



Unit III - Citizenship and American Government

Chapter 2 – Foundations of US Government

Section 1 – The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution



What You Will Learn to Do

Understand the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, with the Bill of Rights and the other amendments.



Objectives

1. Discuss the Declaration of Independence
 2. Explain the United States Constitution
-



Key Terms

- Preamble -** An introduction to a document such as a constitution, explaining its purpose
- Divine Right -** A right or responsibility given by a divine being or deity that is therefore beyond question by humanity
- Unalienable -** Incapable of being taken away or transferred to another
- Constitutional Convention -** A special meeting held to draw up a new constitution



Key Terms

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Levy - | To impose or collect (a tax) |
| Veto - | The right (of a president) to reject a piece of legislation |
| Posterity - | Future generations |
| Autonomy - | The quality or state of being self-governing |
| Ratify - | To formally confirm or approve, as of a treaty or a constitutional amendment |



The Declaration of Independence

Each year on July 4, we celebrate our country's birthday with parades, parties and fireworks.

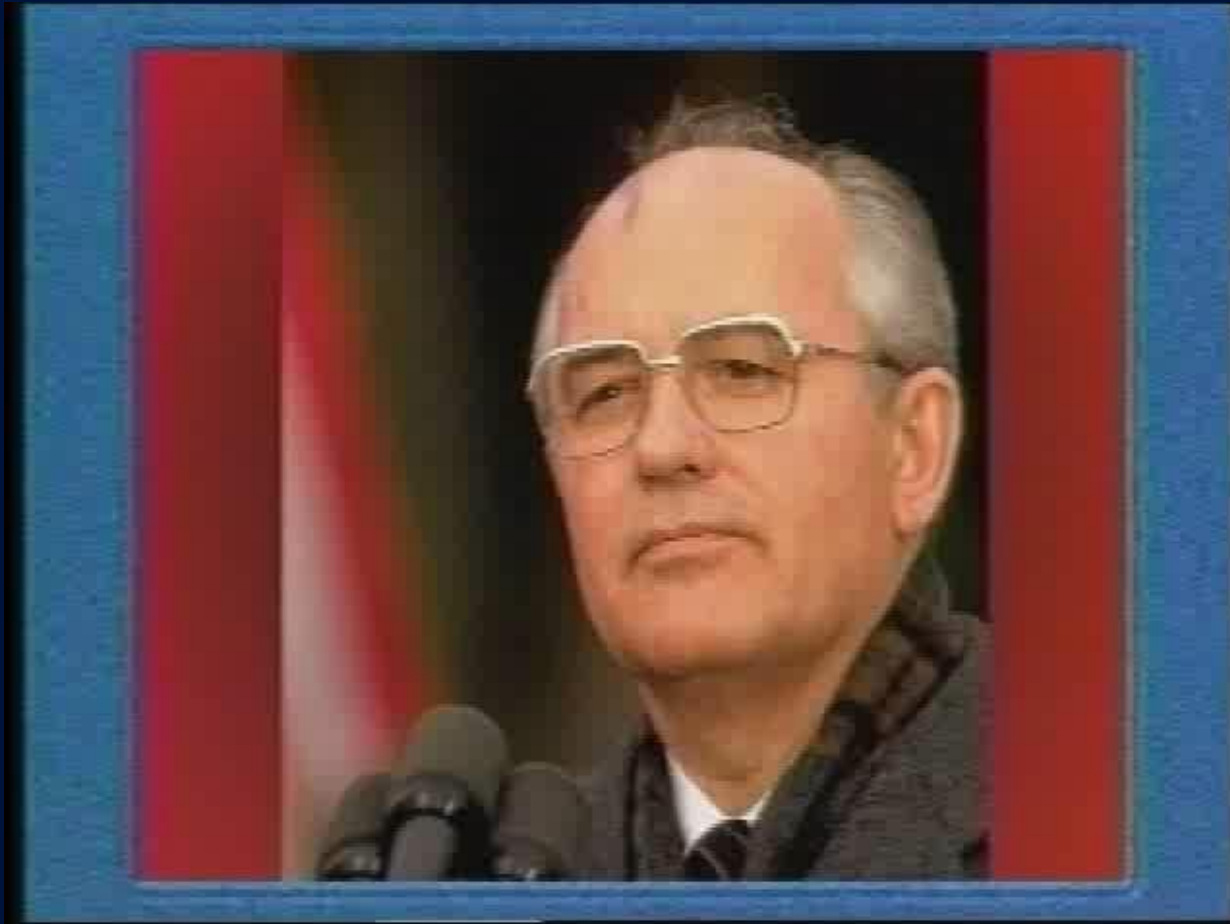


Yet we sometimes don't give much thought to the remarkable way that it all came about.



