1774 – First Continental Congress

January 1776 – Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

1776 – State constitutions in New Hampshire, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and New Jersey

April 1776 – John Adams, *Thoughts on Government*

July 1776 – Thomas Jefferson, *Declaration of Independence*

1777 – State constitution in New York

1777 – Articles of Confederation to states (ratified 1781)

1780 – State constitution in Massachusetts

1786 – Shay’s Rebellion

1787 – Federal Constitutional Convention

1789 – Constitution (ratified)

1791 – Bill of Rights (ratified)

1794 – Whiskey Rebellion