



American Government and Politics Today

Chapter 2
The Constitution
Part II



Elite Consensus:

The Articles aren't working.

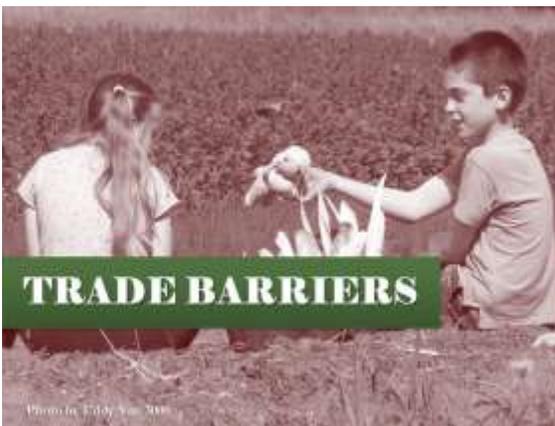
Photo: Reuters



Bad Economy



Rebellions



TRADE BARRIERS

Photo by Getty Images



The Annapolis Convention

1786

Photo by Ken Lund

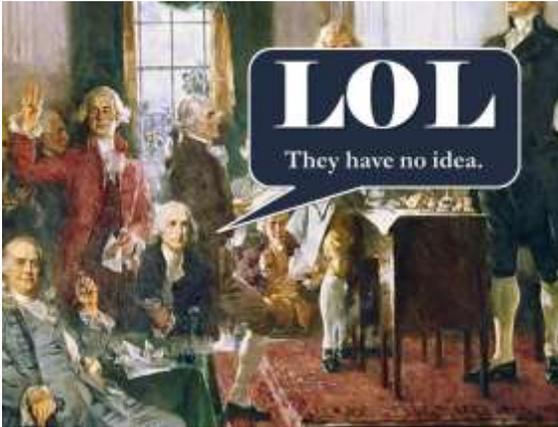


CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



- The **Constitutional Convention** was a large meeting held in **Philadelphia**, Pennsylvania at **Independence Hall** from May of 1787 to Sept. to 1787 where **55** delegates representing their states.
- They came to revise, change or throw out the AOC and write a new Constitution.





CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

GOAL

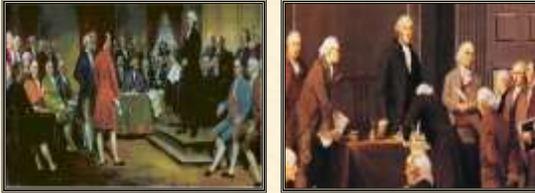
of the **Constitutional Convention** was how to create a government that did not resemble **King George** but create a govt. that was powerful enough

- to tax
- regulate trade
- protect private property
- enforce its laws

without taking away the **rights** that were fought for in the American Revolution?



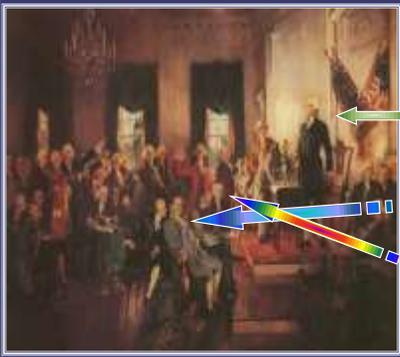

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



- Many Representatives (delegates) believed the AOC was too weak to solve the problems of the US and "**mobocracy**".
- The decision was scrap the AOC and start over.



FOUNDING FATHERS



- "**Framers**" Representatives who wrote the Constitution.
- President of Convention George Washington
- Father Figure Ben Franklin
- Father of Constitution James Madison

Framers of the Constitution

- Republicans opposed any centralization of power.
- Federalists favored a stronger government. However, there was no agreement among the Federalists concerning the structure and division of power for this new government.

