

Dear Colleagues,

I am in the process of writing a book manuscript exploring how the Federal Constitution became a site of near unanimous public support in American life. In the book, I argue that the dominance and substantive meaning of constitutional veneration is actually a relatively recent development—the product of a series of interconnected political struggles between the American emergence onto the global stage with the Spanish-American War and World War I and the fallout of student and civil rights protest in the 1970s. This document includes the book’s table of contents, introduction, and a short excerpt from the beginning of chapter 1 (all to give a sense of the overall project) as well as chapter two (“Class Conflict and Constitutional Disillusionment”). For those who have limited time, perhaps skim the introduction and the chapter 1 excerpt for an idea of the book’s narrative and basic arguments. You can then focus on chapter 2.

All this material is still at a relatively early stage. The introduction in particular will eventually be fairly thoroughly rewritten, with changes to some of the substantive claims and portions of the current text going to the conclusion. For now, it is here mostly as a placeholder to help me figure out the basic narrative and to provide structure as I write the historical chapters. All of this is to say that your comments and suggestions are very much welcome. Thank you for reading these pages and I look forward to our discussion.

Sincerely,
Aziz