

After the Revolution: The Articles of Confederation & the Constitution

- Section 1:
The Articles of Confederation
- Section 2:
The New Nation Faces Challenges
- Section 3:
Creating the Constitution
- Section 4:
Ratification



Section 1: The Articles of Confederation

Roots of the Constitution

- Declaring independence was a bold move
- Next step was to create new government
- They would gather ideas from many sources

They took ideas from:

- Magna Carta
 - No one above the law
- The English Bill of Rights
 - Rights of the Citizen
- Enlightenment Movement
 - Promoted Logic, Reason & improvement of Society
- John Locke
 - Natural rights of life, liberty, pursuit of happiness
- Baron de Montesquieu
 - Government structure of separation of powers



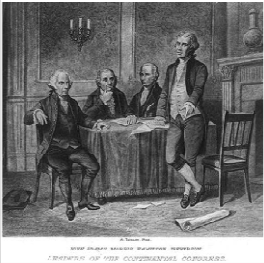
State Constitutions

- May 1776 Continental Congress charged the States with creating their own state Constitutions
- State constitutions
 - created limited governments
 - Had rules to protect the rights of citizens
 - Legislatures were **Bicameral**
 - Two-house system of government

VOTING

- Under British rule only free, white, property owners could vote.
- Many state constitutions expanded **suffrage** (the right to vote) by allowing any white man who paid taxes to vote.
- Only land owners could hold public office.

Forming a Republic

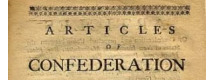


- **Republic** – a government in which citizens rule through elected representatives
- November 1777 - Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation

John Adams, Morris, Hamilton, Jefferson
Leaders of the Continental Congress; Augustus Tholey, 1894

Articles of Confederation


- Congress could settle conflicts among states, make coins, borrow money, and make treaties with other countries and with Native Americans.
- Congress could ask for money and soldiers.
- *States had the power to refuse these requests.*
- Government did not have a president or a national court system.
- Each state had one vote in Congress




- Articles of Confederation- 1st Const. of the U.S.— passed Nov. 15, 1777, but not approved until 1781
 - Maryland refused to ratify
 - felt other states should give up land claims first.
 - Thomas Jefferson assured Maryland the western lands would become NEW states-not increase the size of existing states.
- Established the 1st national govt. of the U.S.

New Land Policies

- Articles of Confederation had no provisions for adding new states
- States handed over their land claims to the government
- Congress passed **Land Ordinance of 1785**
- **System for surveying and dividing the western lands**



The Land Ordinances of 1785 and 1787




- **THE ORDINANCE OF 1785**
- System used for dividing the territories.
 - Split into townships of 36 square miles
 - Divided into 36 lots of 640 acres, one lot = 1 sq. mile
 - 1 lot reserved for public school, 4 lots for veterans
 - Remaining lots sold to public

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787



- Established the Northwest Territory
- **Created a Political System for the region**
- Included areas that are now:
 - Illinois
 - Indiana
 - Michigan
 - Ohio
 - Wisconsin
 - Minnesota (part of)
- These future states were called territories
- Required public education to be provided
- Slavery was banned in Northwest Territory



Northwest Ordinance of 1787

- Formed a political system for the region.
- Protected civil liberties
- Created a system for bringing new states to the Union
 - Ruled by a governor appointed by Congress until ready for statehood
 - When the population reached 60,000 they could draft a constitution & become a state

Section 1 Journal Entry :

If YOU were there ...
 You live in a town in New England during the 1770s. In the town meeting, people are hotly debating about who will have the right to vote. Most think that only men who own property should be able to vote. Some think that all property owners—men and women—should have that right. A few others want all free men to have the vote. Now it is time for the meeting to decide.


How would you have voted on this issue?

Consider reasons to LIMIT voting:

- Voters should be taxpayers.
- Voters should be educated.
- Voters should be eligible to hold political office.
- Voters should be adult citizens.

Consider reasons to WIDEN voting:

- All people should have a voice because government applies to all people.
- All people have rights.
- All people are equal under the law.



Section 2: The New Nation Faces Challenges


Relations with Other Countries

- Under the Articles, Congress could not force states to provide soldiers for an army.
- Continental Army disbands after the Revolution.
 - Causes problems;
 - Hard to enforce treaties
 - Hard to enforce removal of British in the Ohio Valley area
- Congress could not force states to help pay foreign debts.



