

FR335U

DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE NAPOLEONIC ERA

CONSTITUTION OF THE YEAR III (1795)—EXCERPTS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

351. There exists among the citizens no other superiority than that of the public functionaries and that only in relation to the exercise of their functions.

352. The law does not recognize religious vows nor any obligation contrary to the natural rights of man.

353. No one can be prevented from speaking, writing, printing, or publishing his ideas. Writings cannot be made subject to any censorship before their publication. No one can be held responsible for what he has written or published, except in the cases provided for by law.

354. No one can be prevented from engaging in the worship which he has chosen, while he conforms to the laws.

No one can be forced to contribute to the expenses of a religion. The Republic does not pay a stipend to any of them.

355. There is neither privilege, nor mastership, nor *jurande*, nor limitation upon the liberty of the press, of commerce, and the pursuit of industry and the arts of every kind.

Every prohibitive law of this sort, when circumstances render it necessary, is essentially provisional and has effect only for one year at most, unless it be formally renewed.

356. The law particularly watches over the professions which affect the public morals, the security and the health of the citizens; but admission to the practice of these professions cannot be made dependent upon any pecuniary payment.

371. There is uniformity of weights and measures in the Republic.

372. The French era commences September 22, 1792, the day of the foundation of the Republic.

373. The French nation declares that in any case it will not permit the return of the French who, having abandoned their fatherland since July 15, 1789, are not included in the exceptions contained in the laws against the *émigrés*; and it forbids the legislative body to create new exceptions upon this point.

The estates of the *émigrés* are irrevocably acquired for the profit of the Republic.

374. The French nation likewise proclaims, as a guarantee of the public faith, that after a legally consummated award of national lands, whatever the origin thereof, the lawful acquirer cannot be dispossessed of them; saving to third claimants, if there be need, indemnification by the national treasurer.