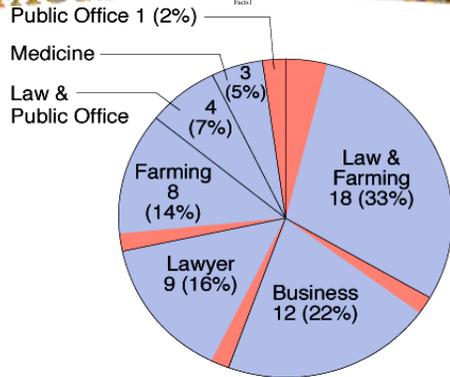
Father of the U.S. Constitution



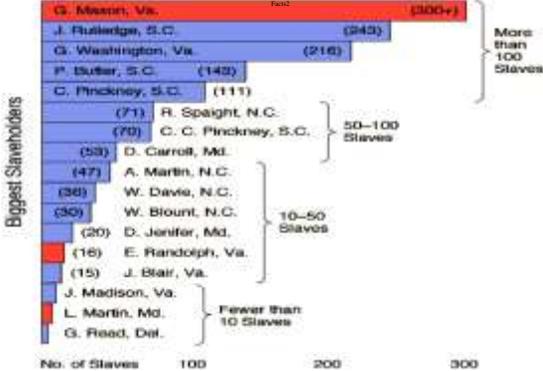
"The writing of the Constitution formed a task more difficult than can be well conceived by those who were not concerned in the execution of it. Adding to the difficulty the natural diversity of human opinions on all new and complicated subjects, it is impossible to consider the degree of concord which ultimately prevailed as less than a miracle."

- Father of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights
- Believed in a strong central government
- Wrote part of The Federalist
- Would become our 4th president

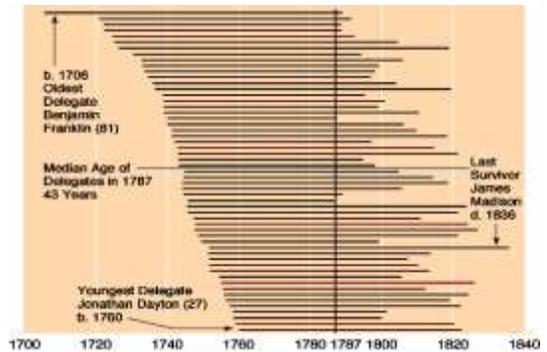
FACTS ON THE FRAMERS



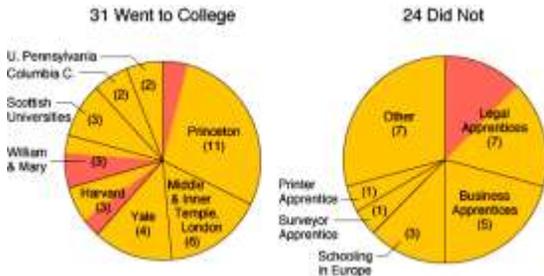
FACTS ON THE FRAMERS



FACTS ON THE FRAMERS



FACTS ON THE FRAMERS



"Snapshot of a 'Framer'"



- ♣ White Male Adults
- ♣ Landowners
- ♣ Some education
- ♣ Some were slave owners
- ♣ Lawyers
- ♣ Merchants



Who wasn't invited to the Convention

Class Discussion

Who was not in the room?

How might that have changed things?

What influence did the Declaration of Independence and Articles have on the discussion?



CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



•First major argument between the delegates was over how many **representatives** each state would have in Congress.

•What type of **Congress** should we have?

•**Large states** (Massachusetts and Virginia) believed the more population, the more representatives in Congress.

•**Small states** (New Jersey and Connecticut) believed each state should have equal representation.



| Statistics From the 1790 Census | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| | State Population | Percentage of Total | Number of Representatives | Number of Slaves | Percentage of Population | |
| New Hampshire | 141,865 | 4% | | 118 | 0% | |
| Massachusetts | 278,787 | 10% | | 8 | 0% | |
| Connecticut | 237,946 | 7% | | 2,728 | 1% | |
| Rhode Island | 18,828 | 2% | | 122 | 0% | |
| NEW ENGLAND | | 23% | 827,443 | | | |
| New Jersey | 184,139 | 5% | | 11,423 | 6% | |
| New York | 340,120 | 9% | | 23,224 | 6% | |
| Pennsylvania | 414,573 | 12% | | 3,737 | 1% | |
| MIDDLE STATES | | | 958,832 | | | |
| NORTH OF MASON/DIXON | | 49% | 1,786,078 | Slaves (North) | 39,823 | 0% |
| Delaware | 59,096 | 2% | | 8,887 | 15% | |
| Maryland | 318,128 | 8% | | 103,038 | 32% | |
| Virginia | 747,610 | 20% | | 283,427 | 38% | |
| North Carolina | 383,791 | 11% | | 206,312 | 54% | |
| South Carolina | 249,073 | 7% | | 107,094 | 43% | |
| Georgia | 85,548 | 2% | | 29,254 | 34% | |
| SOUTHERN STATES | | 51% | 1,851,806 | Slaves (South) | 642,288 | 34% |
| TOTAL POPULATION | | | 3,637,884 | SLAVE POPULATION | 681,833 | 19% |

| VIRGINIA PLAN | | new jersey plan | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| | JAMES MADISON | | William paterson |
| BICAMERAL Legislature | | unicameral legislature | |
| Based on POPULATION | | one vote per state | |
| View Census Data | | | |

