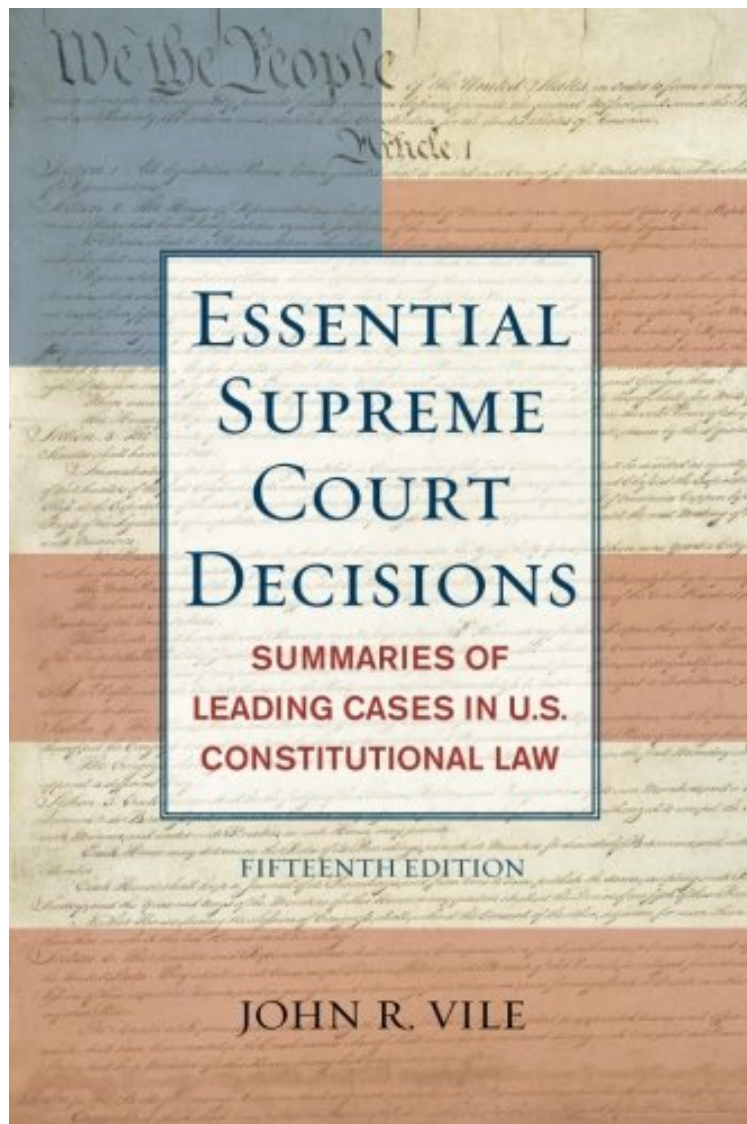


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Essential Supreme Court Decisions: Summaries of Leading Cases in U.S. Constitutional Law

John R. Vile

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Hendrix Currently I am a Criminal Justice major and this book has been a phenomenal help! The book is sectioned off by types of cases heard and the index is a great help to find cases. The index organizes the cases alphabetically, by the Chief Justice who was presiding over the SCOTUS chronologically, and types of cases. The book summarizes each case by what the subject of the case was, what the ruling was, and why the judges made the decision. I'm not a law school student, so I can't tell you how helpful this book would be for the law school student, but if you are an average citizen wanting to know more about your rights I'd strongly recommend this book. This is the latest version of this particular book (15th ed. 2010 release) and I think it is a must have for anyone wanting to know more about why they have certain rights. For me, the section containing the Bill of Rights cases is enough reason to buy this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. There are better cases to feature. By MEM There are better cases to feature. My son had a summer assignment re: key Supreme Court cases. Only some were described in this book. I took Constitutional Law in law school. This is just ok. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Really enjoying this one. By Firstsnow I'm not an attorney and I bought this to read for fun. It's clearly written and well structured. I enjoy reading dictionaries so some may find this too dry while I find it very interesting. I could see this as an enjoyable reference for advanced level homeschooling, pre or beginning law students. My assumption is an advanced law student would need a more in-depth look at these cases than is offered in this book. But it's still a worthwhile read as an introduction.

This landmark book has long been the gold standard of concise summaries of important U.S. Supreme Court cases in U.S. constitutional law. The book incorporates every facet of constitutional law, including the powers and privileges of the three branches of the national government, federalism, war powers, and extensive briefs on civil rights and liberties. This new edition has been thoroughly revised, reorganized, and updated through the end of the 2008 term.

The 15th edition of *Essential Supreme Court Decisions* is the most comprehensive collection of Supreme Court decisions in print. John Vile has admirably carried on the great tradition of this volume, distilling the greatest decisions of the Supreme Court into easy-to-read briefs that explain the context, facts, issues, reasoning, and significance for each. This is an indispensable volume for scholars and professors who want to know and understand what the Court has said and why in its most important cases. The beauty of *Essential Supreme Court Decisions* is in how easy it is to read, how comprehensive the coverage, and how scholarly and balanced the treatment of the decisions are. (David Schultz, Hamline University and *Journal of Public Affairs Education*) Having worn well for more than half-a-century, *Essential Supreme Court Decisions* continues to bring a much needed, comprehensive, no nonsense, no frills, format for studying basic elements of constitutional law. No wonder that it has been so popular with students and faculty alike. (Henry J. Abraham, James Hart Professor Emeritus, University of Virginia) The 15th edition of *Essential Supreme Court Decisions* remains the most comprehensive single collection of the Court's decisions. As with earlier editions, it is indispensable for the study of the work of the Supreme Court. Decisions are organized by constitutional articles, the Bill of Rights, and amendments. For example, chapter 8 includes decisions ranging from *Barron v. Baltimore* (1833) to *Duncan v. Louisiana* (1968), all of which address the application of provisions of the Bill of Rights to the various states. Each chapter includes an analysis of the relevant decisions and the context in which the Court acted. Appendixes provide the text of the Constitution, a glossary of legal terms, an alphabetical listing of cases, and a chronological listing of cases by chief justice. The ratified amendments to the Constitution are listed as 'articles,' reflecting the drafting terminology of 'articles of amendment.' Thus readers find in the constitutional text 'Article I,' ratified in 1791, which includes the Bill of Rights provisions commonly known as the First Amendment. Though this may be misleading for some readers, it does not represent a textual flaw in this excellent collection. **Summing Up: Essential. (CHOICE)** **About the Author** John R. Vile is professor of political science at Middle Tennessee State University. He is the author or editor of numerous books on Political Science and Constitutional Law including *Presidential Winner and Losers: Words of Victory and Concession*; *The Encyclopedia of Constitutional Amendments* and *A Companion to the U.S. Constitution and Its Amendments*.