



From the Articles of Confederation to the Bill of Rights (1780s)

The Articles of Confederation

- After independence, states chose how they were to carry out a their own *republican* form of government
- ° 1777 Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation (Ratified 1781)
- °Some powers granted to central government but MOST were left up to individual states

Problems with the Articles

- °Federal gov't could declare war and other foreign affairs
- Federal gov't has no power to collect taxes, relying only on contributions from states
- Resolving MAJOR issues required 2/3 of the states to approve (9 total)
- Any amendments to the Articles took the approval of all 13 states

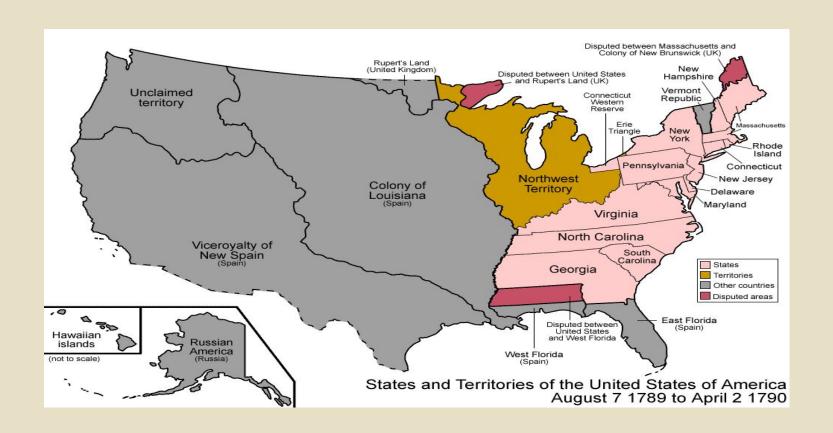
Governing Western Lands

Land Ordinance of 1785

- Stated that disputed land the Old Northwest was to be equally divided into townships and sold for federal income
- o set up guidelines for funding education
- o ended confusing legal disagreements over land

• The Northwest Ordinance of 1787

- Outlined the steps for a territory to apply for statehood.
- OH, IN, IL, MI, WI and parts of MN
- BANNED SLAVERY in these territories
- Led to increased interaction with Natives; broke the promise of the Proclamation of 1763
- Called for establishment of free public schools



Shays's Rebellion (MA, 1786-87)

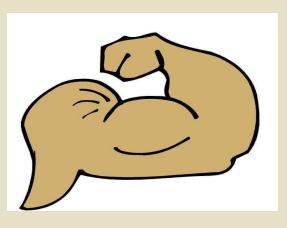


- Farmers in western MA (many veterans) were angered at state for calling in all debts owed and seizing land.
- Many farmers imprisoned for failure to pay
- Daniel Shays led charge to violently protest these taxes, foreclosures and imprisonments.

Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

- o Massachusetts was unsuccessful in quelling the rebellion.
- o Private militia raised to stop protests.
- Event highlighted a weakness in the Articles; the inability of states to effectively respond to crisis situations.

Call for a stronger *central* government

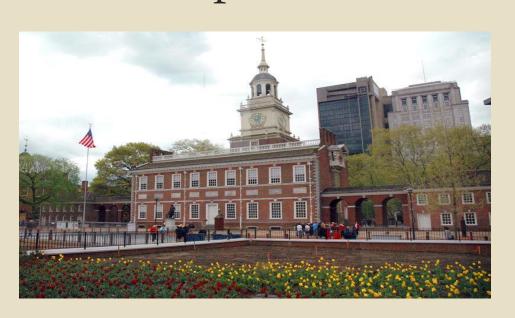


- Shays rebellion forced Americans to reevaluate the effectiveness of the Articles of Confederation in responding to the needs of its citizens.
- Led to a call for a stronger central government.

Constitutional Convention, 1787



Meeting of "demi-gods" in Philadelphia, 1787



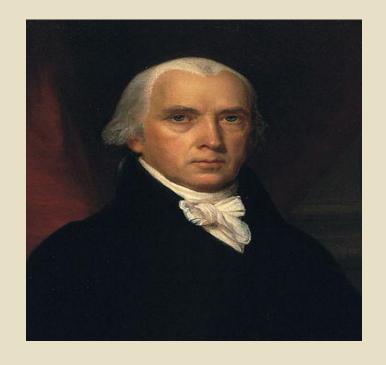
- Spring/Summer 1787, leaders from 12 states (except RI) met in Philadelphia at Independence Hall to REVISE the Articles of Confederation
- Elected George Washington as president of the convention

Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists

- Two different "factions" emerged from the debate over whether to revise the Articles or create a brand new Constitution
- Federalists (Washington, Madison, Hamilton); favored a strong central government
- Antifederalists- (Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry); favored states' and individual rights, feared a strong central government would lead to tyranny