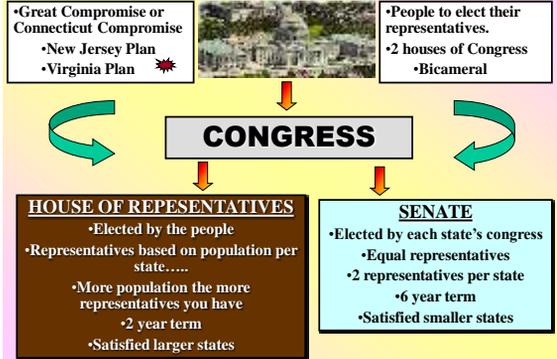
VIRGINIA PLAN VS. NEW JERSEY PLAN

Issues of representative government would be argued at Constitutional Convention

- **Virginia Plan proposed by the larger states**
 - Establish a national government with 3 branches.
 - Establish a bicameral Congress.
 - People elect 1 house
 - That house elects 2nd house
 - Representation in both houses based on state population
- **New Jersey plan proposed by small states**
 - Establish a unicameral Congress
 - Each state to have 1 vote
 - Equal representation
 - States equally represented similar to the Articles of Confederation

Ye vs. N

GREAT COMPROMISE CREATES CONGRESS



CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

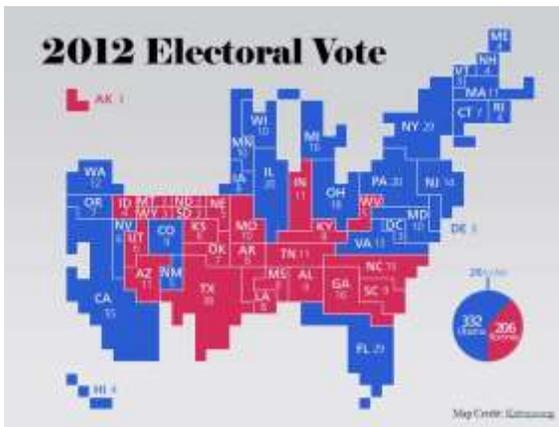
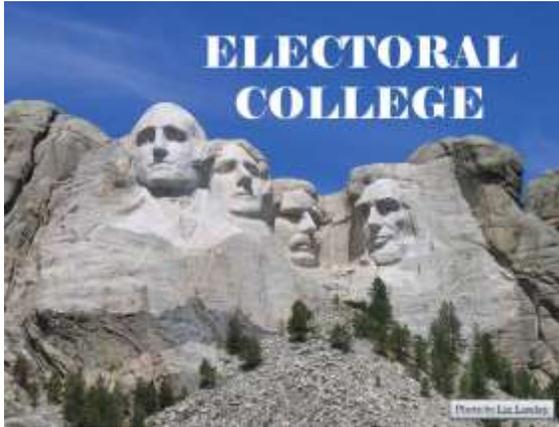


- 2nd major argument between the delegates was how to create an executive (president) which didn't resemble King George III
- How would he/she be chosen?

Created an Electoral College

- Placed a "**check and balance**" on the people's vote but tried to keep "**representative democracy**" in principle.





ELECTORAL COLLEGE **Historical Background**

- Why was the Electoral College created by the Framers?
 - Created as an alternative to either popular election or Congress electing the President.
 - Each state chose **electors**---based on the number of representatives each states has in Congress.
- Electoral vote was state to state---each elector voted for two candidates.... One vote per candidate.
 - Electors vote with the **"will"** of the people from the state they represented.....**but not required**.
 - Candidate with the most votes became President; runner-up became Vice President.
- In case of a tie, the House of Representatives elected the President.

FREE RESPONSE ESSAY

To what extent was the United States Constitution a total departure from the Articles of Confederation.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



- 3rd major argument between the delegates was how to limit the power of government.
- But, give it enough power to be effective.

