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35 ""; ""6. [Agreement of the Massachusetts Bay Company at Cambridge, England], p. 36 ""

""7. [The Watertown Covenant of July 30, 1960], p. 38 """"8. [Massachusetts Election Agreement], p. 40 ""; ""9. The Oath of a Freeman, or of a Man to Be Made Free, p. 41 ""; ""10. [The Massachusetts Agreement on the Legislature], p. 43 ""; ""11. [Cambridge Agreement], p. 45 ""; ""12. [Dorchester Agreement], p. 46 ""; ""13. [Cambridge Agreement on a Town Council], p. 48 ""; ""14. [Massachusetts Agreement on the Legislature], p. 50 ""; ""15. The Oath of a Freeman, p. 52 ""; ""16. [Salem Oath for Residents], p. 54 ""; ""17. [Watertown Agreement on Civil Officers], p. 56 ""

""18. [The Enlarged Salem Covenant of 1636], p. 57 """"19. [Plymouth Agreement], p. 60 ""; ""20. [Pilgrim Code of Law], p. 61 ""; ""21. [Dedham Covenant], p. 68 ""; ""22. [The Massachusetts Body of Liberties], p. 70 ""; ""23. [The Combination of the Inhabitants upon the Piscataqua River for Government], p. 88 ""; ""24. [Massachusetts Bicameral Ordinance], p. 90 ""; ""25. [Massachusetts Ordinance on the Legislature], p. 92 ""; ""26. The Law and Liberties of Massachusetts, p. 95 ""; ""27. [Massachusetts Ordinance on Legislative Procedure], p. 136 ""

""28. [Towns of Wells, Gorgiana, and Piscataqua Form an Independent Government], p. 139 """"29. [The Cambridge Agreement of October 4, 1652], p. 141 ""; ""30. [Puritan] Laws and Liberties, p. 143 ""; ""31. [An Act of the General Court], p. 158 ""; ""32. [Providence Agreement], p. 161 ""; ""33. [Government of Pocasset], p. 163 ""; ""34. [Newport Agreement], p. 165 ""; ""35. [The Government of Portsmouth], p. 166 ""; ""36. Plantation Agreement at Providence, p. 168 ""; ""37. [Organization of the Government of Rhode Island], p. 172 ""; ""38. [Warwick Agreement], p. 176 ""

""39. Acts and Orders of 1647, p. 178 """"40. Charter of Providence, p. 204 ""; ""41. [General Assembly of Rhode Island Is Divided Into Two Houses], p. 207 ""; ""42. Plantation Covenant at Quinnipiack, p. 209 ""; ""43. Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, p. 210 ""; ""44. Guilford Covenant, p. 216 ""; ""45. Structure of Town Governments, p. 217 ""; ""46. Fundamental Articles of new Haven, p. 221 ""; ""47. [Connecticut Oath of Fidelity], p. 227 ""; ""48. Capitall Lawes of Connecticut, Established by the Generall Court the First of December, 1462, p. 229 ""

""49. The Government of Guilford, p. 232 ""

## Sommario/riassunto

"Local government in colonial America was the seedbed of American constitutionalism." So begins the introductory essay to this landmark collection of eighty documents created by the American colonists--and not English officials--that are the genesis of American fundamental law and constitutionalism. Most of these documents, commencing with the Agreement of the Settlers at Exeter in New Hampshire, July 5, 1639, and concluding with Joseph Galloway's Plan of Union, 1774--"the immediate precursor to the Articles of Confederation"--have never before been accessible to the general reader or available in a single volume. As Professor Lutz points out, the documents are chosen to make possible "a careful examination of the American] people's attempt at self-interpretation." All of the principal colonial documents are included, as are all documents attempting to unite the colonies, beginning with the New England Confederation of 1643. Bicameralism, popular sovereignty, the separation of powers, checks and balances, limited government, and religious freedom--in sum, the hallmarks of American constitutionalism--were first presented to the world in these writings. Donald S. Lutz is Professor of Political Science at the University of Houston.

