

Civics Exam Prominent Legislation Study Guide

The Judiciary Act of 1789 established the initial structure and jurisdiction of the federal courts.

The Alien and Sedition Acts (1798) made it a criminal offense to falsely criticize the federal government.

The Northwest Ordinance (1787) prohibited slavery north of the Ohio River in land acquired after the Revolutionary War.

The Wilmot Proviso (1846) was an unsuccessful attempt to ban slavery in the Southwestern United States after the Mexican-American War.

The Missouri Compromise (1820) provided for the admission of Maine as a free state and Missouri as a slave state.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854) allowed new territories to decide the question of slavery for themselves.

The Tariff of Abominations (1828) imposed a tax on imported goods to protect early U.S. industry.

The Morrill Act (1862) provided grants to states in order to establish agricultural and mechanical colleges.

The Pendleton Act (1883) established the merit-based civil service system.

The Dawes Act (1887) redistributed Tribal land to individual Native American heads of households

The Sherman Act (1890) prohibited trusts, or anti-competitive monopolies.

The Pure Food and Drug Act (1906) regulated the distribution, labeling, and marketing of food and drugs.

The Calder Act (1918) established time zones as well as Daylight Savings Time.

The Smoot-Hawley Act (1930) established tariffs to protect American industry and agriculture.

The Tennessee Valley Authority Act (1933) provided flood control and electrification.

The Wagner Act (1935) established the right to organize unions and bargain collectively.

The Fair Labor and Standards Act (1938) established a minimum wage and child labor regulations.

The Hatch Act (1939) prevented federal employees from participating in election campaigns.

The Taft-Hartley Act (1947) restricted the power of labor unions.

The Lend Lease Act (1941) allowed the United States to transfer arms and war materials to foreign nations during World War II.

The War Powers Act (1973) limited the President's ability to commit U.S. military forces.

The Hyde Amendment (1976) banned the use of federal funds to pay for abortion except to save the life of the mother.

The Goldwater-Nichols Act (1986) restructured the streamlined the military chain of command in the United States.

The Patriot Act (2001) enhanced the United States' ability to fight terrorism with increased surveillance.