Created a system of government

- Separated the powers of government into 3 branches that are co-equal but independent from one another.
- To make sure one branch didn't become too powerful they created a system of checks and balances.

Working Toward the Final Agreement

- The Madisonian Model
 - **Separation of Powers.** The legislative, executive, and judicial powers to be independent of each other
 - **Checks and Balances.** Government had considerably more power than under the Articles of Confederation. However, these men were distrustful of those who would hold this power and of the people who would select the governmental officials.

3 BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT SEPARATION OF POWERS



| Legislative Branch | Executive Branch | Judicial Branch |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| •Congress (Art. 1) •Makes the law | •President (Art. 2) •Carries out the law | •Supreme Court (Art. 3) •Interprets the law |

3 Branches are separate, have different powers, co-equal and checks and balances on one another to make sure one branch does not get too powerful

3 BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT SEPARATION OF POWERS



| Legislative Branch | Executive Branch | Judicial Branch |
|---|--|--|
| 3 Branches are separate, have different powers, co-equal and checks and balances on one another to make sure one branch does not get too powerful | | |
| Legislative Checks On Executive •Override a veto •Declare war •impeachment On Judicial •Approve judges •Impeachment | Executive Checks On Legislative •Veto a law •Ask for war On Judicial •Appoint judges | Judicial Checks On Executive and Legislative •Declare an act of President or law of Congress unconstitutional •Appointed for life |

FIGURE 2-3 | CHECKS AND BALANCES

The major checks and balances among the three branches are illustrated here. The U.S. Constitution does not mention some of these checks, such as judicial review—the power of the courts to declare federal or state acts unconstitutional—and the president's ability to release or pardon judicial decisions or congressional legislation. Checks and balances can be thought of as a careful balance of powers or responsibilities. Each branch checks the actions of another; each branch is checked from powers that can result in federal acts or statements, requiring one branch to give in or both to reach a compromise.



THE EXECUTIVE

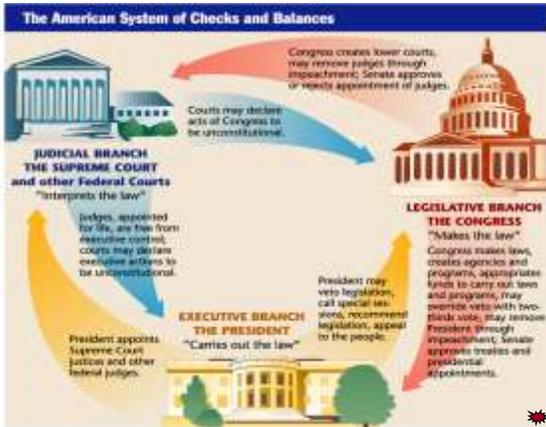
- The Supreme Court can declare presidential acts unconstitutional.
- The president appoints federal judges; the president can release or pardon judicial decisions.
- The president proposes laws and can veto congressional legislation; the president makes, executes agreements, and declares when the president proclaims, and has reduced, to enforce congressional legislation; the president can call special sessions of Congress.

THE LEGISLATIVE

- Congress can declare legislative acts unconstitutional.
- Congress can impeach judges; the Senate can impeach federal judges; Congress approves and confirms the president's judicial appointments.

THE JUDICIAL

- The president proposes laws and can veto congressional legislation; the president makes, executes agreements, and declares when the president proclaims, and has reduced, to enforce congressional legislation; the president can call special sessions of Congress.



QUESTION:

Should *slaves* be counted for purposes of representation in the lower house of Congress?

Consider the interests of your assigned state when answering.

[View Census Data](#)

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

- 4th major argument between the delegates was over slavery.
- Southern states wanted their slaves to be counted as part of their population because it would give them more representation in Congress.
- Northern states wanted to abolish slavery..
- Southern States would of left the Constitutional Convention if there was an attempt to abolish slavery.
- North and South worked out 2 compromises.

3/5'S COMPROMISE

- Southern states wanted their slaves to be counted as part of the total population of their state.
- Why?
- This would give them more representatives in Congress.
- Thus giving them more voting power in Congress and protecting their self-interest of slavery.

