

# CHAPTER 2, SECTION 3: CONFEDERATION AND THE CONSTITUTION

AMERICAN LEADERS CREATED THE CONSTITUTION AS A  
BLUEPRINT OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES.

## Opening Activity:

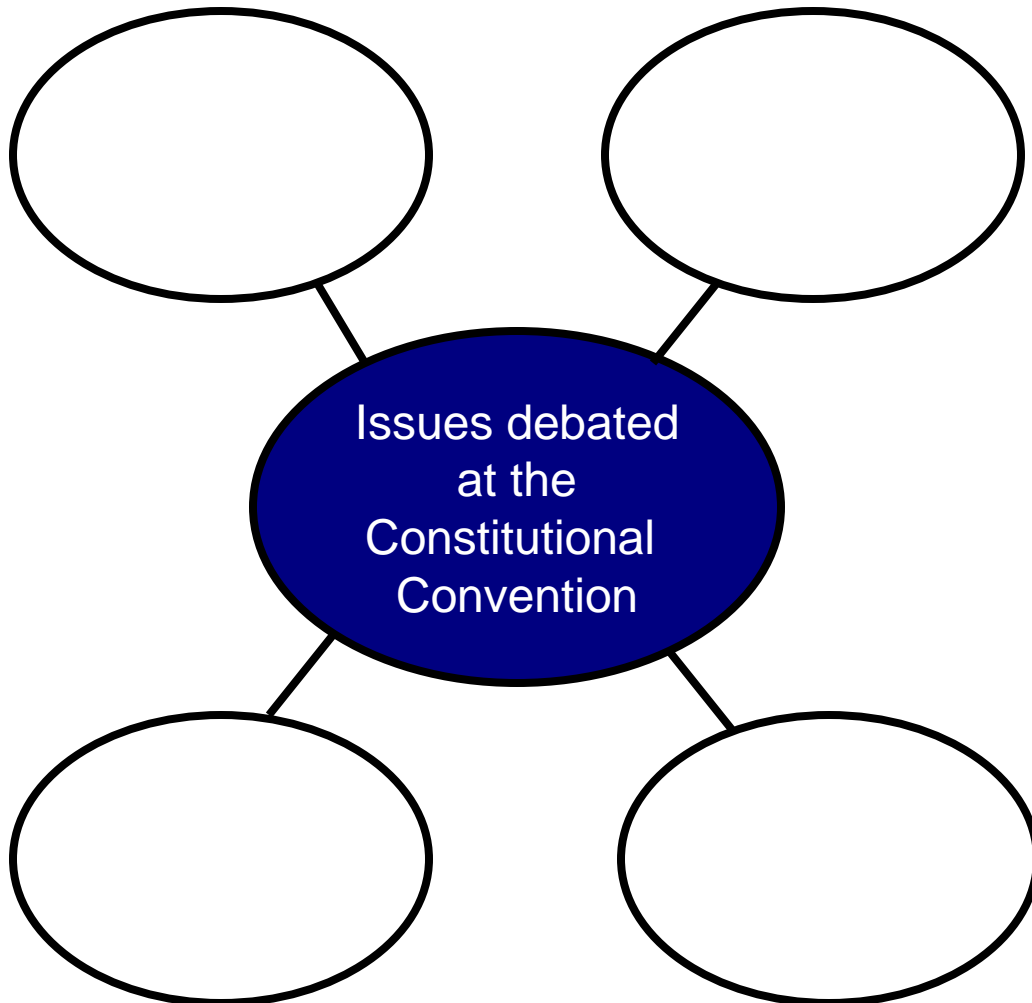
In a paragraph write about a time when you had a dispute that you successfully resolved by compromise.



# TAKING NOTES

## Directions:

In the graphic organizer below fill in specific issues that debated at the Constitutional Convention.



## Define the following terms:

republic

Articles of Confederation

Northwest Ordinance of 1787

Shay's Rebellion

James Madison

federalism

Checks and balances

ratification

Federalists

Antifederalists

Bill of Rights

# I. Experimenting with Confederation

## A. Plans for a New Government

- Many people want **republic**—rule through elected representatives.
- Some fear democracy—government directly by the people.