The Declaration of Independence

Ask Capt
about
why this
has the
starting
image

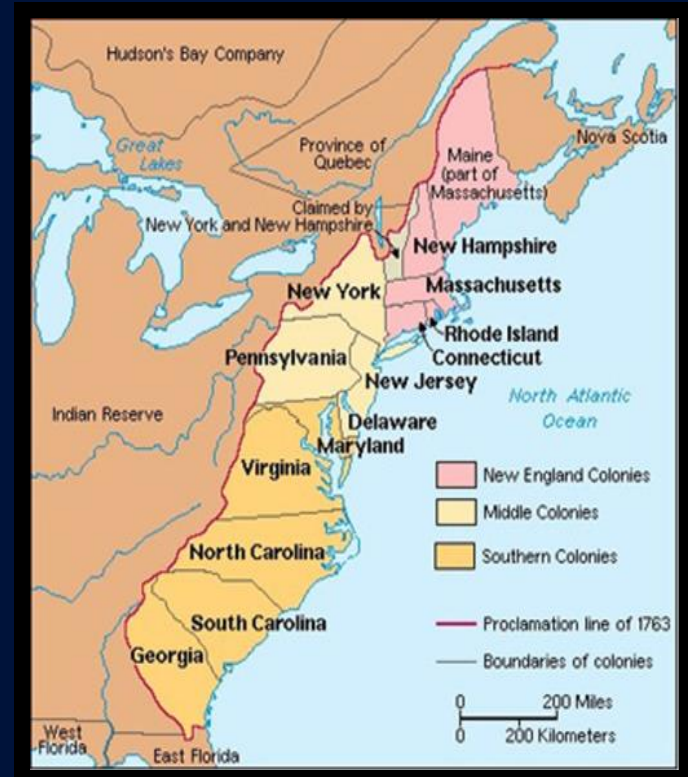




The Declaration of Independence

The process of creating our country began when the colonies declared their independence from the British empire.

They began self-government as “the unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.”

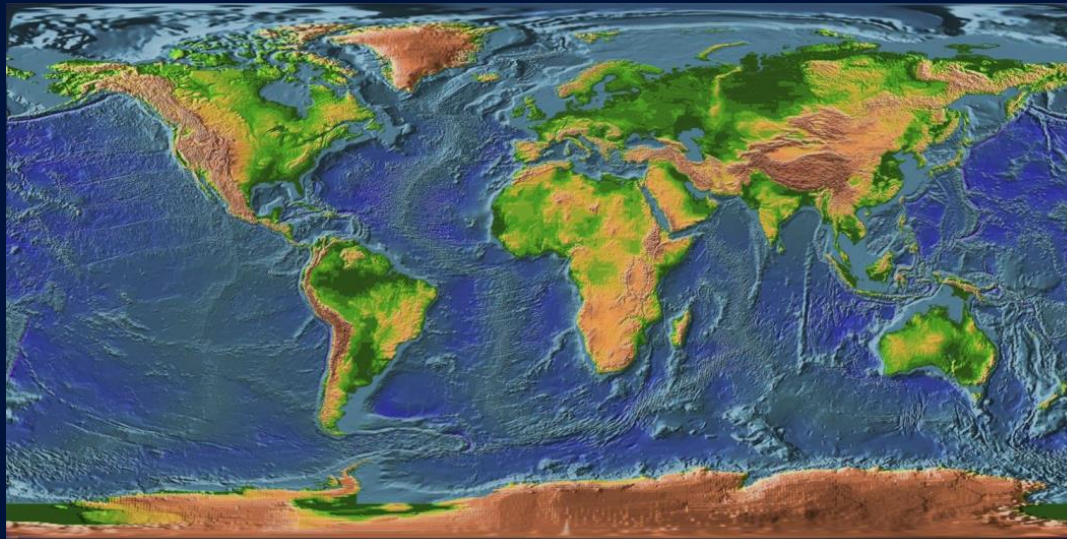


Note that “united” is NOT capitalized.