3/5'S COMPROMISE

- Northern states objected to the South's proposal and would only agree to compromise.
- 3 of every 5 slaves would be counted as part of a state's total population.
- It was supported by both North and South

The "Three-Fifths" Compromise

| FOR THE SOUTH | FOR THE NORTH |
|--|---------------|
| For representation in Congress, slaves counted as 3/5 of a person. | 3/5 |

The "Three-Fifths" Compromise

FOR THE SOUTH

FOR THE NORTH

3/5

After 20 years, Congress has the power to regulate (or outlaw) the international slave trade.

3/5'S COMPROMISE



Georgia's Population

White = 300,000

Slaves = 100,000 3/5's of 100,000

3/5's of 100,000 = 60,000

300,000 + 60,000 =

Total Population = 360,000 which would be counted towards representation in Congress.

3/5'S COMPROMISE



- Northern states agreed to the 3/5's Compromise only if the South abolished the Slave Trade by 1807.....
- Agreement was made....North was hoping slavery would eventually fade away and die out .
- This was their step towards abolishing slavery.

FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW



- Law created at the Constitutional Convention in 1787.
- Escaped slaves captured had to be returned to their plantation owner.
- Not enforced in North and led to the creation of the Underground Railroad.
- Southerners would become bitter and ultimately left the US.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



- Fifth major argument between the delegates was how to solve the problem over the states having more power than the national government.

Framers created a Federal Government

- Divided the powers of government on a geographic basis.
- They created 3 levels of government.
 - National, state and local

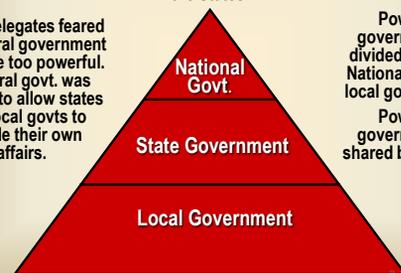
Federal Government



=

- Supreme law of the land....
 - US Constitution is over all levels of government.
- National Government is over the States.

Some delegates feared the central government would be too powerful. A federal gov't. was created to allow states and local gov'ts to handle their own affairs.



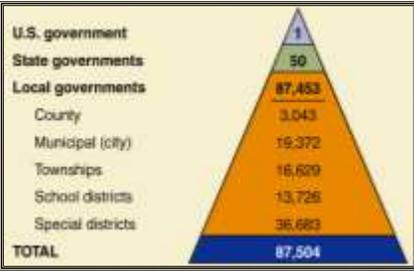
Powers of government are divided between a National, state and local governments. Powers of government are shared by all levels.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

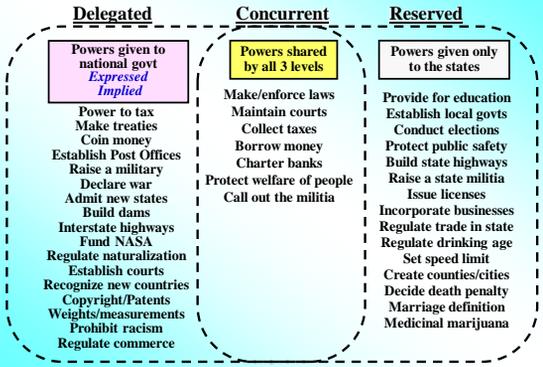


- Supreme law of the land....
- It is above all levels of government and no act, law or public policy can be in conflict with it.

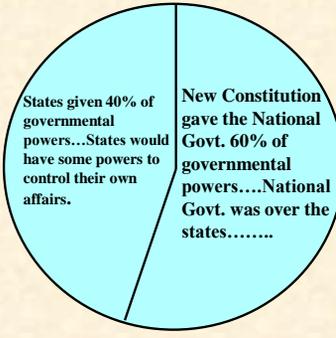
National Government is over the States.



DIVISION OF POWERS IN A FEDERAL SYSTEM



US GOVERNMENT IN 1789



With the new constitution, the National Government was given the power to tax, regulate trade, enforce its laws and over the states. National Govt. law would always be over the states.

| | Articles | Constitution |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Federalism | A Firm League of Friendship | A More Perfect UNION |
| Sovereignty | States | Shared |
| Representation of States | EQUAL | Proportional (House) Equal (Senate) |
| Taxation | States ONLY | State & Federal |
| Powers of Congress | Foreign Relations Army and Navy Declare War Ambassadors Treaties | In Addition: Taxation Interstate Commerce Currency Crush Rebellions |
| Legislation | 2/3 | Senate + House + President |
| Amendments | UNANIMOUS | 2/3 Congress + 3/4 States |

