

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with the flag appearing to wave. The colors are somewhat muted, with a soft, ethereal quality.

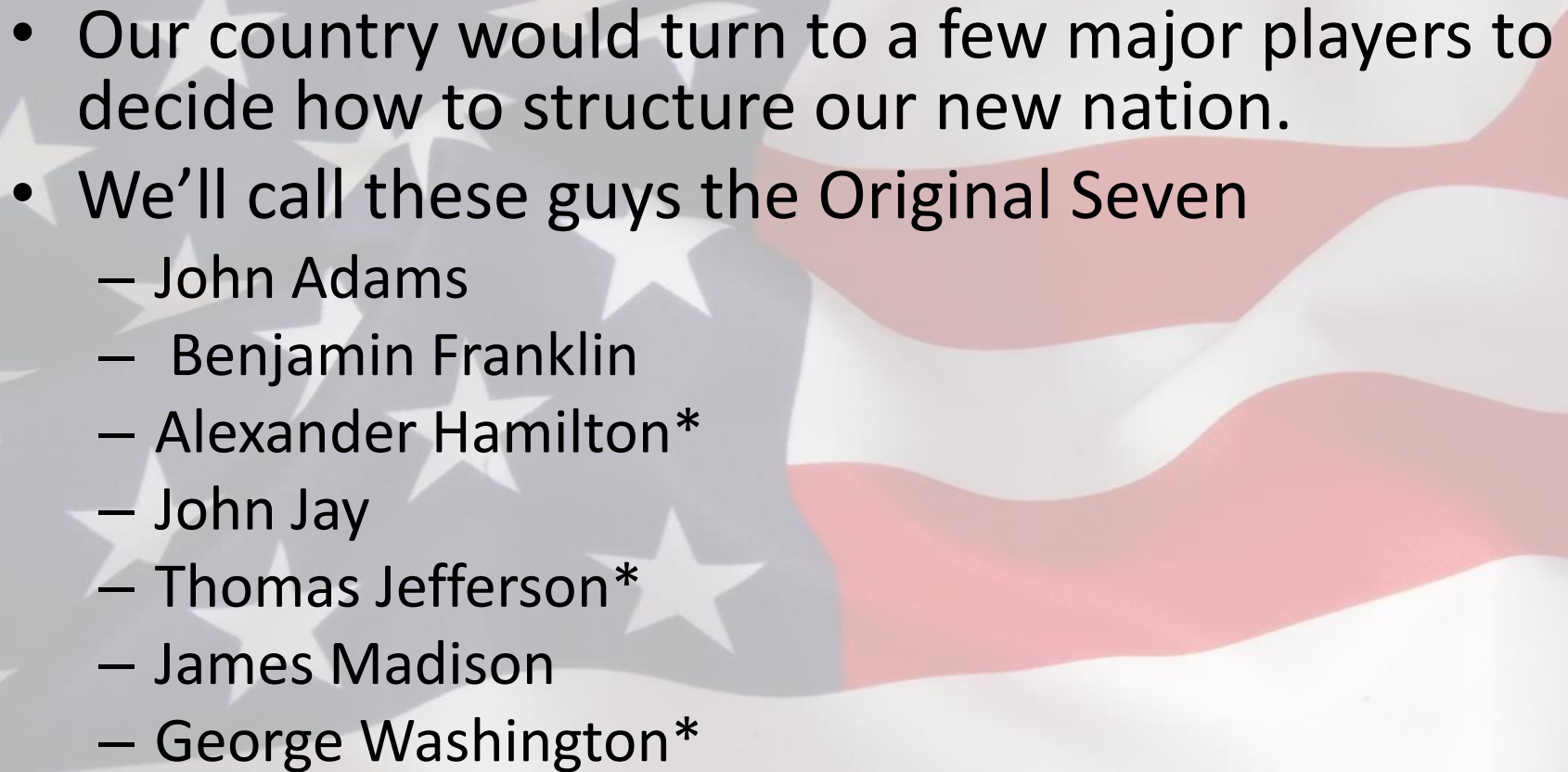
# **THE BIRTH OF A NATION**

# The New America

- Following the fight for independence from what is newly named the United States of America, our country was facing a delicate battle: how do we govern ourselves without a plan?
- We'd previously been under control of a **tyrant** king, who had no interest in helping us figure out how to take care of ourselves.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFx-rCBe6sl>

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- The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with red and white wavy stripes and a field of white stars on a grey background.
- Our country would turn to a few major players to decide how to structure our new nation.
  - We'll call these guys the Original Seven
    - John Adams
    - Benjamin Franklin
    - Alexander Hamilton\*
    - John Jay
    - Thomas Jefferson\*
    - James Madison
    - George Washington\*

\*the star means we'll find out a lot more about these guys

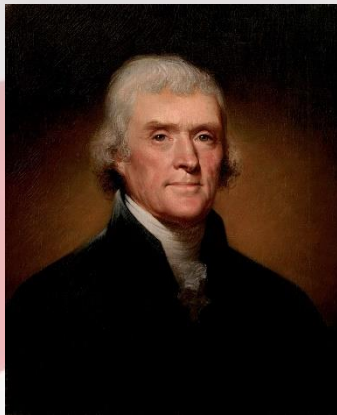


# George Washington

- First President of the United States.
- As president, he set up procedures in the new government's **executive department**. His singular aim was to create a nation that would stand strong even with the war between Britain and France emerging.
  - Very important to note that two major world powers were fighting while the US was still a new nation.
    - Why is this important?

# Hamilton and Jefferson

- Hamilton – will write 51 of the 85 installments of The Federalist Papers, which were the original outline for our Constitution.
- Highly regarded as one of the most influential framers of the Constitution.
- We will see him again during Jefferson's election.
- Jefferson – technically was in France during the creation of the Constitution.
- His Declaration was a vital influence of the Constitution.
- Mentor to James Madison, the driving force behind the Constitutional Convention.
- Often debated Constitutional issues.



# What led to a Constitution?

- **Shays Rebellion** causes the leaders of the United States to hold a convention in order to fix the issues with the Articles of Confederation.
  - The rebellion was a response to disorganized state governments.
- The delegates would meet in Philadelphia for the **Constitutional Convention in 1787.**
  - The main goal was to improve the strength of the federal government, while keeping state governments strong.

# A Need For Balance

- **Virginia Plan (Big State)**
  - A two house or Bicameral plan for the legislature where representatives would be based on state population.
- **New Jersey Plan (Small State)**
  - A single house or Unicameral Plan where everyone would have the same number of representatives.

## **The Great Compromise**

### Two Houses (Bicameral) Legislature

- Senate has equal representation (2 senators per state)
- House of Representatives based on population (currently 435).



The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and red and white wavy stripes on the right.

- **Checks and Balances** keep the government from becoming too powerful

- **Legislative branch**, also known as congress.
  - Made up of the House of Representative and Senate.
  - Responsible for proposing and passing laws.

- **Executive Branch** A.K.A The POTUS and his squad.
  - In charge of making sure the laws are carried out and or executed in a constitutional way.

### **Judicial Branch:**

This is made up of all of the national courts and makes the Supreme Court the highest court in the United States.

They are in charge of Interpreting laws (**Judicial Review**), Punishing Criminals, and settling disputes between states.

