can declare laws unconstitutional.

The Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments to the Constitution. It guarantees certain individual rights, such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to bear arms. The Bill of Rights is essential to the protection of our liberties.

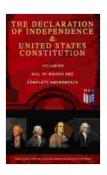
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These three documents are the foundation of our democracy. They are the principles that we hold dear, and they are the values that we strive to live by.



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