US Government in 1781 and 1789

How the Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation Were Corrected by the Constitution

| Articles of Confederation | US Constitution |
|--|---|
| • States have most of the power and national govt. has little. | • States have some power, but most power is given to the national govt. |
| • No executive to carry out the laws of Congress | • Federal Government |
| • No national courts—only state courts | • Electoral College |
| • 9/13 states have to approve a law before it goes into effect | • 3 branches of govt. |
| • Congress has no power to tax | • Executive—enforces law |
| • Congress can not regulate trade among the states. | • Legislative—makes law |
| • Each state coined its own money. No national currency. | • Judicial—interprets law |
| • Unicameral Congress | • Checks and balances |
| • Articles only a “firm league of friendship” | • Congress given the power to tax, regulate trade and enforce laws. |
| | • Only national govt. has the power to coin money |
| | • Bicameral (2 house) Congress |
| | • Equal Representation by States and a State’s population |
| | • Constitution established a strong National Govt. over the States and to form a more “perfect union” |

| Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation | New Constitution Ratified in 1789 |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| • One vote for each State, regardless of size. | 2 houses of Congress |
| • Congress powerless to lay and collect taxes or duties. | Power to tax |
| • Congress powerless to regulate foreign and interstate commerce. | Regulate trade |
| • No executive to enforce acts of Congress. | President |
| • No national court system. | Supreme court |
| • Amendment only with consent of all States. | 3/4's of states needed |
| • A 9/13 majority required to pass laws. | Congress makes law |
| • Articles only a “Firm league of Friendship.” | A more perfect Union |

Corrections: The New Constitution corrected the weaknesses of the AOC by giving the national government more power than the states with the ability to tax, regulate trade and enforce its laws..

FACTS ON THE FRAMERS

| State | Delegates | Vote |
|-------|---|------|
| N.H. | Langdon, Gilman | 7 |
| Mass. | Gotham, King, Strong, Gerry | 9 |
| R.I. | | |
| Conn. | Johnson, Sherman, Ellsworth | 5 |
| N.Y. | Hamilton, Lansing, Yates | 27 |
| N.J. | Beecher, Dayton, Livingston, Paterson, Hoopes | 14 |
| Penn. | Clymer, Fitzsimons, Franklin, Ingersoll, Miller, G. Morris, R. Morris, Wilson | 23 |
| Del. | Bassett, Bedford, Broom, Dickinson, Read | 3 |
| Md. | Carroll, Jenifer, McHenry, L. Martin, Nease | 6 |
| Va. | Bar, Madison, Washington, McCung, Wylie, Mason, Randolph | 12 |
| N.C. | Bourne, Beaufort, Williamson, Davie, A. Martin | 4 |
| S.C. | Baker, C. Pinckney, G. Pinckney, Rutledge | 8 |
| Ge. | Baldwin, Few, Pierce, Hooson | 3 |

= Voted for Constitution: 39
 = Absent and: 7
 = opposed: 4
 = Voted Against: 3
 55

•In order to **ratify** or approve the Constitution, the Framers voted to send it to the states to ratify. 9 of the 13 states needed to **ratify**.

•The vote was 39 supporting the Constitution (**Federalists**) and 16 opposing the Constitution (**Anti-Federalists**)

•Would later agree to a **Bill of Rights**

Factions Among Delegates

The beliefs of the delegates ranged from the near-monarchism of Hamilton to definite decentralized republicanism. Some of these last people left when they saw the federalist tenor of the proceedings.

RISE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Federalists

- A strong national govt over the states was needed to protect **“life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness”**
- Constitution was a “sound” document which “limited” the power of the national govt.
- Gave it power to settle problems within the country.
- **Representative democracy** is what the constitution was built on and stated in the Preamble, **We the People**.
- Appealed to more the wealthy, business owners and educated.