The Declaration of Independence

Following a bloody war and despite a failed first try, the Declaration of Independence changed the way people all over the world thought about self-government.





The Declaration of Independence



Boston
Tea Party



Boston
Massacre

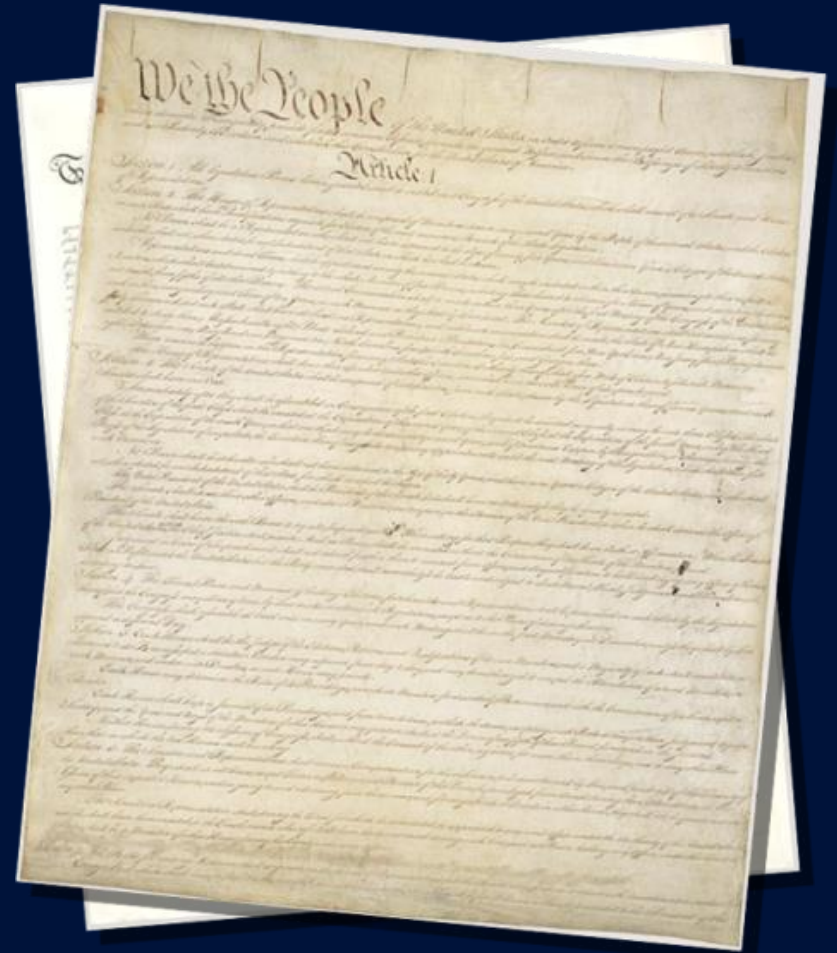


The Declaration of Independence

Two documents were instrumental in the process of the birth of our nation...