# Constitutional Buzzwords

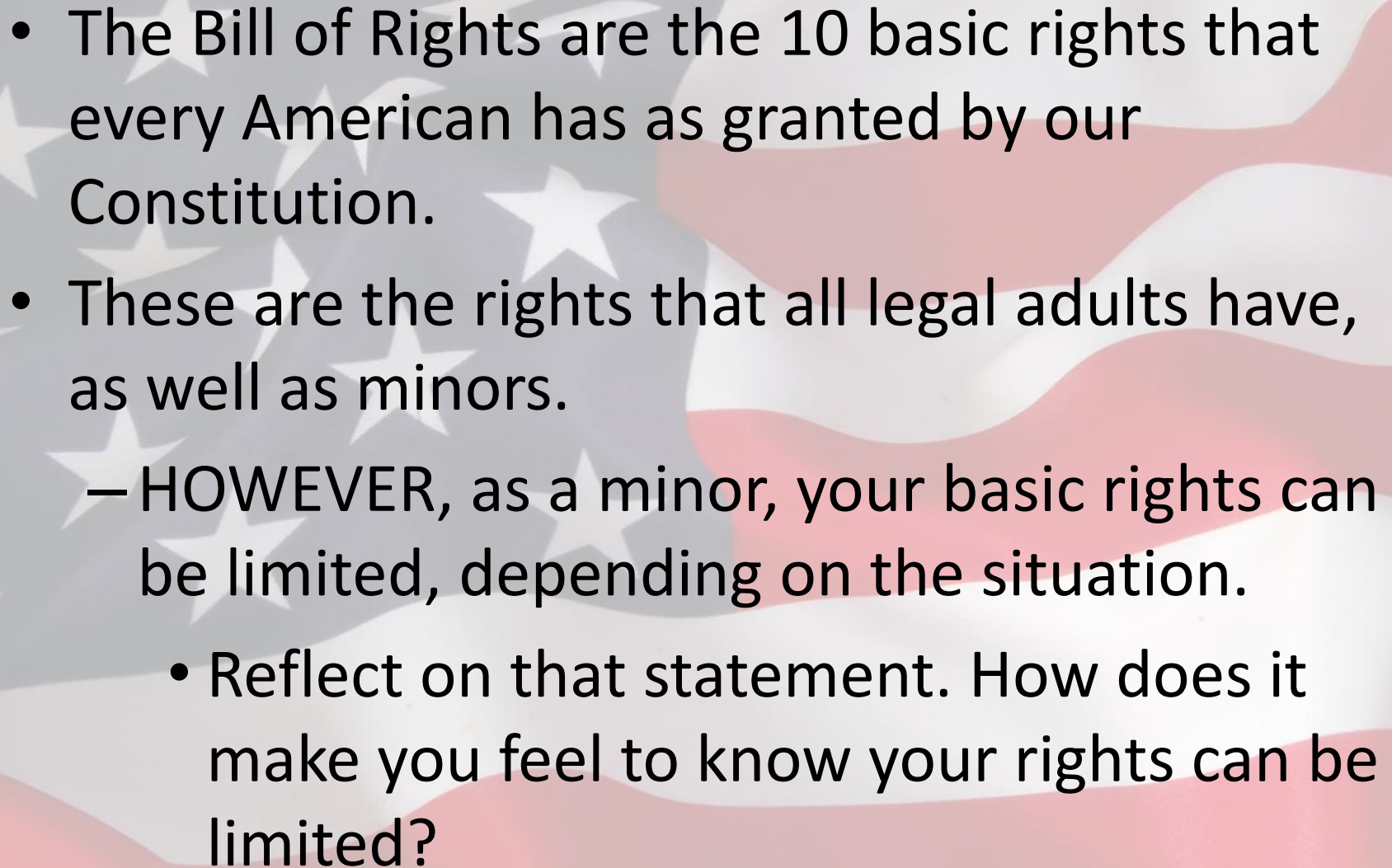
- **3/5ths Compromise:** Three fifths of the slave population would be accounted for in representation (pre-Civil War).
- **Popular Sovereignty:** Political authority belongs to the people.
  - The people have the right to change and challenge those in power.
- **Federalism:** The *sharing* of power between the state and federal government.



# The Bill of Rights – What are they?

- On December 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution.
- The Bill of Rights are the first 10 **amendments** to the Constitution.
  - **Amendment**: a formal or official change made to a law, contract, constitution, or other legal document.

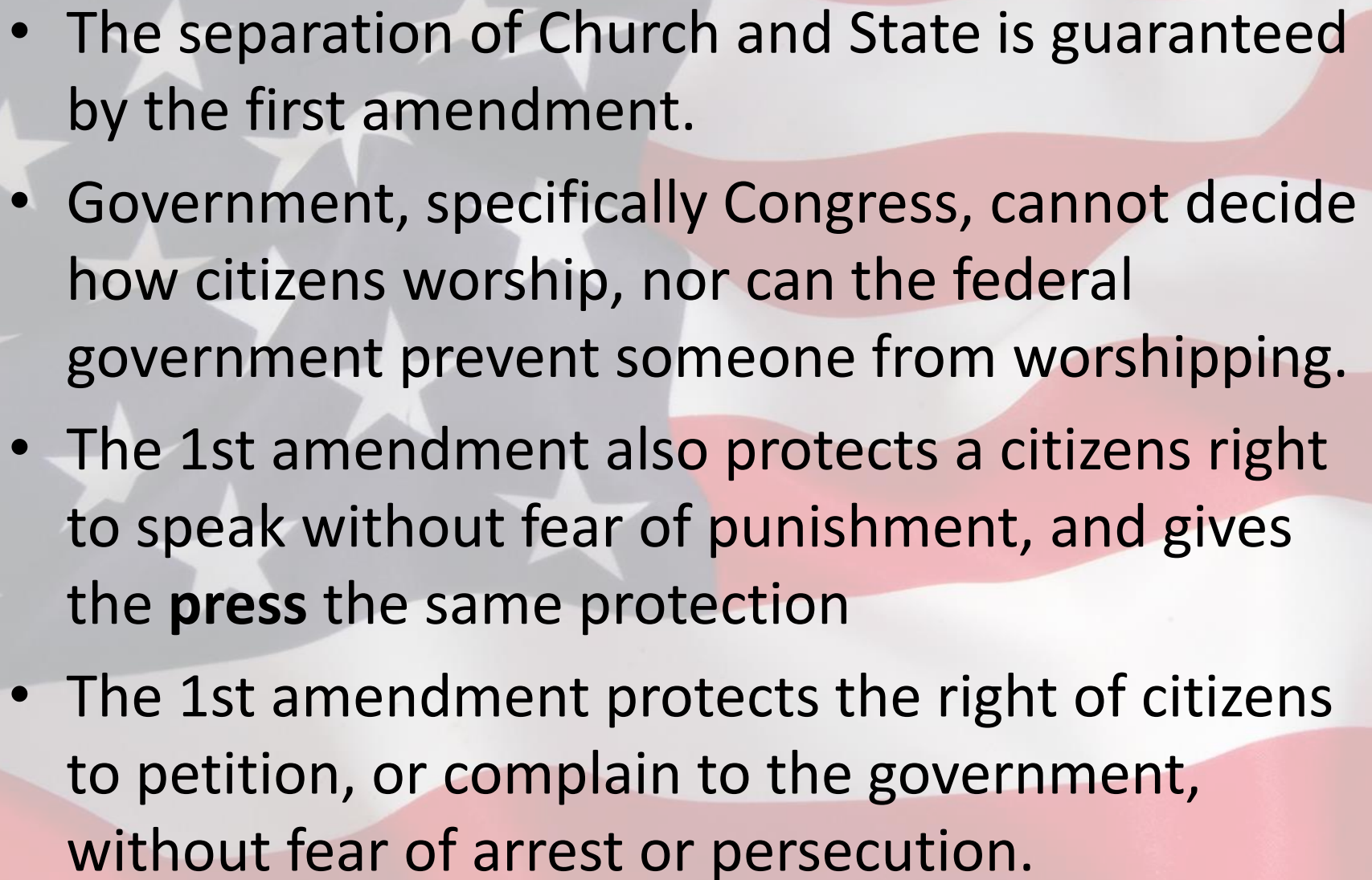


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- The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and red and white wavy stripes on the right.
- The Bill of Rights are the 10 basic rights that every American has as granted by our Constitution.
  - These are the rights that all legal adults have, as well as minors.
    - HOWEVER, as a minor, your basic rights can be limited, depending on the situation.
      - Reflect on that statement. How does it make you feel to know your rights can be limited?