Problems with Britain

- Britain continued to occupy strategic forts in Great Lakes area
- Britain closed off many ports to the U. S., preventing trade in Britain and West Indies
- Britain forced Americans to pay higher **tariffs**
 - US businesses had to raise their prices
 - British goods were then cheaper than American.
- 1785 - John Adams went to London but British refused to back down



Problems with Spain

- In 1784 Spain closed off Lower Mississippi River & port of New Orleans
- cutting off American trade with the West
- Farmers could not export their crops
- Congress did not have the power to fix the problem

The United States Faces Trade Barriers

Exports to Britain -
High British Tariffs discouraged American Exports to Britain

West Indies Trade -
Britain closed many ports to American ships

American Trade Route -
Spain closed the lower Mississippi River to US Shipping, hurting Western Trade with Eastern Markets

Impact of Closed Markets

- American exports dropped and British imports increased
 - British could sell their imports for lower than American made products
- Congress could not pass tariffs
- Congress could not make states pass tariffs

Economic Depression

- States began to pass their own trade laws, which were all different
- This made it difficult to trade from state to state
 - interstate commerce**

- States begin printing large amounts of money to pay for the war.
 - The result is **inflation**- increased prices for goods & services combined with reduced value of money
 - Money had different values from state to state.
 - Depression - period when economic activity slows & unemployment increases

Problems with trade & inflation caused an economic depression!
-period when economic activity slows & unemployment increases

Shays's Rebellion

- Massachusetts-they raised taxes on land to raise money to pay for the war--causing farmers to be hit hard.
- If the farmers could not pay the tax, land was taken, sold at 1/3 price and the farmer jailed.

- August 1786- Massachusetts farmers began to revolt
- Led by Daniel Shays the rebels tried to shut down the Supreme Court in MA.
- Rebels were defeated at a federal arsenal in Springfield, MA. (1787)

Daniel Shays' Farm house in Pelham, MA.

Shays' Troops are repulsed from the armory at Springfield, Massachusetts in early 1787.

- Shays' Rebellion showed the weakness of the Confederation government
- It made Congress take a second look at flaws of the Articles of Confederation

A Call for Change

Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
• Most power held by states
• One branch of government
• Legislative branch has few powers
• No executive branch
• No judicial system
• No system of checks and balances

- It became increasingly clear that reform of the Articles of Confederation was necessary

Section 2 Journal Entry :


If YOU were there ...
 You own an orchard in Maryland in the 1780s. When you sell apples and apple pies in the market, people pay you with paper money. But now the tax collector says you must pay your taxes in gold or silver coins, not paper money. You and the other farmers are furious. Is this the liberty you fought a war for?
What would you do to protest against these taxes?

Consider COLONIAL methods:

- pamphlets and articles
- public speeches
- symbolic acts, such as boycotts or dumping tea

Consider MODERN methods:

- petitions and letter-writing campaigns
- Internet campaigns
- marches and public demonstrations

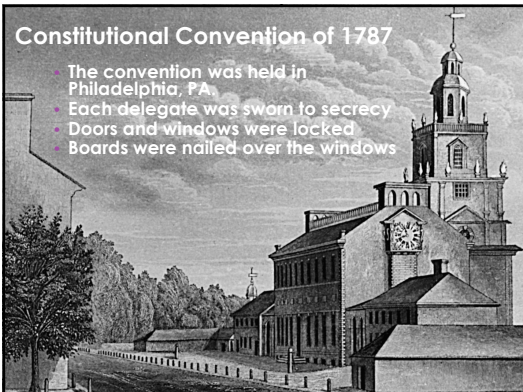


Section 3 Creating the Constitution

Constitutional Convention of 1787

The convention was held in Philadelphia, PA.

- Each delegate was sworn to secrecy
- Doors and windows were locked
- Boards were nailed over the windows



- Benjamin Franklin was the oldest: 81
- **James Madison** – "Father of the Constitution"
- **George Washington** came out of retirement to be president of the Convention
- Main Purpose:
 - To improve the Articles of Confederation



2 plans Introduced

Virginia Plan	New Jersey Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edmund Randolph presented Virginia Plan Gave more power to central government Congress would be made up of two houses Representatives would be chosen based on state populations Supported by large states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Paterson presented New Jersey Plan Gave more power to state governments Congress would have one house Representatives would be equal for each state Supported by small states

The Great Compromise

- After a month of debate, still deadlocked
- Roger Sherman proposed the **Great Compromise**
- The Virginia and New Jersey Plans would be combined