The Declaration of Independence

The Constitution

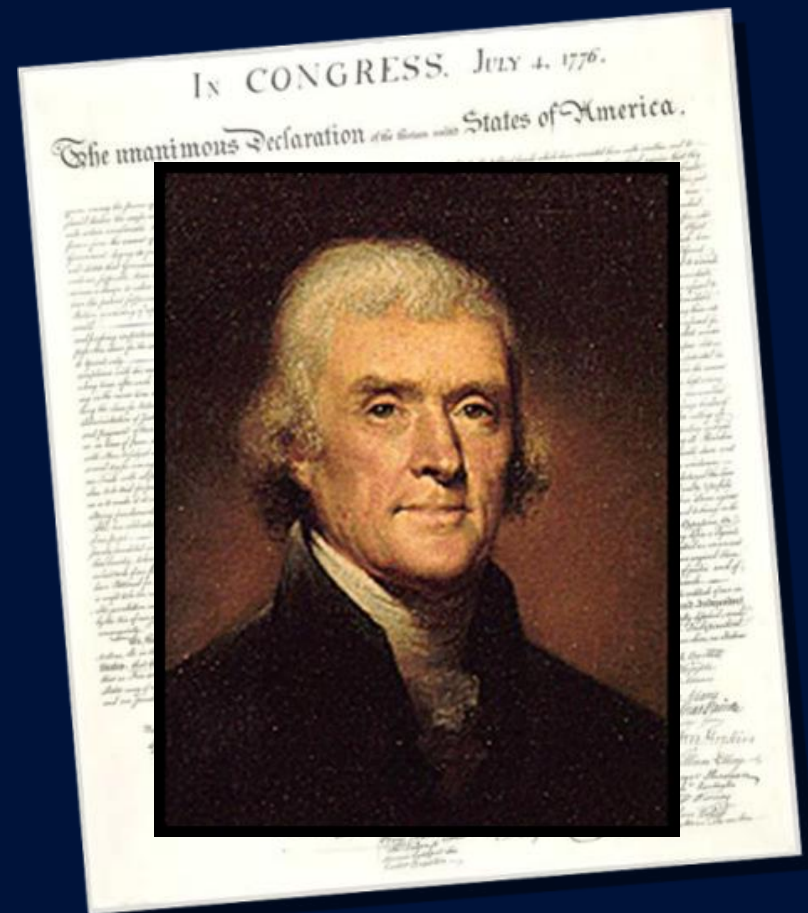




The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence

Was written
primarily by
Thomas Jefferson



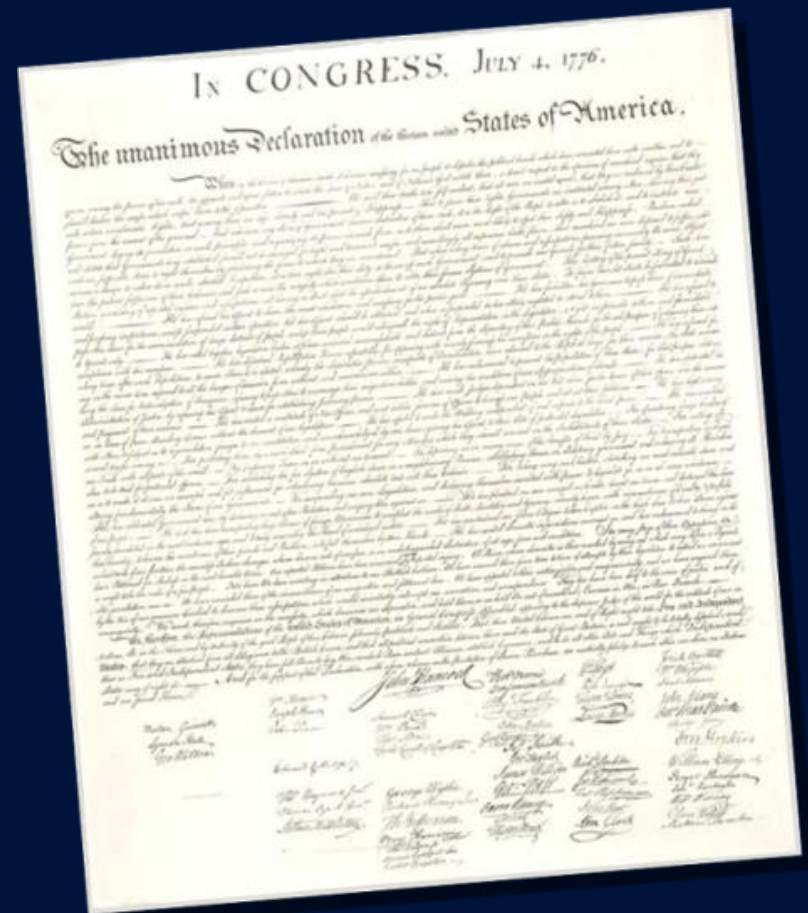


The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence

Organized into 5 parts

- Preamble
- Concept
- Grievances
- Attempts to Resolve
- Declares Independence





The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence

- Preamble
- Concept
- Grievances
- Attempts to Resolve
- Declares Independence




- Outlined purpose of document and why signers were willing to risk life and fortunes
- Proclaimed “[A] decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they [the American people] should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”



The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence

- Preamble
- **Concept** 
- Grievances
- Attempts to Resolve
- Declares Independence

- Challenged **divine right** of kings
- Proclaimed that “All men were created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain **unalienable** rights.”
- Rights included “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”



The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence

- Preamble
- Concept
- **Grievances**
- Attempts to Resolve
- Declares Independence