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- The background of the slide is a stylized, wavy American flag. The stars are white on a light blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag appears to be waving, with soft shadows and highlights.
- **Do not write the amendments in their original phrasing.**

# The First Amendment

**THE FIRST AMENDMENT**  
CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECT-  
ING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR  
PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF;  
OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR  
OF THE PRESS; OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE  
PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE  
GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.

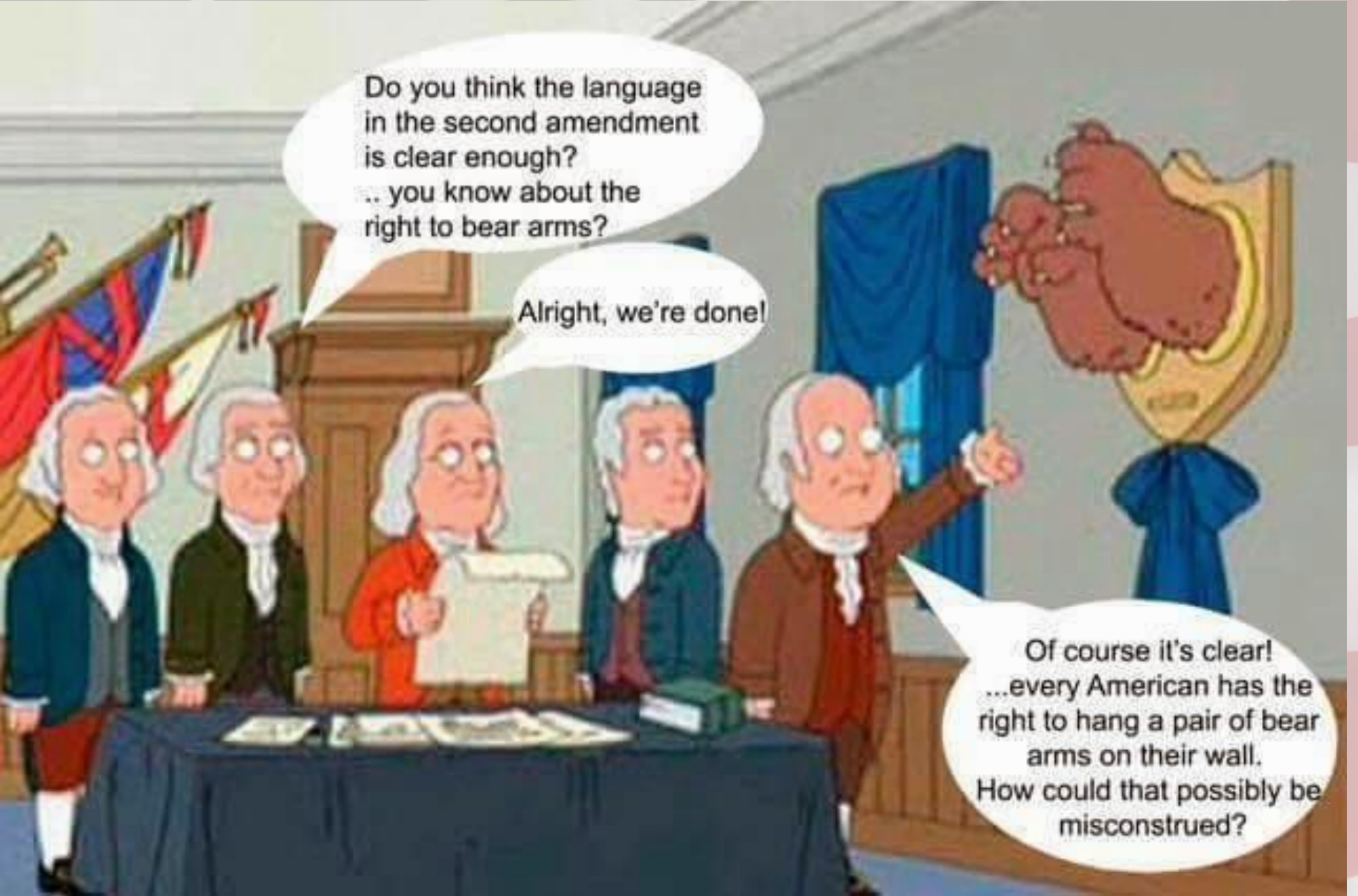
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- The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and red and white wavy stripes on the right.
- The separation of Church and State is guaranteed by the first amendment.
  - Government, specifically Congress, cannot decide how citizens worship, nor can the federal government prevent someone from worshipping.
  - The 1st amendment also protects a citizens right to speak without fear of punishment, and gives the **press** the same protection
  - The 1st amendment protects the right of citizens to petition, or complain to the government, without fear of arrest or persecution.



# The Second Amendment

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment

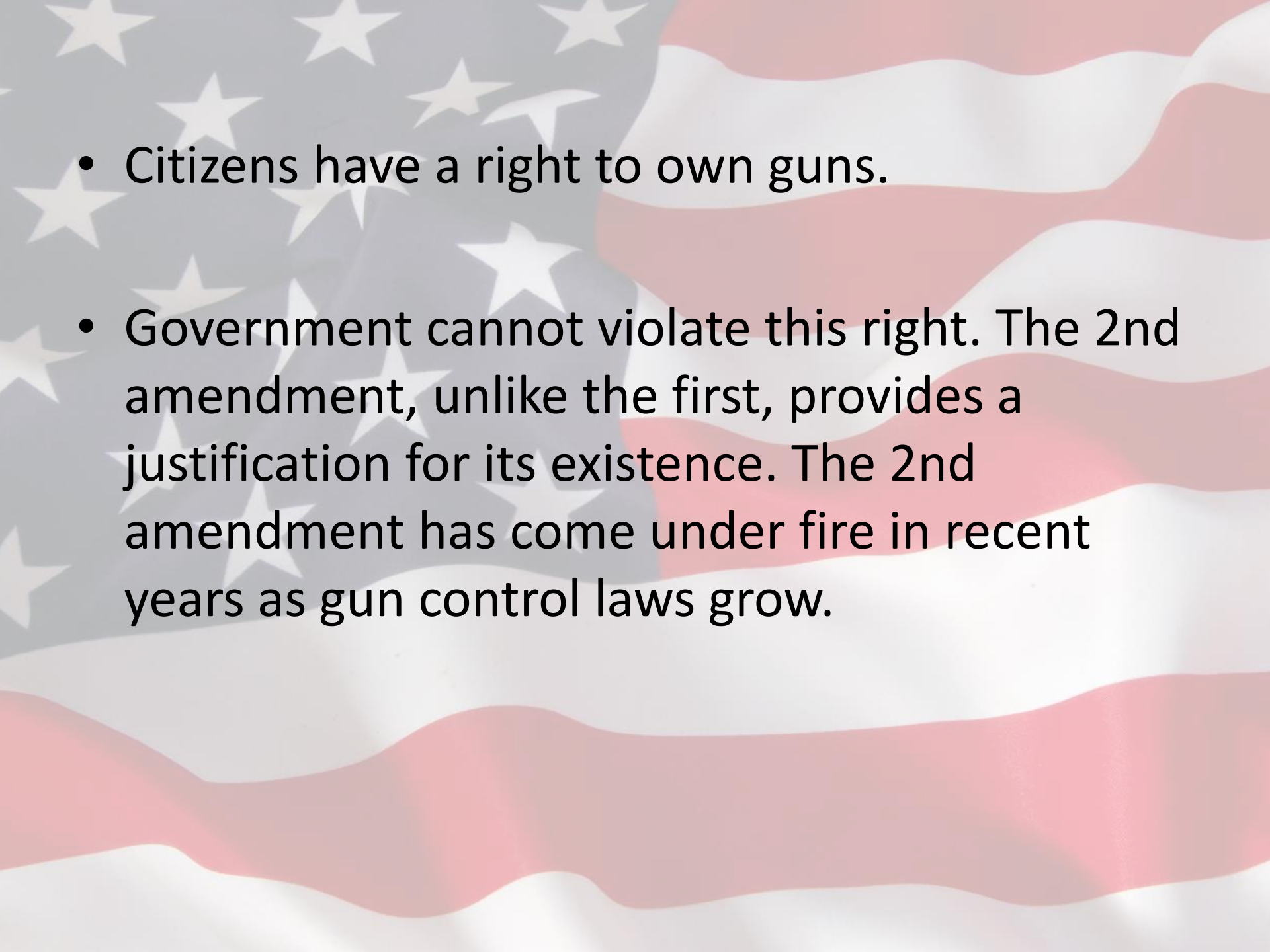
*A well regulated militia, being  
necessary to the security of a free state,  
the right of the people to keep and bear  
arms, shall not be infringed.*