Virginia Plan

- Gave more power to national government
- Bicameral legislature
- Number in both houses based on population

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Great Compromise

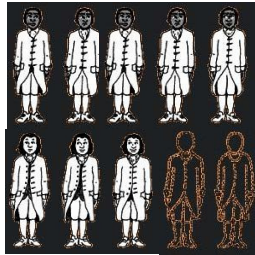
- Bicameral legislature
- Number of representatives based on state populations in lower house
- Number of representatives equal from each state in upper house

➔

New Jersey Plan

- Gave more power to state governments
- Unicameral legislature
- Number of representatives equal from each state

The Three-Fifths Compromise




- Population determination
- Southern delegates wanted slaves counted as part of their population.
- Northerners disagreed: wanted slaves to determine taxes but not representation.
- A compromise was made.
- 3/5 of a state's slave population would be counted for representation AND taxes.
- That means every 5 slaves equaled 3 free persons

Gouverneur Morris was an outspoken opponent of the three-fifths compromise

Amending the U.S. Constitution

Amendments can be proposed by


Congress



with a two-thirds vote in each house

OR

National Convention



called by Congress at the request of two-thirds of the state legislatures

Ratified by

Legislatures of three-fourths of the states

OR

Conventions in three-fourths of the states

Amendment is added to the Constitution.

National Citizens

- Delegates hoped to protect **popular sovereignty**
 - the power belongs to the people.
- Possible for people to change its form of government through discussion & choice rather than revolt

Federalism

National

- Declare war
- Maintain armed forces
- Regulate interstate and foreign trade
- Admit new states
- Establish post offices
- Set standard weights and measures
- Coin money
- Establish foreign policy
- Make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out delegated powers

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State

- Establish and maintain schools
- Establish local governments
- Regulate business within the state
- Make marriage laws
- Provide for public safety
- Assume other powers not delegated to the national government or prohibited to the states

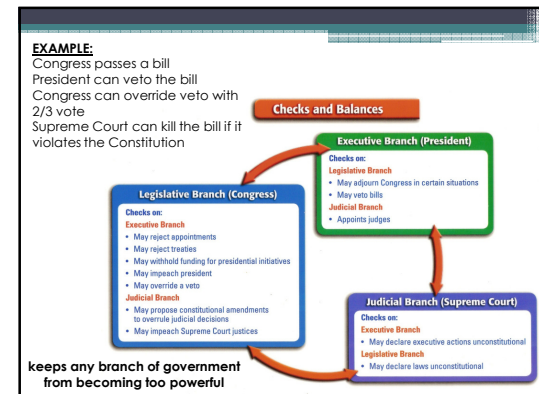
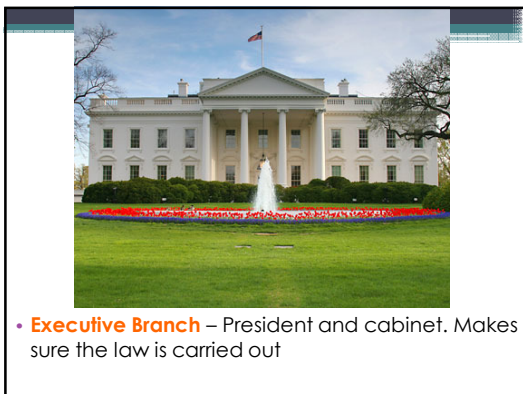
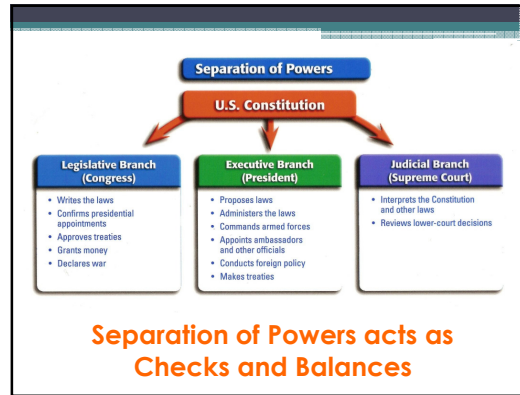
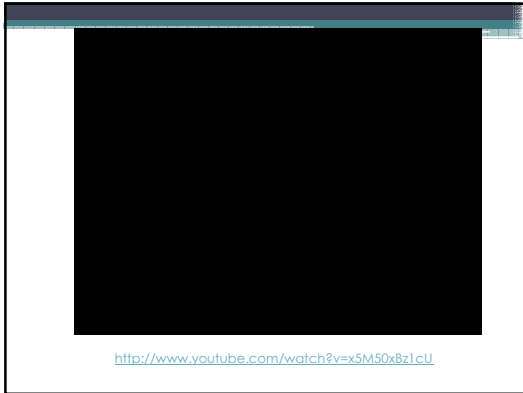
Shared


- Maintain law and order
- Levy taxes
- Borrow money
- Charter banks
- Establish courts
- Provide for public welfare

Federalism created to keep a balance of power between the central and state governments.