- List of complaints against King George III of England
- A very powerful monarchy to challenge



The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence

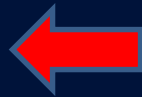
- Preamble
 - Concept
 - Grievances
 - Attempts to Resolve
 - Declares Independence
- 
- Steps colonists took to resolve their differences
 - Underscored their willingness to be reasonable, but that situations were unacceptable
 - Considered themselves loyal British subjects but no longer willing to continue under their rule



The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence

- Preamble
- Concept
- Grievances
- Attempts to Resolve
- Declares Independence



- Formally declaring the colonies free of British rule
- Stated that the colonies were united in their resolve to be an independent entity



The Declaration of Independence



Boston
Tea Party



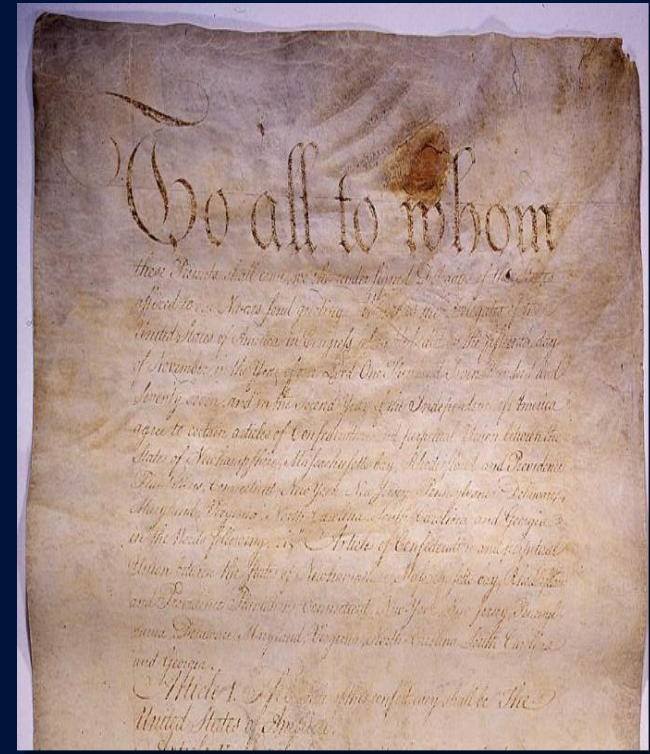
Boston
Massacre



The US Constitution

The Constitution

- Was preceded by Articles of Confederation , which also attempted to establish a US government
- The Articles of Confederation were in effect until 1787 during the Revolutionary War.





The US Constitution





The US Constitution

The Articles of Confederation

- Developed by the First Continental Congress in 1777
- Won the Revolutionary War
- U.S. acknowledged as a country
- Organized Northwest Territories, which later became five new states



The US Constitution

The Articles of Confederation

- Ineffective for governing the country as a whole
- Colonies were functioning as separate little countries instead of one united country
- Diverse and conflicting interests of regions
- New England – seafarers
- Middle and Southern – farmers
- Frequent conflicts over claiming land, especially western borders



Shay's Rebellion

- Daniel Shays, leader of Massachusetts farmers who were:
 - Heavily in debt and losing homes and farms to taxes
 - Gathering lots of support from mobs (many Revolutionary War veterans)
- Shays led group to attack Continental Army Arsenal to steal guns to arm themselves.



Shay's Rebellion

- Rebellion failed, but served as warning to authorities of the desperation of colonists
- Since **Articles of Confederation** required unanimous consent of all states before Federal action, this was a state matter
- Demonstrated the weakness of the Articles and stirred action from concerned colonists



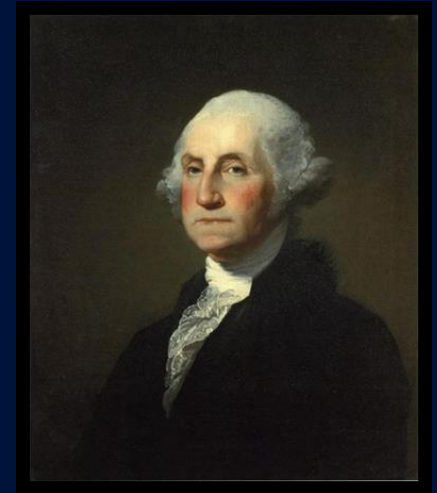
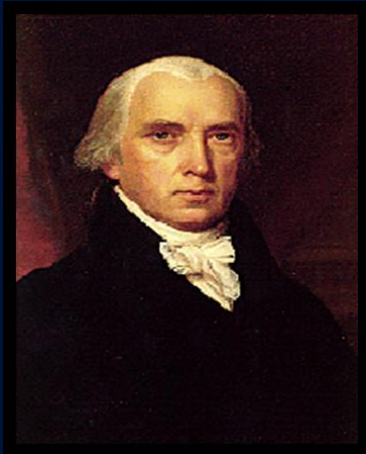
The US Constitution