Do you think the language  
in the second amendment  
is clear enough?  
.. you know about the  
right to bear arms?

Alright, we're done!

Of course it's clear!  
...every American has the  
right to hang a pair of bear  
arms on their wall.  
How could that possibly be  
misconstrued?

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- The background of the slide is a stylized, wavy American flag. The stars are white on a light blue field, and the stripes are red and white, with a slight gradient and wavy effect.
- Citizens have a right to own guns.
  - Government cannot violate this right. The 2nd amendment, unlike the first, provides a justification for its existence. The 2nd amendment has come under fire in recent years as gun control laws grow.



# The Third

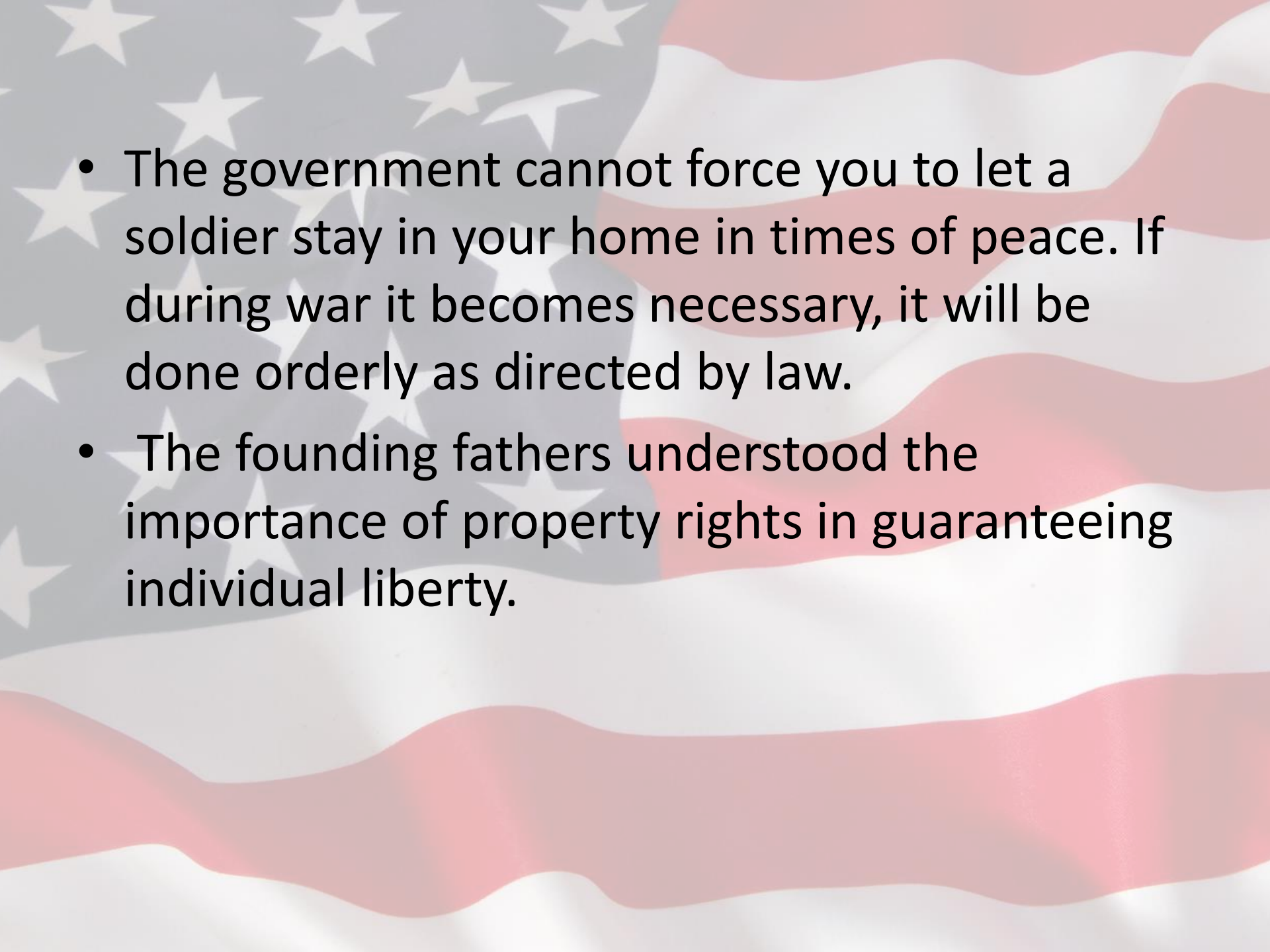
## Amendment



**NO SOLDIER SHALL,  
IN TIME OF PEACE  
BE QUARTERED**

**IN ANY HOUSE, WITHOUT THE CONSENT  
OF THE OWNER, NOR IN TIME OF WAR,  
BUT IN A MANNER TO BE PRESCRIBED BY LAW.**

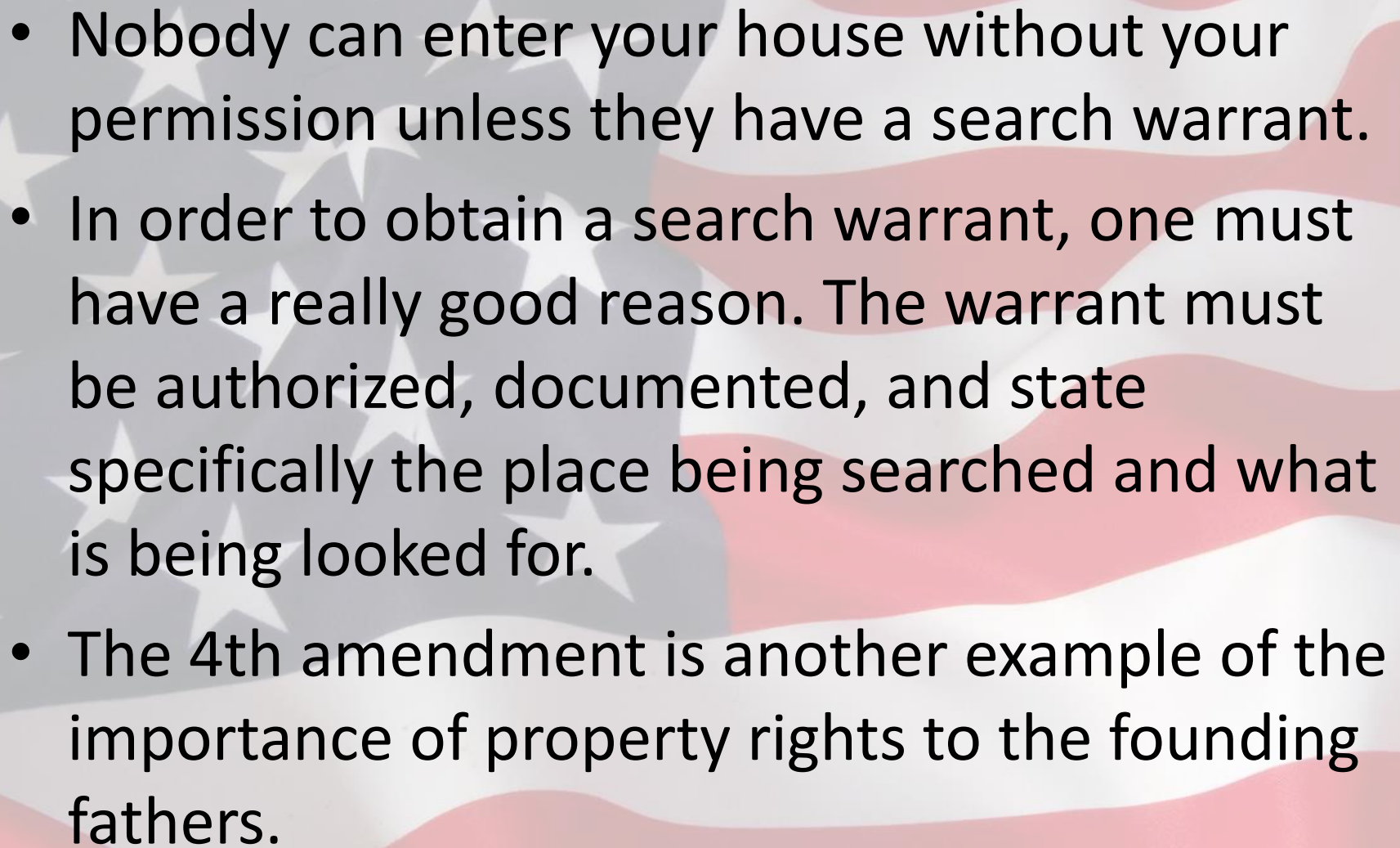


