

Negative rights are the rights we enjoy because government is restricted from forbidding or hindering personal activity.

Positive rights are “rights” that are secured when government intervenes in citizens’ lives to give them resources or to otherwise enable them to do or to have certain things.

Generally speaking, America’s Founders and early leaders enthusiastically upheld the former and rarely upheld the latter (the right to a trial by jury being one such instance).

Accordingly, the Founders drafted and ratified the Bill of Rights to the US Constitution, which secured foundational rights of citizens through government *limitations*.