George Washington

(private citizen 1783 – 1787)

wrote to James Madison

(future drafter of the Constitution):

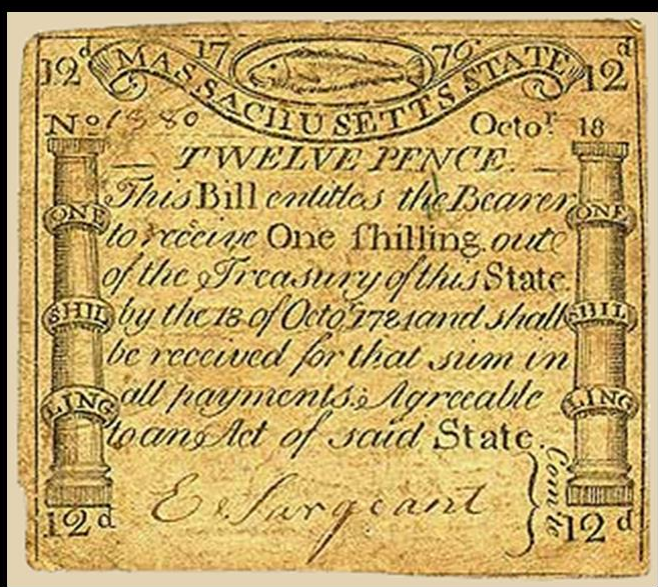


“We are either a united people or we are not. If the former, let us act as a nation. If we are not, let us no longer act a farce by pretending to it.”



The Articles of Confederation

Governmental limitations of the Articles of Confederation



It required a two-thirds vote by the delegates to pass a law

States could not agree on a national currency; each state printed its own



The Articles of Confederation

Governmental limitations of the Articles of Confederation

- No real taxing authority
- No executive or judicial branch
- No power to regulate trade
- No power to regulate relations between states, or a state and a foreign country



The Articles of Confederation

A constitutional convention convened in May, 1787 to amend the Articles of Confederation.

Meeting until September, it drew up a new constitution instead.



Two plans were considered:

- Virginia Plan (James Madison)
- New Jersey Plan



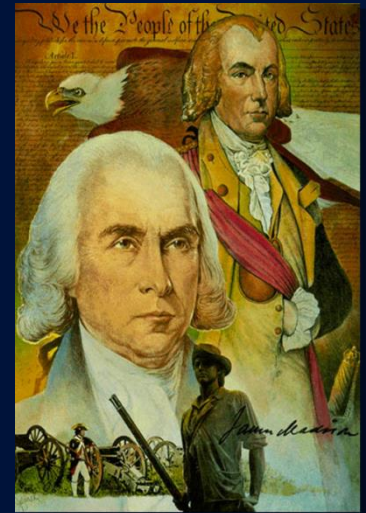
The Articles of Confederation





James Madison

- “Father of the Constitution”
- At 36, one of the youngest founders; talented and influential
- Arrived early and brought detailed plan for moving forward
- Attended almost every session and took detailed notes, providing valuable information for history





The Virginia Plan

- Favored strong central government
- Three branches (Legislative, Executive, Judicial)
- Empowered national legislature to:
 - _ Pass laws states could not pass
 - _ Strike down state laws conflicting with national laws
 - _ Call armed forces to enforce national laws



The New Jersey Plan

- Gave national government some taxing authority
- Allowed government to **levy** import duties/stamp tax
- Allowed power to collect from states
- Had power to regulate trade
- Laws passed by Congress would be supreme law of land
- Included a form of executive and judicial branches



Questions about How States Should be Represented

- How much power should national government have?
- How would states' representation be determined...
geographic size or **population**?
- Under Articles of Confederation , all states represented equally
 - Small population states liked it
 - Large population states disliked it