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- The background of the slide is a stylized, wavy American flag. The stars are white on a light blue background, and the stripes are red and white, flowing across the entire image.
- The government cannot force you to let a soldier stay in your home in times of peace. If during war it becomes necessary, it will be done orderly as directed by law.
  - The founding fathers understood the importance of property rights in guaranteeing individual liberty.

# The Fourth Amendment

## 4th Amendment

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

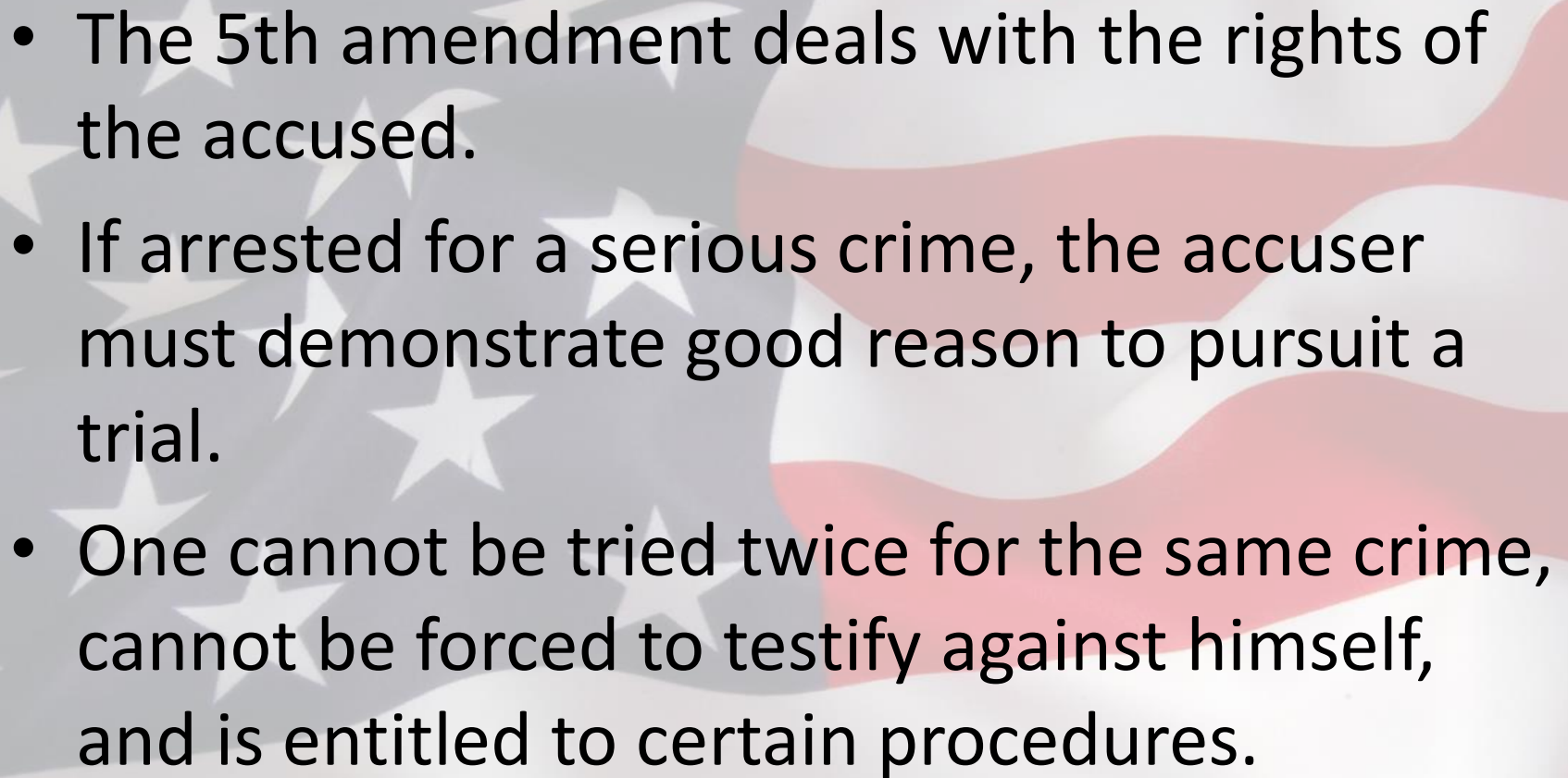
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- The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a wavy, fabric-like texture. The stars are white on a light blue field, and the stripes are red and white.
- Nobody can enter your house without your permission unless they have a search warrant.
  - In order to obtain a search warrant, one must have a really good reason. The warrant must be authorized, documented, and state specifically the place being searched and what is being looked for.
  - The 4th amendment is another example of the importance of property rights to the founding fathers.

