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Slavery in the United States was the legal institution of human chattel enslavement, primarily of Africans and African Americans, that existed in the United States of America in the 18th and 19th centuries. Slavery had been practiced in British America from early colonial days, and was legal in all Thirteen Colonies at the time of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Article Five of the United States Constitution describes the process whereby the Constitution, the nation's frame of government, may be altered. Under Article V, the process to alter the Constitution consists of proposing an amendment or amendments, and subsequent ratification.. Amendments may be proposed either by the Congress with a two-thirds vote in both the House of Representatives and ...Constitutional Issues. The American Constitution is an extraordinary document. It could have been written only by a Biblically based society. President Harry S Truman stated in his address to the Attorney General's Conference, February 1950: "The fundamental basis of this nation's laws was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings we get ...The oath of office for nearly every civil servant and military officer of the United States of America requires that the individual "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic". - A Necessary Evil Slavery And The Debate Of The Constitution Constitutional Heritage Series