The Constitution: Supreme Law of the Land

- No state could make laws or take actions that went against the Constitution
- Any dispute between State & Federal governments settled by the Supreme Court based on constitution
- Constitution became final and supreme authority





<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IyEJ55o3E10>


The Constitution Strengthens the National Government

Strengths of the Constitution	Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
✔ most power held by national government	• most power held by states
✔ three branches of government	• one branch of government
✔ legislative branch has many powers	• legislative branch has few powers
✔ executive branch led by president	• no executive branch
✔ judicial branch to review the laws	• no judicial system
✔ firm system of checks and balances	• no system of checks and balances

Section 3 Journal Entry:

Read the statements below and determine who or what is “speaking.”

1. “I was elected president of the Constitutional Convention. Who am I?”
2. “I prevent any one branch of government from becoming too powerful. What am I?”
3. “I settled the disagreement over representation between the large states and the small states. What am I?”
4. “I am the system of sharing power between a central government and the states that make up a country. What am I?”



Section 4: Ratification

The Constitutional Debate



Alexander Hamilton
Federalist

- Supported the Constitution as an improvement for government
- Debated his views in the *Federalist Papers*



George Mason
Anti-Federalist

- Opposed the Constitution
- Believed the Constitution would be another government with limited rights

Federalists	Anti-Federalists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the Constitution • James Madison, Alexander Hamilton & John Jay • Felt the Constitution balanced all views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who opposed the Constitution • George Mason, Sam Adams, Patrick Henry • Felt the Constitution did not provide for individual rights

Federalist Papers

- One of the most important defenses of the Constitution was a series of essays known as the **Federalist Papers**.
 - The essays were signed anonymous under the name Publius but were written by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay.
- Tried to reassure Americans that the central government would not overpower the states.

Federalist Paper No. 10	Federalist Paper No. 51
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written by James Madison argued that the diversity of the US would prevent any single group from dominating the govt. Because the Federal government is made up of states with different interest but equal representation, no single state would control the government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written by James Madison The Separation of Powers would create a system of checks and balances to stop any one branch of government from becoming too powerful "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition."

Bill of Rights

- The Bill of Rights were added to the Constitution as amendments
- Amendments** = official changes
- The Bill of Rights are 10 amendments intended to protect the rights of the citizens—
 - protects individual rights so that the abuses listed in the Declaration of Independence would be illegal.

Ratification

- 1st state - Delaware -December 7, 1787
- 9th state - New Hampshire – June 21, 1787
- 13th state - Rhode Island – May 1790
- One reason the US Constitution has survived more than 200 years is the flexibility of the Constitution to meet the needs of a changing nation.

The Articles of Confederation

- first government of United States
- weak union of states
- weaknesses led to Shays's Rebellion

The Constitution

- framework of today's government
- strengthened national government
- three branches
- checks and balances

Bill of Rights

- first 10 amendments
- ensures basic rights

Journal Entry 1 section 4:

If YOU were there ...

You are a newspaper editor in Philadelphia. During colonial rule, officials sometimes closed down your newspaper because you had criticized the governor. Now you are one of many Americans who want to be sure the new Constitution will guarantee individual rights. You are writing an editorial in your paper explaining what you want.

What rights would you want the Constitution to protect?

Consider STATES' rights:

- preservation of local self-government
- protection from tyranny
- ability to limit central power

Consider INDIVIDUAL rights:

- life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness
- privacy and security
- religious freedom and tolerance
- freedom of the press

Journal Entry 2 section 4:

Read the list of events below and put them in the correct order.

- Federalists and Anti-federalists debate whether to approve the U.S. Constitution.
- A group of farmers in western Massachusetts revolt in Shays's Rebellion.
- The states ratify the Bill of Rights.
- All 13 states ratify the Articles of Confederation.
- Delegates to the Constitutional Convention sign the U.S. Constitution.

Write out the events, do not put the letters