# The Fifth Amendment

Fifth Amendment  
To the U. S. Constitution

No person shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.



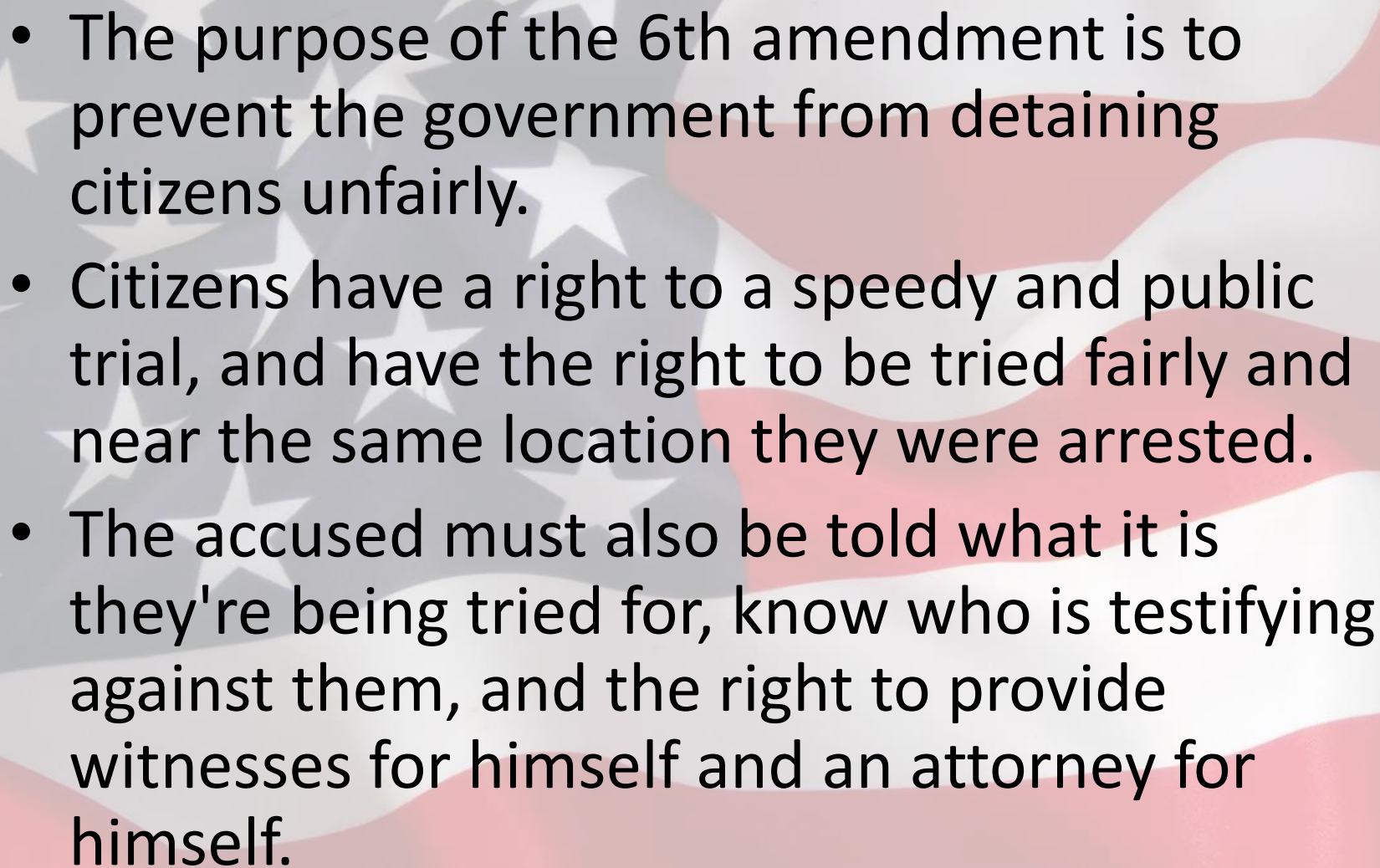
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- The background of the slide is a stylized, semi-transparent American flag. It features the stars and stripes of the flag, with the stars on the left and the stripes on the right. The colors are muted, with a light blue for the stars and a light red for the stripes, set against a white background.
- The 5th amendment deals with the rights of the accused.
  - If arrested for a serious crime, the accuser must demonstrate good reason to pursue a trial.
  - One cannot be tried twice for the same crime, cannot be forced to testify against himself, and is entitled to certain procedures.

# The Sixth

## Amendment

### *The Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution*

*"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a **speedy** and **public** trial, by an **impartial** jury of the **State and district** wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be **confronted** with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the **Assistance of Counsel** for his defence."*

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- The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with red and white wavy stripes and a field of white stars on a grey background.
- The purpose of the 6th amendment is to prevent the government from detaining citizens unfairly.
  - Citizens have a right to a speedy and public trial, and have the right to be tried fairly and near the same location they were arrested.
  - The accused must also be told what it is they're being tried for, know who is testifying against them, and the right to provide witnesses for himself and an attorney for himself.

