Modern European History

Unit 3 – Reformation and Exploration

The Inquisition Reading Review Activity

**The Case of Charles Hester:**

An anonymous person denounced Charles Hester to the church in 1257, saying that Hester believed in heresy. Hester was then arrested in Southern France and turned over to officers of the Inquisition. The officers forced open the door to his house and searched for evidence that he was a heretic. They took many of his books, including a diary that he kept. Hester was transported to a city near Rome and held in a prison for over a year. In the year 1258, Hester was questioned for 18 days straight. He was allowed little sleep, and one officer slapped him. He never saw a lawyer. On the 19th day, he confessed to being a heretic. Hester was condemned to be burned alive.

**Activity Directions:**

Imagine that the Catholic Church had adopted the United States’ Bill of Rights the year before Charles Hester was arrested. Your group has been appointed as Charles Hester’s legal team. Identify any rights guaranteed by your amendments that would have been violated by Hester’s treatment.

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**The Bill of Rights**

**Amendment I**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

**Amendment II**

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

**Amendment III**

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

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**Amendment IV**

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

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**Amendment V**

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

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**Amendment VI**

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

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In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

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