SUPREME COURT DECISIONS: Identify what period/subject does each case refer to (i.e. Federal period, Imperialism, sectionalism, civil Rights, etc.)

Marbury v. Madison, 1803: judicial review

Fletcher v. Peck, 1810: States could not void contracts

Martin v. Hunter’s Lessee, 1816: Supreme Court rejected “compact theory” and state claims that they were equally sovereign with the federal gov’t.

Dartmouth College v. Woodward, 1819: Contracts made by private corporations are protected by the Constitution and a state may not alter them.

McCulloch v. Maryland, 1819: States cannot tax the federal gov’t; BUS is constitutional

Cohens v. Virginia, 1821: Supreme Court has power to review state decisions and citizens can appeal to the Supreme Court.

Gibbons v. Ogden, 1821 (“Steamboat Case”): Only the federal gov’t has the right to regulate interstate commerce.

Cherokee Nation v. Georgia, 1831: Court ruled that while it could not stop Georgia from making Cherokee laws void, the Cherokees were a “domestic nation” and possessed some sovereignty; shattered Cherokee sovereignty regarding its relation with U.S.

Worcester v. Georgia, 1832: Marshall ruled Georgia had no control over the Cherokee Nation and the land holdings, and that Georgia could not relocate the Cherokees.

Charles River Bridge v. Warren Bridge, 1837: Taney ruled no charter given to a private companyhad the right to harm the public interest. Rights of a community supersede rights of a privatecorporation; Jacksonian idea.

Commonwealth v. Hunt, 1842: Supreme Court of Massachusetts ruled trade union organization andstriking tactics were legal as long as their methods were honorable and peaceful.

Prigg v. Pennsylvania, 1842: Court ruled return of fugitive slaves was a federal power, thus making unconstitutional Pennsylvania’s law prohibiting the capture and return of fugitive slaves.

Dred Scott v. Sandford, 1857: African Americans not citizens; slaves were property and could not be taken away from owners w/o due process of law; Missouri Compromise unconstitutional.

Ableman v. Booth, 1859: Upheld the fugitive slave law included in the Compromise of 1850.

Ex Parte Merryman, 1861: In response to Lincoln’s suspension of habeas corpus, Taney issued a writ for Merryman’s release (he had been arrested in a mob attack on Union soldiers). Lincoln ignored it.

Ex Parte Milligan, 1866: Military tribunals could not try civilians in areas where civil courts were functioning.

Slaughterhouse Cases, 1873: Court ruled the 14th amendment only protected federal rights, not states’ rights. It also ruled that the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments only applied to slaves.

Munn v. Illinois, 1877: The public always has the right to regulate business operations in which the public has an interest; upheld an Illinois “Granger Law” regulating storage of grain.

Civil Rights Cases, 1883: The 14th Amendment protects individuals from state action, not individual action; thus, “individuals” (corporations, clubs, organizations, etc.) became free to discriminate against African Americans or use their “individual status” to evade state regulations.

Wabash v. Illinois, 1886: Only the federal gov’t could regulate interstate commerce, so railroads could not be regulated by states; weakened the Munn v. Illinois decision.

Plessy v. Ferguson, 1896: “Separate but equal”; Court ruled 14th amendment only ensured political equality and that segregation did not mean inferiority.

Insular Cases, 1901-1904: Court ruled that the Constitution does not follow American conquests but that some rights are fundamental; Congress determines these rights.

Northern Securities Case, 1904: Supreme Court supported President Theodore Roosevelt by ruling that the Northern Securities Company was a trust because it owned stock in competing railroads, thus violating the Sherman Antitrust Act.

Lochner v. New York, 1905: Court ruled the 14th amendment protected individuals against unreasonable and unnecessary interference to their personal liberty. This case expanded the use of “due process,” but sided with the baker by not placing a limit on work hours.

Muller v. Oregon, 1908: Court ruled that an Oregon law limiting women to only 10 hours of labor in factories per day was legal as special legislation for women was needed to preserve their health; Louis Brandeis became famous for his presentation social science evidence concerning the adverse effects of long hours on women—“Brandeis Brief.”

Standard Oil v. U.S., 1911: This case involved whether the Standard Oil trust was a good or bad trust (the rule of reason doctrine). The Supreme Court decided that this trust was bad so the Standard Oil Company was dissolved.

Schenck v. U.S., 1919: the Court ruled First Amendment freedom of speech did not apply in this case because the U.S. was at war; speech posing a “clear and present danger” is illegal. The case did protect all other speech, even that which might be considered offensive to some— “freedom for the thought we hate.”

Schecter Poultry Corp v. U.S., 1935 (“sick chicken” case): Ruled the National Recovery Administration (NRA) unconstitutional because Congress had exceeded its power by granting the Executive Branch too much power to regulate interstate commerce.

U.S. v. Butler, 1936: Court ruled the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) unconstitutional because itinvaded state jurisdiction by using federal taxation as a means of regulating production; ruled it unfair to tax one group specifically to favor of another group.

Korematsu v. U.S., 1944: Court upheld internment of Japanese-Americans stating it could not second guess military decisions; once a person was determined to be loyal, he/she had to be released.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, 1954: Ended the “separate but equal” school system in America—“separate is inherently, unequal.” The Court unanimously ruled that schools should be integrated but left lower courts to carry out the decision.

Engel v. Vitale, 1962: Court ruled against mandatory school prayer in public schools.

Baker v. Carr, 1962: Over-represented rural voting districts eliminated; “one person, one vote.”

Gideon v. Wainwright, 1963: Legal counsel must be given to anyone charged with a felony. This decision later extended in 1972 to include anyone charged with a misdemeanor.

Escobedo v. Illinois, 1964: The police must not use extortion or coercion to gain a confession from a suspected criminal. The police must also honor a suspect’s request to have a lawyer present during police interrogations.

Miranda v. Arizona, 1966: A suspected criminal has the right to be read his rights (right to remain silent, the right to an attorney and the right to one telephone call).

Roe v. Wade, 1973: Court ruled that abortion was legal during a woman’s first trimester. States could not infringe on a woman’s right to an abortion.

Bakke v. Board of Regents U.C., 1978: Court upheld minority affirmative action quotas in universities but stated that race alone could not be used as the sole means for college admission; it could, however, be used as a “plus” factor.