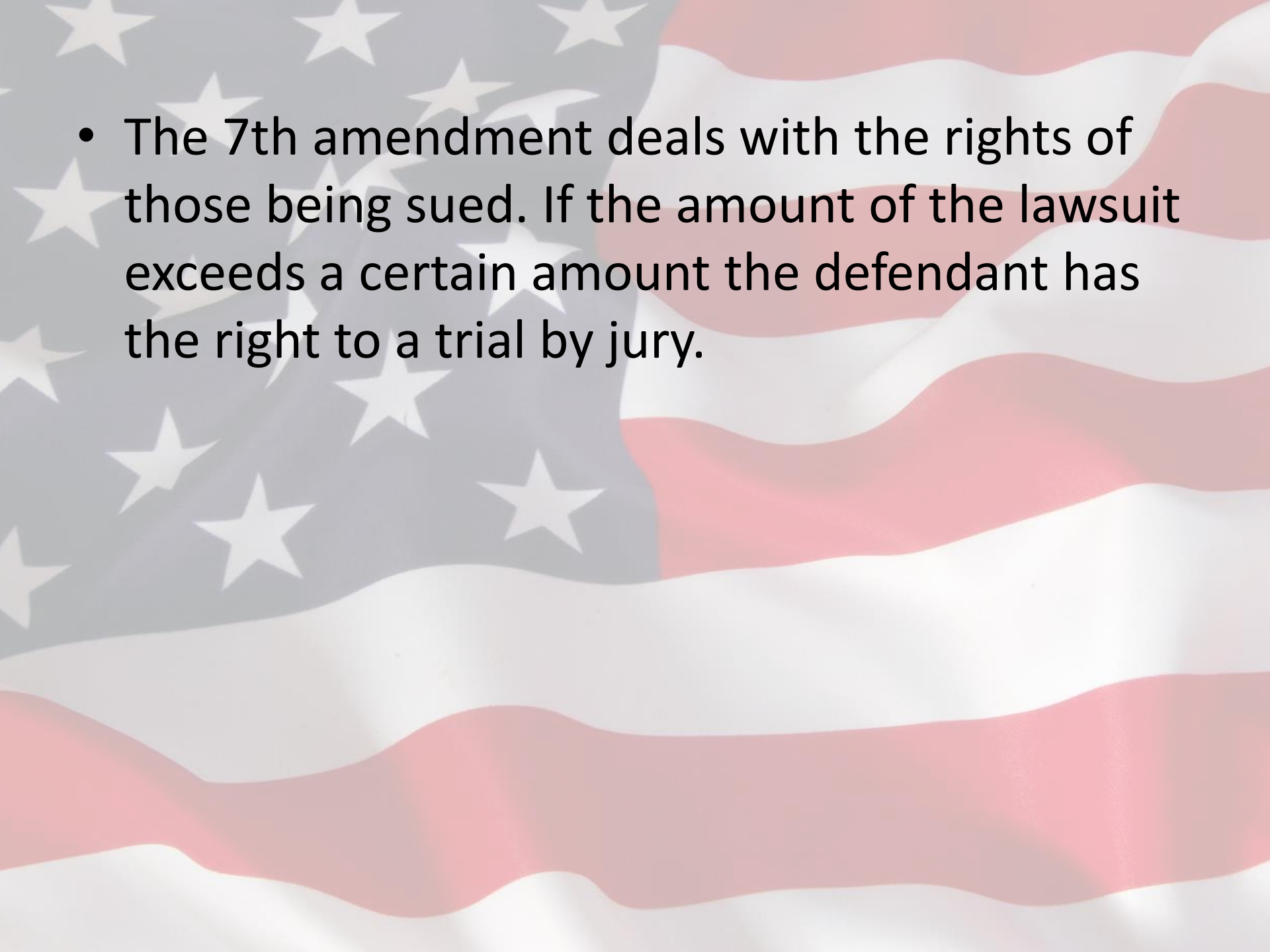


# The Seventh Amendment

## 7th Amendment

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.



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- The background of the slide is a stylized, wavy American flag. The top-left corner features a field of white stars on a light blue background, while the rest of the image consists of horizontal red and white stripes that flow across the frame.
- The 7th amendment deals with the rights of those being sued. If the amount of the lawsuit exceeds a certain amount the defendant has the right to a trial by jury.

# The Eighth Amendment

We the People

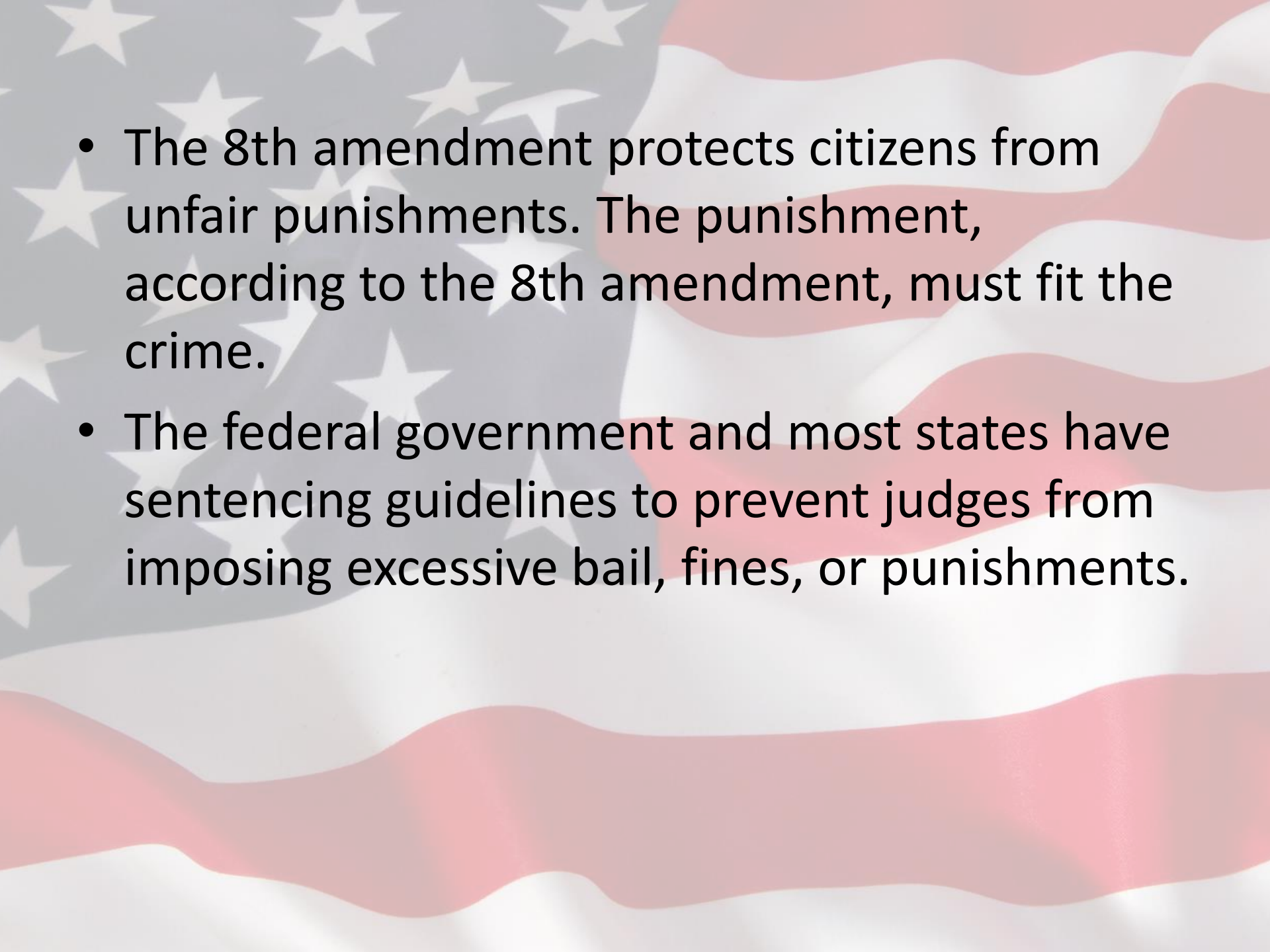


UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

**AMENDMENT VIII**

BILL OF RIGHTS

*Excessive bail shall not be required,  
nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel  
and unusual punishments inflicted.*

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- The background of the slide is a stylized, wavy American flag. The stars are white on a light blue field, and the stripes are red and white, with a soft, painterly texture.
- The 8th amendment protects citizens from unfair punishments. The punishment, according to the 8th amendment, must fit the crime.
  - The federal government and most states have sentencing guidelines to prevent judges from imposing excessive bail, fines, or punishments.

