

AP US History Review

Supreme Court Decisions

Madison v. Marbury - Established the principle of "judicial review" to determine if a law passed by Congress or an action by the president was constitutional. (1803)

McCulloch v. Maryland - Reinforced federal authority by preventing the state of Maryland from taxing the Bank of the United States. (1819)

Cohens v. Virginia - Established the right of the U.S. Supreme Court to review decisions by State Supreme Courts where federal powers were involved.

Gibbons v. Ogden - reinforced the power of the federal government to regulate interstate commerce. (1824)

Fletcher v. Peck - established the right of the Supreme Court to invalidate state laws that were in conflict with the federal constitution. - Forbidding state laws to interfere with contracts. (1810)

Dartmouth College v. Woodward - Reinforced the idea that contracts could not be altered by the states. (1819)

Cherokee Nation v. Georgia (1831). - The Cherokee was a "domestic dependent nation" not a foreign state.

Worcester v. Georgia (1832).- That within the state of Georgia, "the laws of Georgia can have no force." President Jackson reportedly quips, "John Marshall has made his decision. Now let him enforce it."

Dred Scott v Sandford (1857) -The Court ruled that Dred Scott could not sue in Federal Court because Framers did not intend that people of African descent could be U.S. citizens. Congress could not deprive any person of property (slaves) without due process of law. Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional. All western territories in theory were open to slavery.

U.S. v. Cruikshank and U.S. v. Reese - the Court ruled that the 14th and 15th amendments applied to states and not individuals, therefore the federal government could not prosecute individuals.

Munn v. Illinois (1877) - States could regulate businesses of a public nature such as railroads.

Wabash v. Illinois (1886) - Individual states could not regulate interstate commerce nullifying state regulations achieved by the Grangers.

U.S. v. E.C. Knight Co. (1895) - Sherman Antitrust Act applied only to commerce, not manufacturing. In its early application it was used to curb the power of unions.

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) - Established the principle of "separate but equal" which allowed the South to pass Jim Crow laws establishing separate public facilities for blacks and whites.

Northern Securities v. United States. - (1904) Court decides that stock transactions like those J.P. Morgan used to form a railroad merger are an illegal restraint of interstate commerce.

Lochner v. New York, 1905 - Supreme Court invalidated a New York law establishing a ten-hour day for bakers, but in 1917 the Court upheld a ten-hour law for factory workers.

Muller v. Oregon - established the right of states to pass laws recognizing the unique status of women by limited the number of work hours per day/week. Louis Brandeis attorney for Oregon and first Jewish Supreme Court Justice.

Schenck v. United States (1919) - The Court affirmed the constitutionality of the Espionage and Sedition Acts passed during World War I - Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes articulated the constitutional principle of "clear and present danger" where the First Amendment right of free speech can be limited in certain situations.

Schechter v. United States (1935) - Declared National Industrial Recovery Act unconstitutional.

Hammer v. Dagenhart (1918) - Found Keating-Owen Child Labor Act that prohibited shipment of manufactured products by children under 14 to be unconstitutional.

U.S. v. Darby Lumber Co. (1941) - The Supreme Court reversed its earlier ruling *Hammer v. Dagenhart* by upholding the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Korematsu v. United States (1944) - The Court upheld the constitutionality of the internment/concentration camps.

Smith v. Allwright (1944) - The Court ruled that excluding blacks from a political party on the basis of race violates the 15th Amendment.

Dennis et al. v. United States (1951) - The Court upheld the Smith Act of 1940, which made it a crime to advocate the overthrow of the government by force.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954). - The Court agreed with Thurgood Marshall that segregated schools were inherently unequal thus violating the 14th Amendment. (Brown Two said that Southern states had to desegregate with "All deliberate speed.") Eisenhower later said that his worst decision was -appointing Earl Warren to be Chief Justice.

Mapp v. Ohio (1961) - illegally seized evidence cannot be used.

Gideon v. Wainwright (1963) - right to counsel for indigent (poor) defendants.

Escobedo v. Illinois (1964) - required police to inform suspects of the right to remain silent.

Miranda v. Arizona (1966) - right to have a lawyer present when questioned. Suspects must be informed of their rights which includes the right to remain silent, the fact that anything they say can be used against them, and the right to counsel and that one will be provided if they cannot afford one.

Baker v. Carr (1962) - "One man, one vote" Reynolds v. Sims applied to state legislatures

Yates v. United States (1957) - First Amendment protected radical and revolutionary speech, even by Communists, unless it was a "clear and present danger..."

Engel v. Vitale (1962) - ruled unconstitutional prayers, bible reading in schools.

New York Times v. Sullivan (1964) - ruled that public figures could sue for libel only if they could prove malice and wanton disregard for the truth.

Griswold v. Connecticut (1965) - states could not prohibit use of contraceptives by adults - right to privacy.

Roe v. Wade (1973) - states that a woman has the constitutional right to an abortion during the first trimester. The government has the right to regulate abortions in the second and third trimester.

Milliken v. Bradley (1974) - ruled that busing programs that crossed school district boundary lines to end segregation patterns were not constitutional when there is no evidence of deliberate segregation..

University of California Regents v. Bakke (1978) - Banned quotas but allowed racial factors to be considered in the admissions process.

Webster v. Reproductive Health Services (1989) - The Court upheld the right of states to limit the use of public funds and institutions for abortions.

Bush v. Gore (2000) - Supreme Court refuses to allow a Florida recount thus giving Florida and the Presidency to George W. Bush.