## B. The Articles of Confederation

-Congress creates laws to unite 13 states—**Articles of Confederation.**

-All states ratify (1781); Articles create weak central government.



### Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

- Congress could not enact and collect taxes.
- Congress could not regulate interstate or foreign trade.
- Regardless of population, each state had only one vote in Congress.
- Two-thirds majority—9 out of 13 states needed to agree to pass any law.
- Articles could be amended only if all states approved.
- There was no executive branch to enforce the laws of Congress.
- There was no national court system to settle legal disputes.
- There were 13 separate states that lacked national unity.

**Articles of  
Confederation**

```
graph TD; A([Articles of Confederation]) --> B[Powers of the National Government]; A --> C[Limits of the National Government]; A --> D[Structure of the National Government];
```

**Powers of the  
National  
Government**

Declare War

Negotiate Treaties

Manage Foreign Affairs

Coin (print) money

Establish a postal system

Establish a military

...

**Limits of the  
National  
Government**

No power to enforce laws

No national court system to  
settle disputes between the  
states

No power to tax

No power to regulate trade  
or put tariffs on foreign  
goods

...

**Structure of the  
National  
Government**

One branch of government: A  
one house legislature called  
Congress

Each state had one vote in  
Congress

...

ALASKA

# North America, 1783





-Confederation solves problem of Northwest Territory:

\*Land Ordinance of 1785—plan for surveying the Northwest Territory.

\***Northwest Ordinance of 1787**—plan to divide land into 3-5 new states—overlooked Native American land claims.



**Claims by Eastern States**

- |   |                      |   |                           |
|---|----------------------|---|---------------------------|
|  | New York,<br>1776–82 |  | Massachusetts,<br>1776–85 |
|  | Virginia,<br>1776–84 |  | Connecticut,<br>1776–86   |



**Northwest Territory**

- |   |           |   |                                 |
|---|-----------|---|---------------------------------|
|  | 1787–1800 |  | Connecticut<br>claim, 1776–1800 |
|  | 1787–1803 |  | Jefferson's<br>proposal, 1784   |

