Dear Comparative Law Students:

As advertised, we fill focus on comparative constitutional law this semester. Before we dive into the casebook and explore some pressing contemporary world-wide constitutional issues and themes, I'd like to help you develop a historical foundation.

During our first two (and maybe even three) sessions (depending on how fruitful conversation is), we will discuss the materials listed below. Please be prepared when class commences on Monday January 9th. Don't blow this off and arrive clueless. That would be "uncool" as we middle-aged types say.

1) In Uviller & Merkel, The Second Amendment in Context: The Case of the Vanishing Predicate, 76 Chicago-Kent Law Review 403 (2000) available to download at this link http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=960155 please read pp. 440-456 on 17th century English constitutional thought.

2) John Locke's Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina of 1669. Here's a link to it from Yale's Avalon Project for historic documents: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/nc05.asp

3) The English Bill of Rights of 1689, http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/england.asp

4) The United States Declaration of Independence (you should be able to find this one, but please don't just say "oh, I know this one," but rather read it carefully and think about the underlying constitutional theory).

5) Also from Avalon, the United States Articles of Confederation: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/artconf.asp (cut-n-paste into your browser's URL line if the link is not active when you get this post), and again, reflect seriously upon the underlying constitutional theory.

6) The United States Constitution (again, you should be able to find this one, and please read carefully rather with a view to the underlying theory rather than just assuming you know it inside and out).

7) and finally the Confederate Constitution: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/csa_csa.asp