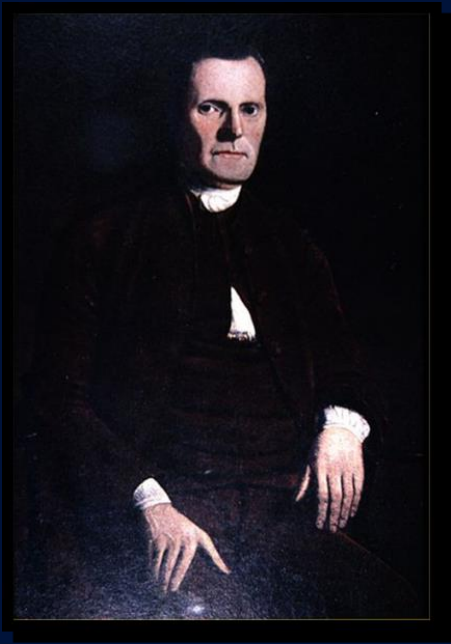
Questions about How States Should be Represented



Intense debate threatened the convention.



The Great Compromise



Roger Sherman
advocated balance

- Balance between small and large states
 - Each state is allowed two Senators
 - 435 Representatives are divided based on state population with a minimum of 1
- The Convention accepted the idea



Other Balancing Decisions Made

Connecticut's Robert Sherman reintroduced an earlier plan including:

- All states treated equal in an upper house
- Lower house apportioned by population

Federal Government vs. States

- Federal government given specific (enumerated) power
- States retain law-making powers



Other Balancing Decisions Made

House of Representatives vs. the Senate

- House of Representatives originates all taxing laws
- Senate approves Presidential appointments to the cabinet and Supreme Court

Senate vs. the President

- Agreement needed on all treaties between the United States and foreign governments



Balance Includes Separation of Powers



Legislative

(Congress / Capitol)
House of Representatives
Senate



Executive

(President /
White House)



Judicial

(Supreme Court /
Nine Justices)