# Land Ceded by States to the Federal Government, 1782–1802

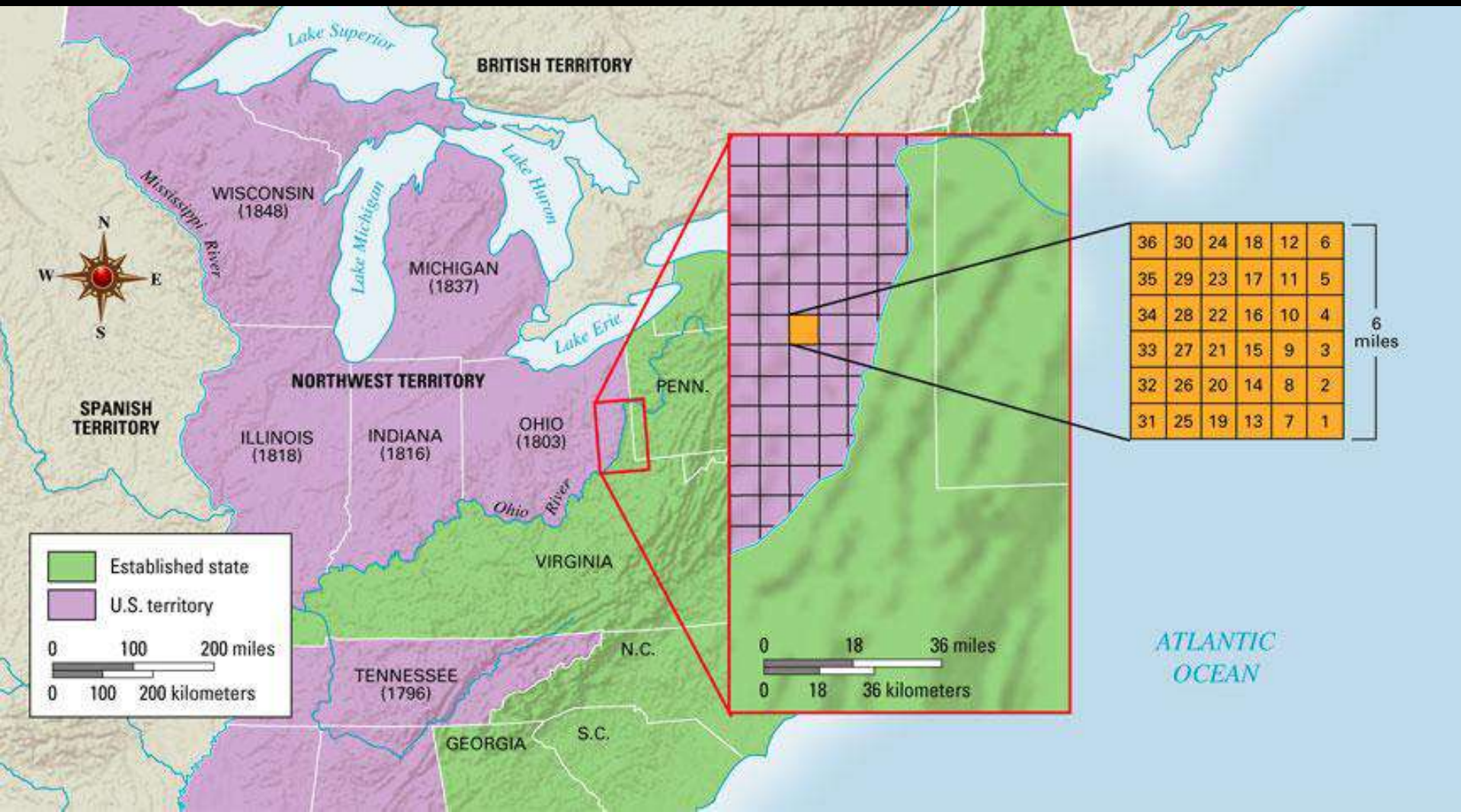