- *George Washington*
- *Ben Franklin,*
- *John Adams,*
- *James Madison*
- *Alexander Hamilton*

The Federalist Papers

- **The Federalist Papers** were a series of 85 essays written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay which supported the Constitution and convinced Americans that a stronger national government was needed.
- **Supported the Constitution and a strong central government**

RISE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Anti-Federalists

- The national govt was too powerful and it would take away your right to **“life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness”**
- The **constitution** was a threat to the “rights” we fought for in the Revolution
- States” should have more authority than the national govt.
- Feared **representative democracy** was threatened because our rights were not protected.
- Appealed to the common man, farmers and less educated

- *Patrick Henry*
- *Thomas Jefferson*
- *Sam Adams*

Ratification

- **The Federalist Papers**
 - An attempt to persuade the public to support the new form of government.
 - *Federalist #10* and *Federalist #51* provide an excellent view of James Madison’s political theory concerning human nature.



In order for the new Constitution to become the "law of the land", 9 of 13 states had to **ratify** the Constitution.

1. Delaware 30 – 0
2. Pennsylvania 46 – 23
3. New Jersey 38 – 0
4. Georgia 26 – 0
5. Connecticut 128 – 40
6. Massachusetts 187 – 168
7. Maryland 63 – 11
8. South Carolina 149 – 73
9. **New Hampshire 57 – 47**
10. Virginia 89 – 79
11. New York 30 – 27
12. North Carolina 194 – 77
13. Rhode Island 34 – 22

Support for the New Constitution

- ▣ **Beard's Thesis.** Historian Charles Beard argued that the Constitution was put through by an undemocratic elite intent on the protection of property.
- ▣ **State Ratifying Conventions.** These conventions were elected by a strikingly small part of the total population.
- ▣ **Support Was Probably Widespread.** Still, the defense of property was a value that was by no means limited to the elite. The belief that the government under the Articles was dangerously weak was widespread.

UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND

It represents our belief in

- Power of govt. comes from the people
- Government power is limited
- Ordered, organized and structured govt.
 - Representative democracy
 - Written, May 1787 to Sept. 1787
 - 7,000 words
- Longest lasting constitution in history
- Greatest symbol of democracy in the world

PREAMBLE WE THE PEOPLE

of the United States,

- in order to form a more perfect Union
- establish Justice
- ensure domestic Tranquility
- provide for the common defense
- promote the general welfare
- and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity

do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



Article 1

Legislative Branch Makes the law

- Section 1 -- House of Representatives and Senate
- Section 2 & 3 -- Qualifications for Congress
- Section 4 -- Elections and Meetings
- Section 5 -- Rules of Order
- Section 6 -- Pay Privileges
- **Section 7 -- How Bills Become Laws**
- Section 8 -- Powers of Congress
- Section 9 -- Powers Denied to Congress
- Section 10 -- Powers Denied to States

POWERS OF CONGRESS

Article 1 Section 8

- Makes the law
- Power to tax
- To coin money
- Regulate foreign and interstate trade
- Raise and maintain armed forces
- Declare war
- Grant patents and copyrights
- Building hydroelectric dams
- Interstate highway system
- Prohibit racial discrimination



Art 4

Article 4

Concerning the States

- Section 1---rights and duties of states
- Section 2---rights and liabilities of citizens
- Section 3---admitting new states
- Section 4---guarantee to states

Article 5

Art. 5, 6, 7

Amending the Constitution---adding on or changing the Constitution---**27 Amendments**

Article 6

Constitution, law of the land.....Supremacy Clause

Article 7

Ratification of Constitution by 9 states



The Bill of Rights

- A "Bill of Limits." The package was assembled by Madison, who culled through almost two hundred state suggestions.
- No explicit limits on state government powers.
- Did not apply to state governments. The restrictions only were applicable to the national government until the 14th amendment incorporated some of these rights.

"BILL OF RIGHTS"

First **10 Amendments** to the Constitution in 1791
Rights and freedoms won in the Revolution are preserved and protected...

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FREEDOM of Religion, Press, Speech, Assembly, Petition 2. RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS 3. No QUARTERING of soldiers in peacetime 4. NO UNREASONABLE SEARCH and SEIZURE 5. PROTECTION of ACCUSED | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. RIGHT TO A SPEEDY, PUBLIC TRIAL BY JURY 7. TRIAL BY JURY IN CIVIL SUITS 8. NO EXCESSIVE FINES or CRUEL PUNISHMENT 9. POWERS RESERVED TO THE PEOPLE 10. POWERS RESERVED TO THE STATES |
|---|---|



The Formal Amendment Process

- Every government needs to be able to cope with any new and unforeseen problem. Any Constitutional change should, however, be taken on with extreme caution. If the process to amend the Constitution is rigorous, there should be ample time to consider the merits of such a change.