Balance Includes Separation of Powers



Legislative

Makes laws and
levies taxes



Executive

Enforces laws



Judicial

Interprets laws
and assures
individual rights



Balance Includes Separation of Powers



Legislative

Makes laws
Can override veto
with 2/3 majority
vote



Executive

President can
veto laws



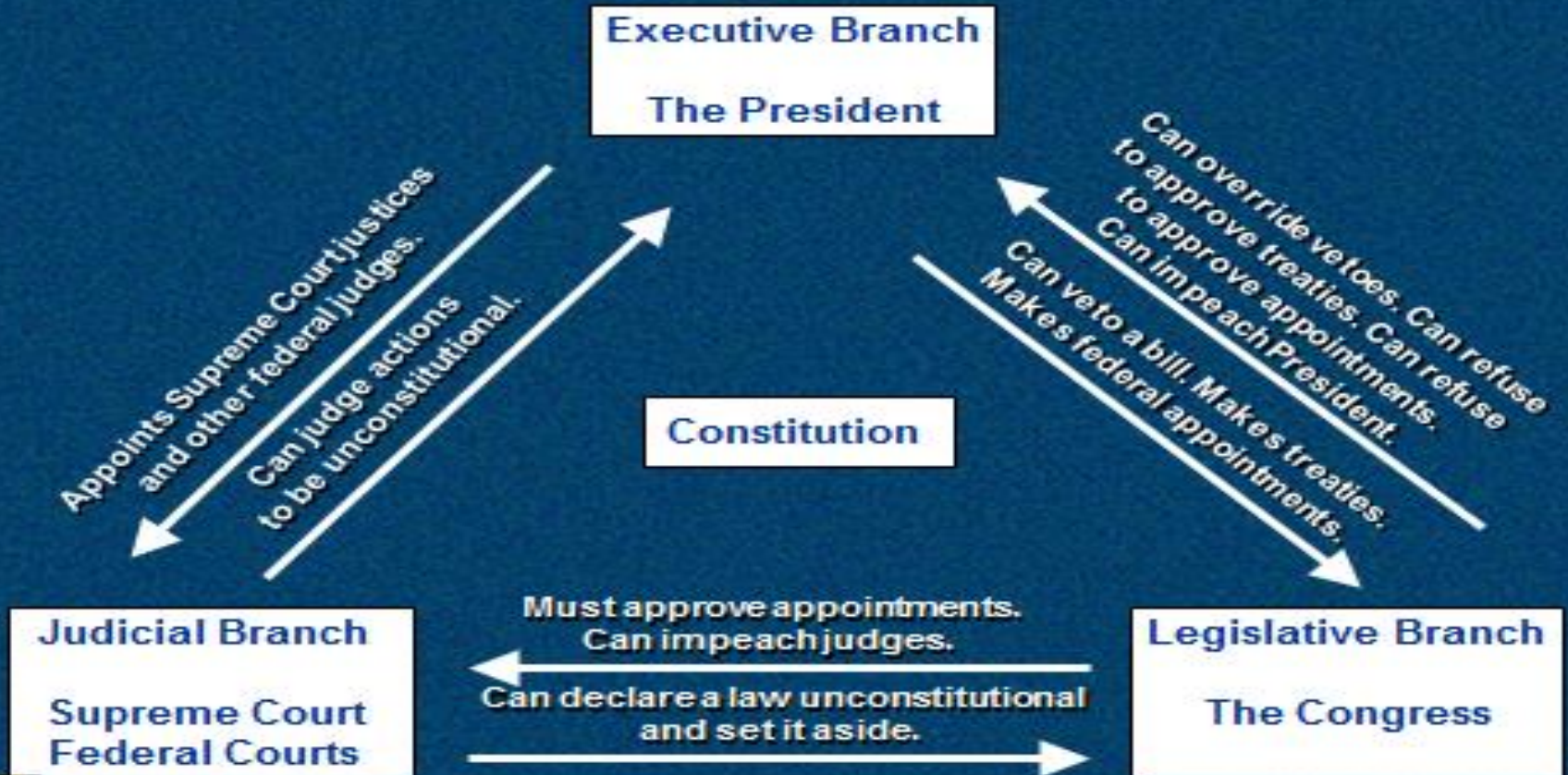
Judicial

Can declare a
law
unconstitutional



Balance Includes Separation of Powers

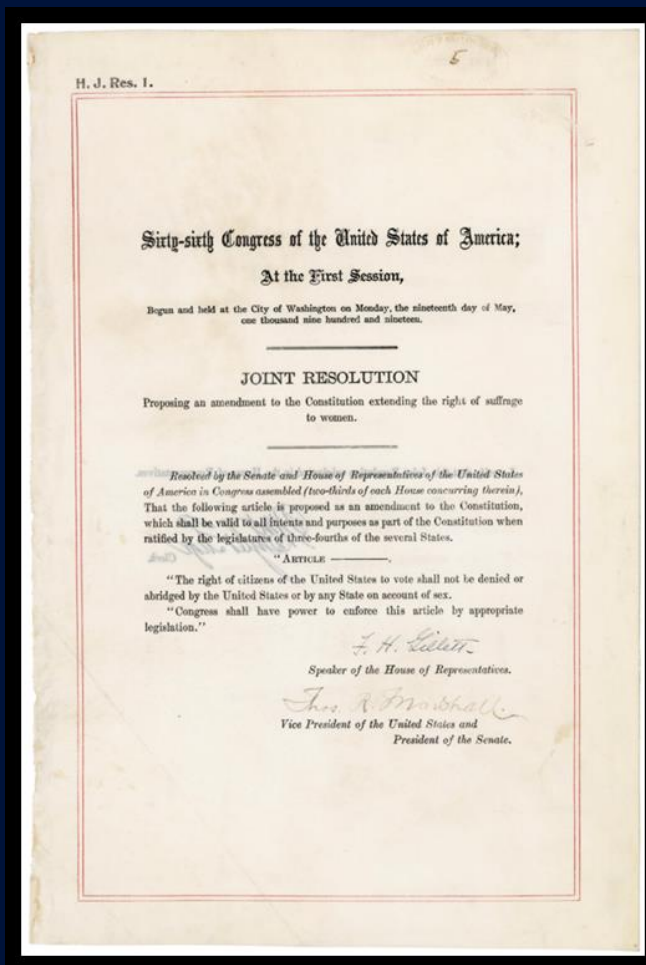
U.S. GOVERNMENT'S CHECKS AND BALANCES





Balance Includes Separation of Powers

States preserve a say
in the union by their
collective power to
approve or reject
constitutional
amendments.





Questions?