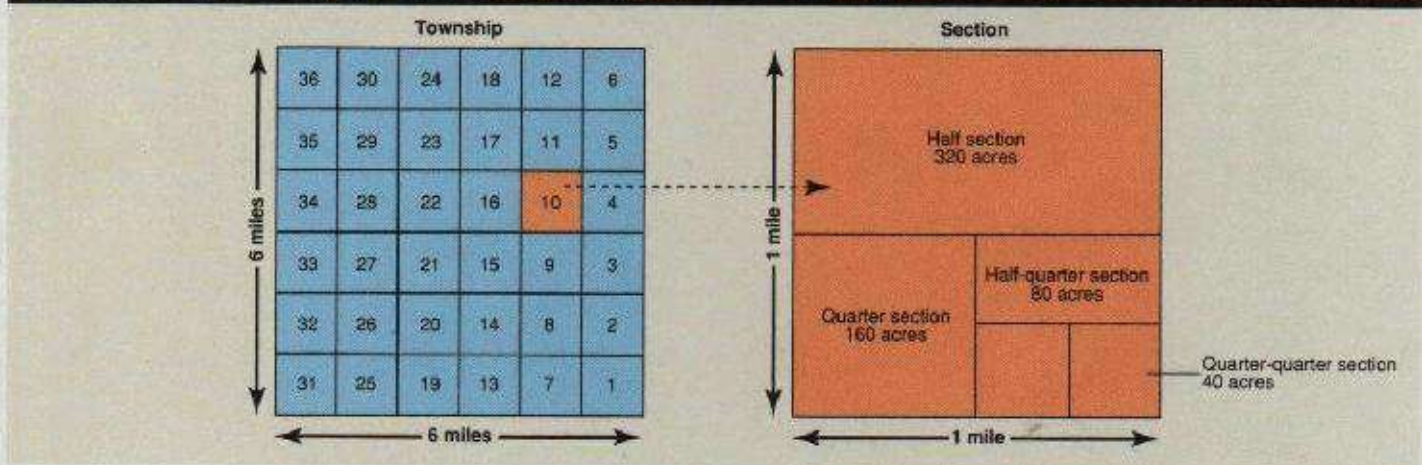
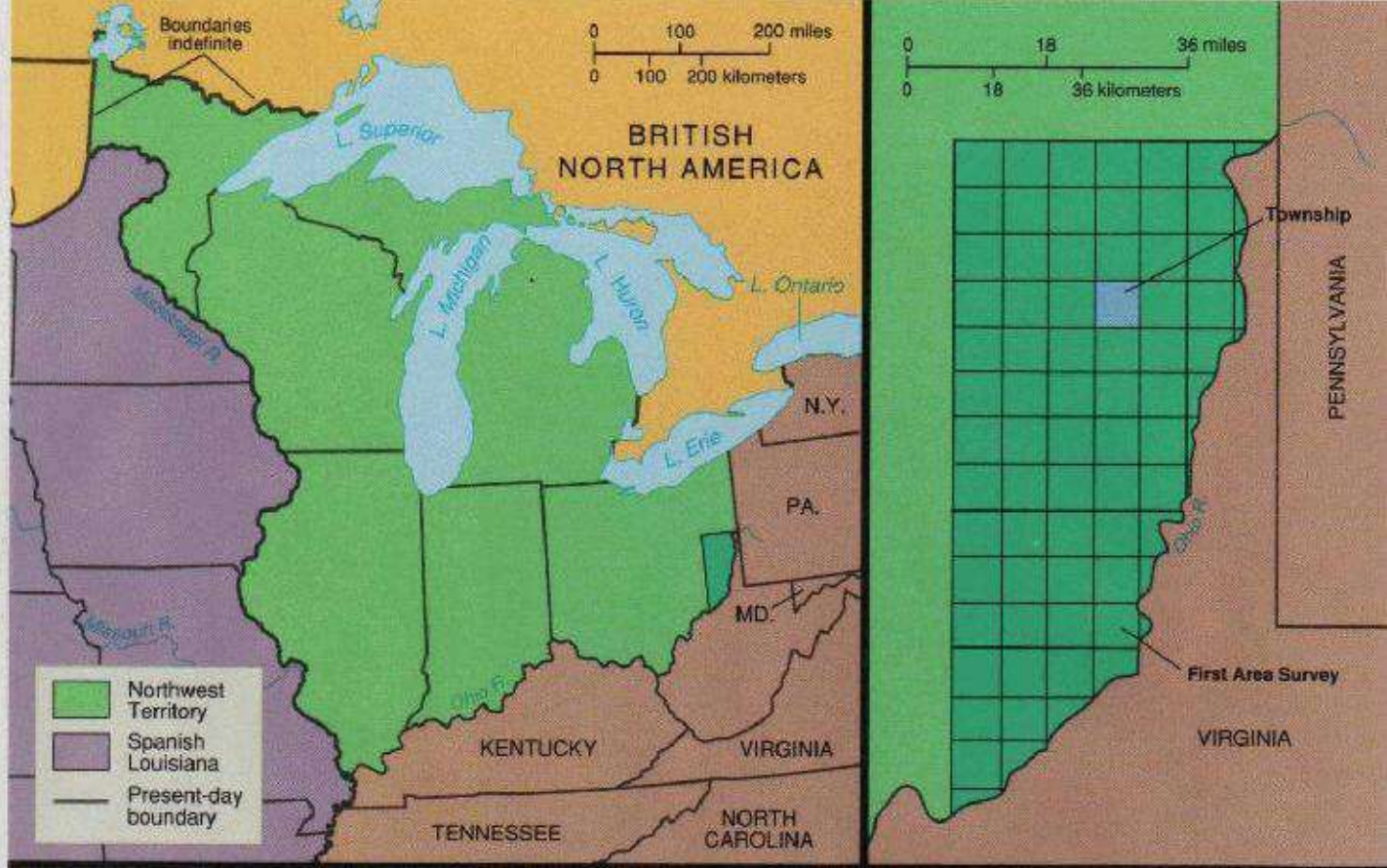