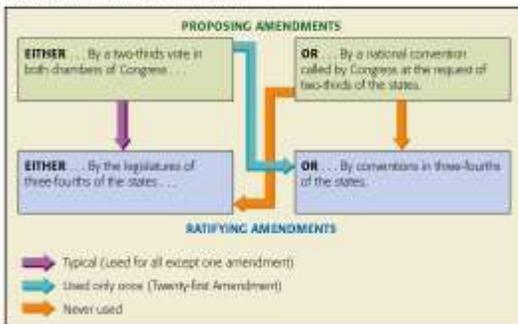
AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION



$$2 / 3 + 3 / 4$$



FIGURE 2-3 | THE FORMAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDING PROCEDURE
 There are two ways of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution and two ways of ratifying proposed amendments. Among the four possibilities, the usual route has been proposal by Congress and ratification by state legislatures.



Amending the Constitution

- Although 11,000 amendments have been considered by Congress, only 33 have been submitted to the states after being approved, and only 27 have been ratified since 1789.
 - Recent amendments have usually been accompanied by time limits for ratification.
 - *The National Convention Provision.* Such a convention could be called and could rewrite the entire Constitution. The product of such a convention, however, would have to be ratified by the states in the same way as any amendment.

AMENDMENTS

| Amendment | Subject | Year | Time Required for Ratification |
|-----------|---|------|--------------------------------|
| 1st-10th | Bill of Rights | 1791 | 2 years, 2 months, 20 days |
| 11th | Immunity of States from certain lawsuits | 1795 | 11 months, 3 days |
| 12th | Changes in electoral college procedures | 1804 | 6 months, 6 days |
| 13th | Abolition of slavery | 1865 | 10 months, 6 days |
| 14th | Citizenship, due process, equal protection | 1868 | 2 years, 26 days |
| 15th | No denial of vote because of race, color, or previous enslavement | 1870 | 11 months, 8 days |
| 16th | Power of Congress to tax incomes | 1913 | 3 years, 6 months, 22 days |
| 17th | Popular election of U.S. Senators | 1913 | 10 months, 26 days |
| 18th | Prohibition of alcohol | 1919 | 1 year, 29 days |

AMENDMENTS

| Amendment | Subject | Year | Time Required for Ratification |
|-----------|---|------|--------------------------------|
| 19th | Woman suffrage | 1920 | 1 year, 2 months, 14 days |
| 20th | Change of dates for start of presidential and Congressional terms | 1933 | 10 months, 21 days |
| 21st | Repeal of Prohibition (18th Amendment) | 1933 | 9 months, 15 days |
| 22nd | Limit on presidential terms | 1951 | 3 years, 11 months, 6 days |
| 23rd | District of Columbia vote in presidential elections | 1961 | 9 months, 13 days |
| 24th | Ban of tax payment as voter qualification | 1964 | 1 year, 4 months, 27 days |
| 25th | Presidential succession, vice presidential vacancy, and presidential disability | 1967 | 1 year, 7 months, 4 days |
| 26th | Voting age of 18 | 1971 | 3 months, 8 days |
| 27th | Congressional pay | 1992 | 202 years, 7 months, 12 days |

Informal Methods of Constitutional Change

- Congressional Legislation
- Presidential Action
- Judicial Review
- Interpretation, Custom, and Usage



| Articles | A COMPARISON | Constitution |
|------------------|------------------------------|--|
| States | Sovereignty? | SHARED |
| Federal | Foreign Relations? | Federal |
| States | Taxation? | Federal & State |
| States | Commerce & Trade? | Federal (<i>Interstate</i>) State (<i>Intrastate</i>) |
| 1 Vote Per State | Representation? | Proportional (<i>House</i>) Two Each (<i>Senate</i>) |
| 2/3 | To Legislate? | Concurrent Majority + President's Signature |
| UNANIMOUS | To Amend? | 2/3 + 3/4 |

Questions for Critical Thinking

- Why did the British place restrictions on the colonies?
- How was the term "people," as used in the Declaration of Independence, defined? Did the members of the Second Continental Congress mean all people? What about the rights of women? Native Americans? Slaves?

Questions for Critical Thinking

- What would have occurred if one or more of the states had rejected the Constitution? Could a single state have managed to survive outside the union of states?
- What do you believe Madison would think about interest groups in modern society?