



We the People of the
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence,
and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity: do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

A New Nation:



The Articles of Confederation & the Constitution

What Next?

- After eliminating British rule, the states were now faced with governing themselves.
 - Plan of government needed for the 13 states
 - The new Americans were worried about too much power being placed in one ruler/body
 - Each state drafted individual constitutions that limited the power of the government
 - Aimed to keep the power in the hands of the people
- Agreed the new national government should be a republic.
 - A government in which citizens rule through elected representatives
 - Disagreed on which powers the new republic should have

The Articles of Confederation was Born

- In 1776, the Second Continental Congress appointed a committee to write a plan for a new central government.
 - Congress adopted these Articles of Confederation, Nov 1777.
 - This document was our nation's first constitution

Articles of Confederation

POWER TO

- Coin & Borrow Money
- Maintain armed forces
- Make Treaties
- Solve problems between the states

NO POWER TO...

- Tax
- Draft soldiers
- Have a president
- Have a national court system
- Regulate Trade

WHAT DO YOU THINK???

A Weak Government

- Problem:
 - Created a weak central government
 - Limited government powers
 - Individual states held the most power
- Solution:
 - May 1787: 13 states sent delegates to Constitutional Convention
 - Goal: to revise articles

The Convention Begins

- 55 Delegates
- 3 under 30 years old
- 1 over 80 years old
- 26 had college degrees
- Other: planters, physicians, generals, and a college president
- George Washington led the meetings



■ Lawyers ■ Other ■ Merchants ■ Politicians

Outcome of the Convention

- Discussed Constitution for 16 weeks
 - Signed final draft of September 17, 1787
 - States had to ratify (accept)
- People afraid:
 1. National government would be too powerful
 2. That it wouldn't protect the individual rights of citizens
- Bill of Rights created to prevent government from abusing its powers (first 10 amendments)

Against the Constitution: Anti-federalists

Supporters of the Constitution: federalists



The Constitution is Born

- Supreme law of the land
- Created a balanced government based on federalism
 - Division of power between a central authority and states
- Created 3 branches:
 1. Legislative: Congress
 2. Executive: President
 3. Judicial: all national courts

The Great Compromise

- The Upper House: the Senate
 - Allowed each state to have two members
 - Equal representation
- The Lower House: House of Representatives
 - Number of representatives varied by state's population
 - Larger states would have more representation

The Three-Fifths Compromise

- How to count the slave population?
 - Including slaves would include the population of individual states
 - Population increase would allow for more representatives in Congress
- Southern states = 
- Northern States = 
- Agreed to 3/5 Compromise: Every 5 slaves would count as 3 persons in the population total

Parts of the Constitution

- Preamble
- Articles (7)
- Amendments (27)

Preamble

- An introduction to the Constitution
 - One paragraph explaining the goals of the Constitution
- ***“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure 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.”***

The Articles

- **Article 1: The Legislative Branch**

- A long part with 10 sections, creates Congress to make laws, divides Congress into a Senate and House of Representatives, makes rules for election of members, gives some powers to Congress, limits other powers

- **Article 2: The Executive Branch**

- Sets up the presidency and vice presidency to carry out or execute the laws, election rules, powers of the president, how to impeach

- **Article 3: The Judicial Branch**

- Sets up the Supreme Court, duties and powers of Supreme Court and federal courts, power of judicial review, defines **treason**

- **Article 4: The States**

- Creates rules for states to get along with other states, guarantees to states, admitting states to the Union

- **Article 5: Making Amendments**

- How to add amendments to the Constitution

- **Article 6: Supreme Law of the Land**

- The Constitution is the highest law of the land

- **Article 7: Ratification**

- The Constitution became effective when 9 out of 13 states approved it

The Amendments

1. Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, petition
2. Right to bear arms
3. Quartering of troops
4. Search and seizure
5. Due process, double jeopardy, self-incrimination
6. Jury trial, right to counsel
7. Common law suits
8. Excess bail or fines, cruel and unusual punishment
9. Rights not named
10. Powers reserved to states
11. Lawsuits against a state
12. Election of president and vice president
13. Abolition of slavery
14. Due process, equal protection, privileges of citizens
15. Rights not to be denied because of race
16. Income tax
17. Election of senators
18. Prohibition
19. Women's right to vote
20. Presidential term and succession
21. Repeal of prohibition
22. President limited to 2 terms
23. Right to vote for president and VP for persons in D.C.
24. No poll tax
25. Presidential succession
26. Right to vote at age 18
27. Compensation for members of Congress