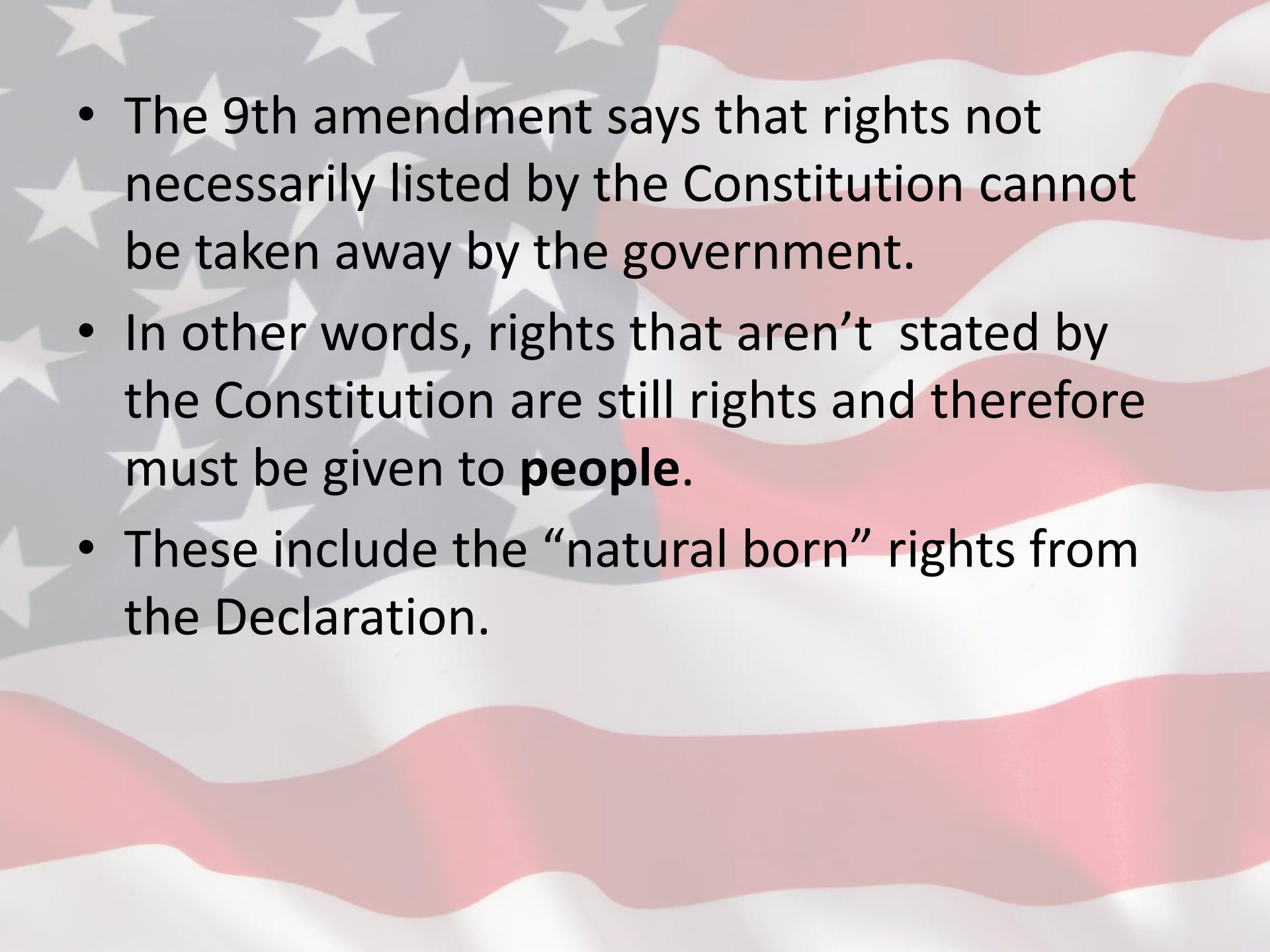
The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a field of white stars on a light blue background and red and white wavy stripes. The text is overlaid on this background.

# The Ninth Amendment

## **NINTH AMENDMENT**

**The enumeration in the  
Constitution, of certain  
rights, shall not be construed  
to deny or disparage others  
retained by the people.**



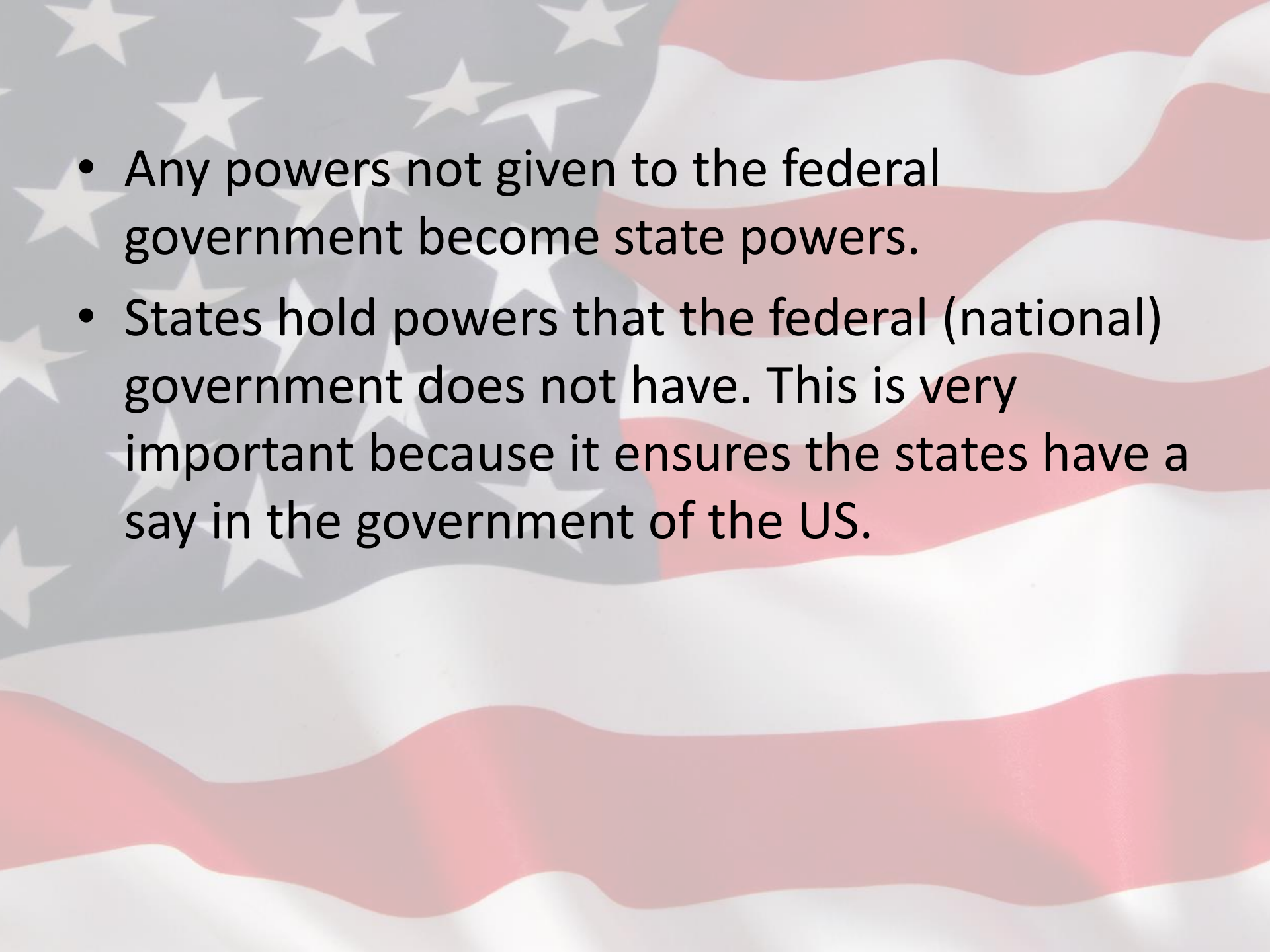
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- The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars in the upper left and red and white wavy stripes in the rest of the frame.
- The 9th amendment says that rights not necessarily listed by the Constitution cannot be taken away by the government.
  - In other words, rights that aren't stated by the Constitution are still rights and therefore must be given to **people**.
  - These include the “natural born” rights from the Declaration.

# The Tenth Amendment

## **TENTH AMENDMENT**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

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- The background of the slide is a stylized, wavy American flag. The stars are white on a light blue field, and the stripes are red and white, with a slight wavy motion effect.
- Any powers not given to the federal government become state powers.
  - States hold powers that the federal (national) government does not have. This is very important because it ensures the states have a say in the government of the US.



# THE BILL OF RIGHTS

The First Ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

