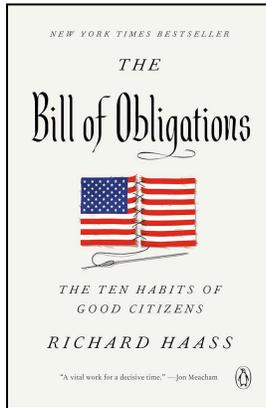


Valwood Summer Study  
**AP United States Government & Politics (12th Grade)**

Haass, Richard. *The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens*. Penguin Press. 2023.  
ISBN: 9780525560678



The United States faces dangerous threats from Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, terrorists, climate change, and future pandemics. The greatest peril to the country, however, comes not from abroad but from within, from ourselves. The question is whether Americans are prepared to do what is necessary to save our democracy.

In *The Bill of Obligations*, Richard Haass argues that for American democracy to survive the very idea of citizenship must be revised and expanded. The Bill of Rights is at the center of our Constitution, yet our most intractable conflicts often emerge from contrasting views as to what our rights ought to be. The lesson is clear: rights alone cannot provide the basis for a functioning democracy. There is a cure: place obligations on an equal footing with rights. Haass introduces ten obligations that he argues are essential for healing our divisions and safeguarding the country's future. These obligations reenvision what it means to be an American citizen.

**Your Assignments: 2 Long Essay Questions (LEQ) & 1 Short Answer Question (SAQ)**

- **LEQ #1:** Trace the historical evolution of rights in American democratic values. Consider influences like the Enlightenment philosophies, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. Explain how the concept of rights became enshrined in American law and identity.
- **LEQ #2:** What role do obligations play in sustaining a healthy democratic republic? Differentiate obligations from legal requirements and laws, focusing on the unique contribution to social cohesion found in responsible citizenship. Use historical examples to illustrate your argument.
- **SAQ:** Identify and describe each of *The Ten Obligations* of a good citizen according to author Richard Haass. In addition, provide an example of the stated behavior.
- Assignment must be typed. Use Times New Roman font, size 12, double spaced.
- LEQ must be written in 5-paragraphs according to AP Social Studies standards.
- ASSIGNMENTS DUE ON THE FIRST FULL DAY OF CLASS.