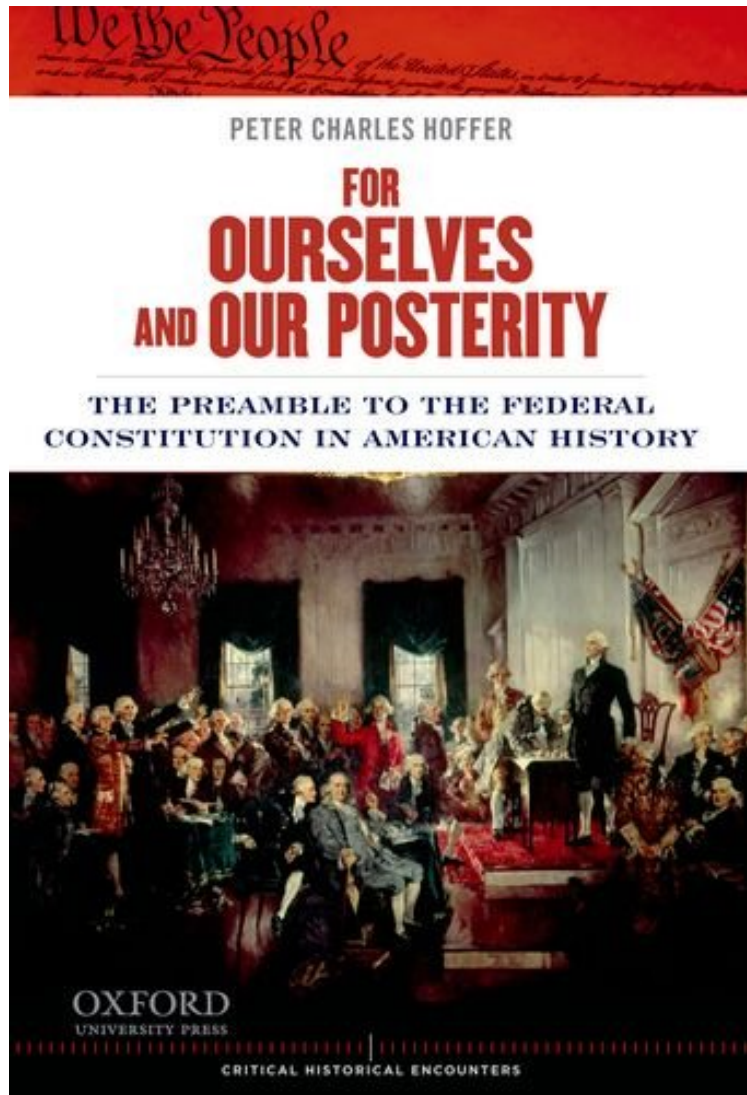


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For Ourselves and Our Posterity: The Preamble to the Federal Constitution in American History (Critical Historical Encounters Series)

Peter Charles Hoffer

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Peter Charles Hoffer : For Ourselves and Our Posterity: The Preamble to the Federal Constitution in American History (Critical Historical Encounters Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised For Ourselves and Our Posterity: The Preamble to the Federal Constitution in American History (Critical Historical Encounters Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... contemporary story relating to our Founding Fathers and the great document that they fashioned
By Arthur W. Rashap
Professor Hoffer has written a most informative and contemporary story relating to our Founding Fathers and the great document that they fashioned. It is a strong argument for a "living" interpretation. I personally would have wished for larger type face. This is such a wonderful story and the men who were part of it are brought alive.
2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Short easy read.....limited on scholarly research
By Rod Hanson
Interesting, but limited in research.....too many generalizations about the influence of the Preamble on American History.....Hoffer misses some of the greatest interpretations of the Preamble in Supreme Court history.....but...an easy quick read.....
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 52 words and all future generations
By HH
Never again will there be men like those who founded our republic. Hoffer captures that sentiment perfectly and he only needs to focus on 52 words to do it. A magnificent study!

In For Ourselves and Our Posterity: The Preamble to the Federal Constitution in American History, author Peter Charles Hoffer offers a sweeping, dramatic narration of a crucial moment in Early American history. Over the course of five days in September 1787, five men serving on an ad hoc "Committee of Style and Arrangement" edited the draft of the federal Constitution at the Constitutional Convention, profoundly recasting the wording of the Preamble. In so doing, the committee changed a federation into a Union and laid out an ambitious program for national governance many years ahead of its time. The Preamble and all that it came to represent was the unique achievement of a remarkable group of men at a momentous turning point in American history. Providing a clear exposition of constitutional issues, *For Ourselves and Our Posterity* features individual portraits of the leading framers at the heart of this dramatic event.

"Peter Charles Hoffer, one of this nation's most distinguished legal historians, has written a vitally important book in this age of Tea Party hostility to an energetic federal government. *For Ourselves and Our Posterity* is a brilliant analysis of the way in which the fifty-two words of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution—the pledge not only 'to form a more perfect union,' but also 'to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty' to the American people—shaped much of the political debate during the period between the ratification of the Constitution and the coming of the Civil War. Hoffer's book is a notable example of a work that combines impressive scholarship with contemporary relevance. It will provoke lively debate both within the classroom and in the public arena."--Richard R. Beeman, University of Pennsylvania
"Peter Hoffer uses the fifty-two-word preamble to the United States Constitution as a wide-angle lens, encompassing the quirky characters (like Gouverneur Morris, the disfigured rake who wrote the preamble), the uncanny coincidences, and the titanic clashes that all came together in 1787 to forge a nation."--Woody Holton, University of Richmond, author of *Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution*
About the Author
Peter Charles Hoffer is Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Georgia. He is the author of several books, including *Cry Liberty: The Great Stono River Slave Rebellion of 1739* (OUP, 2011), *The Brave New World: A History of Early America* (2007), *The Supreme Court: An Essential History* (2007), *Seven Fires: The Urban Infernos that Reshaped American History* (2006), and *Past Imperfect* (2004).