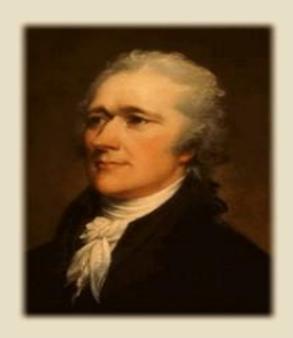
James Madison

- Rival to Hamilton at the Convention
- o"Father of the Constitution"
- Believed a large *republic* with diverse interests would preserve the common good



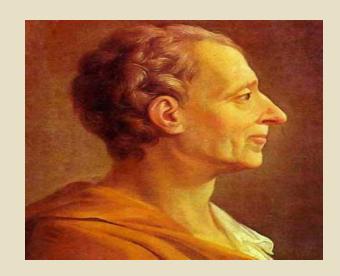
Alexander Hamilton

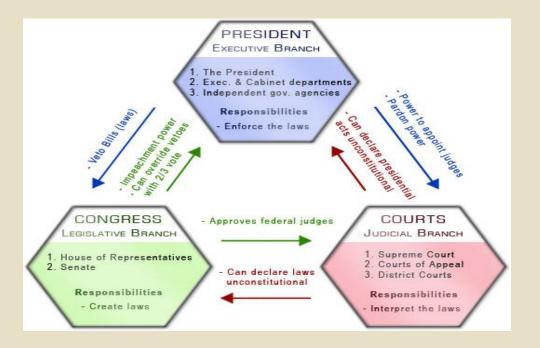
- Rival to Madison at Convention
- Favored government ruled by aristocracy (vs. Jefferson's Populist agrarian republic)
- Looked out for business interests and wanted to stimulate the economy of the young US



Separation of Powers

- In order to avoid potential tyranny from a King, the Founding Fathers agreed to separate the new government into three distinct branches.
- o This idea came from the Enlightenment thinker baron de Montesquieu. (at right)
- Legislative Branch = make laws
- Executive Branch = enforce laws
- Judicial Branch = interpret laws





Checks and Balances – each branch has the power to limit actions of the other two

Rival Plans of Government

- oDelegates debated how best to distribute representatives to the new Congress for each state
- °Virginia Plan proposed by Madison; bicameral (two house) legislature with larger populated states having more members
- •New Jersey Plan would retain unicameral (one house) legislature and all states have EQUAL number of members

The Great Compromise



- °Proposed bicameral legislature to appease both sides
- °Senate EQUAL representation; 2 per state
- House of Representatives based on population
- Also divided power between federal and state governments (system known as <u>Federalism</u>)

Slavery and the Three-Fifths Compromise

- Debate sparked between Northern and Southern delegates
- °South feared domination by North, which had far more free peoples
- °South feared that the institution of slavery would be in jeopardy
- •All knew that the issue of slavery could tear apart the newly formed country

Slavery and the Three-Fifths Compromise

- °1st Constitution forbade Congress from blocking the importation of slaves for 20 years.
- °2nd Slaves counted as 3/5 of a person in allocating state representation
- °3rd All states required to return fugitive slaves to their owners

Ratifying the Constitution



- Founding Fathers decided that ratification by only 9 states would be enough to put into law the new Constitution
- "The Federalist Papers" series of essays
 written by Hamilton, Madison and John Jay (left)
- The Federalist Papers promoted the views of the Federalist faction, supporting a strong central government.
- Still many states were Anti-Federalist and refused to ratify

Bill of Rights

- Only after Anti-Federalists were promised an individual "Bill of Rights" did they support ratification of the Constitution.
- o Bill of Rights first 10 Amendments; composed by James Madison
- Intended to protect individuals and states from a strong central government and give them certain specified rights
- o Included freedom of religion, petition, assembly, the press, legal rights, right to bear arms, etc.
- Anti-Federalists also stressed the idea of a limited government meaning that the federal government was giving ONLY the powers specifically granted to it in the Constitution.

DE BEZEONS Of the United States, in order insure demestic Tranquisty, provide for the common defence, promote the general Westere, and our Posterity, Mondain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America Mittion 1. All legislative Poners herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United & Section 2. The Hayse of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second go in each State shall have Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Ly No Person whall be a Representative who whall not have attained to the Uge of twenty five year and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that thate in which he shall be chosen. Depresentatives and direct Thous shall be apportioned among the several states which may be ince Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including these bour not taxed, three fifthe of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three years nd within every subsequent Term of ten years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Nu inty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration tilled to chuse three, Mafachusetts eight; Phode Island and Providence Plantetions one; Connec he Delaware one Marylanderia; Virginia ten; North Carolina five South Carolina five, and When vacancies happen in the Representation from any that, the Executive Cluthorty there The House of Representatives shall chuse their speaker and other Officers, and shall have the m. 3. The Small of the United States whall be composed of two known from each State, can to shall have one Vole.