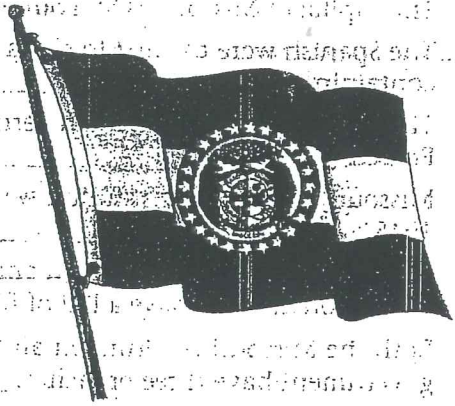


MISSOURI'S STATE HISTORY, CONSTITUTION, AND GOVERNMENT



State History

The history of the State of Missouri is rich and distinguished. The state has played a vital role in the development of the United States.

Indians, known as the mound builders, inhabited the region of Missouri long before the coming of the white man. Many different tribes, including the Missouri, Osage, Fox, and Sauk, lived and hunted in the area.

The French were probably the first whites to explore the area. Names such as Father Jacques Marquette, Louis Joliet, and Sieur de LaSalle were important in the early exploration of the territory they claimed for the French government. French missionaries and trappers continued to explore and settle the area.

Although the French gave up claim to the territory to the Spanish, Napoleon Bonaparte reclaimed the area for France. Because of France's involvement in a series of expensive wars, Napoleon decided to sell the entire Louisiana Territory, which included Missouri, to the United States. This 1803 land sale doubled the size of the United States.

In 1812, the United States Congress organized the Missouri Territory. There were over 20,000 people living in the territory at the time. The territory, because of its fine land, attracted many settlers. As in other areas of the country, increased numbers of settlers led to trouble with the Indians, who saw their traditional hunting grounds being taken away. For several years, the Indians made bloody attacks on frontier settlements.

In 1818, Missouri applied for admission to the United States. This application for admission started a controversy leading to the Missouri Compromise of 1820. Because many of the settlers in the territory had brought slaves with them, antislavery forces felt that the slaveholding states would gain more power

in Congress if Missouri was added as another slave state. The issue was finally settled with the Compromise when Missouri was admitted as a slave state and Maine was admitted as a free state, thus keeping the balance of power in Congress equal. Missouri was admitted to the Union on August 10, 1821, as the twenty-fourth state.

The first capital of Missouri was St. Louis. In 1821, it was moved to St. Charles, and finally in 1826, to Jefferson City.

Missouri played a key role in settling the West. Independence, Missouri was the beginning of both the Santa Fe Trail to the Southwest, and the Oregon Trail to the Northwest. Much wealth poured into Missouri from the Southwest and thousands upon thousands of settlers began moving west from Independence.

Prior to the Civil War, the people of Missouri were divided over the slavery issue and scattered fighting broke out among Missourians. In 1861, a convention was called to determine whether the people of Missouri desired to secede (withdraw) from the Union and join the Confederacy. Although the people voted to remain in the Union, when the Civil War started that same year, many Missourians sided with the Confederacy. Many battles were fought in the state throughout the Civil War with bands of both Union and Confederate guerrillas terrorizing the Missouri countryside.

During this same period the state became an important transportation center. Fur trading subsided and tenant farmers replaced slaves as field workers. The early 1900's brought political, social, and industrial reforms to Missouri. Working conditions improved and laws were established regulating child labor. The state grew steadily over the years in population, agricultural production, and industrial production. Because of its rich soil, favorable climate, and abundant resources, many saw the state as a land of opportunity.

Missouri is today one of the nation's leading agricultural producers, with soybeans and corn as leading crops. Industrial production has also grown at a rapid rate. Missouri's factories produce a wide variety of products. World War I caused Missouri's industry to pour forth the needed goods of war. The Depression of the 1930's hit Missouri very hard and recovery came slowly and painfully. World War II again found Missouri's contributions to be a vital part of the war effort, and helped to further develop the industry of the state.

MISSOURI'S STATE HISTORY, CONSTITUTION, AND GOVERNMENT continued

Preamble

We, the people of Missouri, with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and grateful for His goodness, do establish this Constitution for the better government of the State.

Constitution of 1875

Constitutions

Missouri changed and modified its government as its population and economy changed. The state has had four constitutions. The first, adopted in 1820, when Missouri sought entry into the Union, basically outlined the structure and functions of the new government. It was changed in 1865, again only ten years later in 1875, and finally in 1945. The state presently operates under the Constitution of 1945.

Organization of State Government

From studying the U.S. Constitution, you know certain responsibilities are left to the states. To carry out these responsibilities, states have established their own constitutions. The state government, for example, is responsible for highway construction, local laws, intrastate commerce, traffic laws, education, marriage and divorce laws, voting regulations, etc.

The organization of a state government is very similar to that of the federal government. Both have three branches which have about the same type of duties and the same type of checks and balances system. (See page 33.) Both the U.S. Constitution and the Missouri Constitution have a Bill of Rights. There are other similarities and differences you will notice as you read about Missouri's Constitution. Articles 4 and 10 of the U.S. Constitution should be read if you wish to know exactly what the federal

1. Missouri has had four constitutions. _____
2. The capital of Missouri is St. Louis. _____
3. The Spanish were the first to claim the territory containing Missouri. _____
4. The U.S. bought the Louisiana Territory from France. _____
5. Missouri's present Constitution was adopted in 1945. _____
6. Both the Missouri Constitution and the United States Constitution have a Bill of Rights. _____
7. Both the Missouri government and the federal government have three branches. _____
8. Missouri became a state in 1821. _____
9. Missouri has had three capitals. _____
10. Missouri joined the Confederacy in 1861. _____
11. Missouri's nickname is "The Show Me State." _____
12. Missouri was admitted to the Union as a "free state." _____
13. The Missouri Territory was organized in 1812. _____
14. The Civil War started in 1861. _____

For your information:

A number of excellent books are available to provide a look into Missouri's colorful past: *The Face of Missouri*, Eilo L. Battaglia; *Missouri- A History of the Crossroads State*, E.C. McReynolds; *The Heritage of Missouri*, Duane Meyer; *Steamboats on the Mississippi*, American.

Missouri: Facts in Brief

Capital:	Jefferson City
Federal Representatives:	Senators - 2 Representatives - 9 Electoral vote - 11
Area:	69,697 square miles 19th among the states
Population:	5,358,692 (1996) 16th among the states
Statehood:	August 10, 1821 24th state
Nickname:	The Show Me State

Constitution says about the role of the states.

QUESTIONS

True or false?

MO Facts:

1. What year did MO enter the Union?
2. In what year was the current MO Constitution written?
3. How many versions are there of the MO Constitution?
4. What are the qualifications to vote in MO?
5. What are laws called at the federal, state and local levels?
6. What is MO's capital?
7. What is an initiative?
8. What is a referendum?
9. When are general elections held in MO?
10. Who is the U.S. Rep for MO's 9th district?
11. Who are the U.S. senators for MO?
12. What is the census?
13. Who is the mayor of Columbia?
14. Who is the governor of MO?
15. Who is the lieutenant governor of MO?
16. What must the people of MO do every 20 years?

Name/Date: _____

News Article Summary *About the State of Missouri*

Who wrote the article: _____

Title of the Article: _____

When did the events in the article occur?

Where did the events occur?

List all that are named in the article with their titles if given:

What was the article about?

Why is this article important?

What did you learn from the article?