**STATES ENTERING UNION (year)**

- 1803 OHIO
- 1816 INDIANA
- 1818 ILLINOIS
- 1837 MICHIGAN





THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY AND ORDINANCE OF 1785

## C. Shay's Rebellion

-**Shay's Rebellion**—Daniel Shays leads protests of Massachusetts State taxes.

-He and 1,200 farmers attempted to raid arsenal (1787).

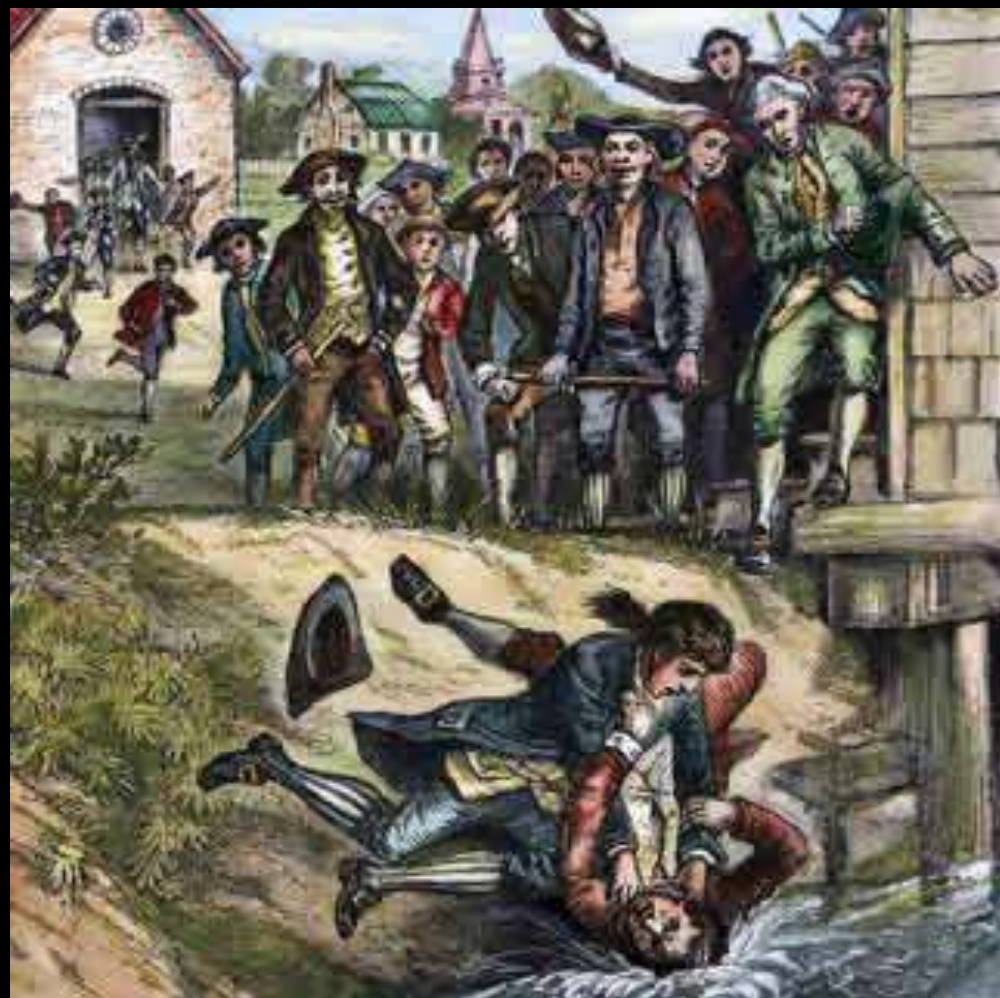
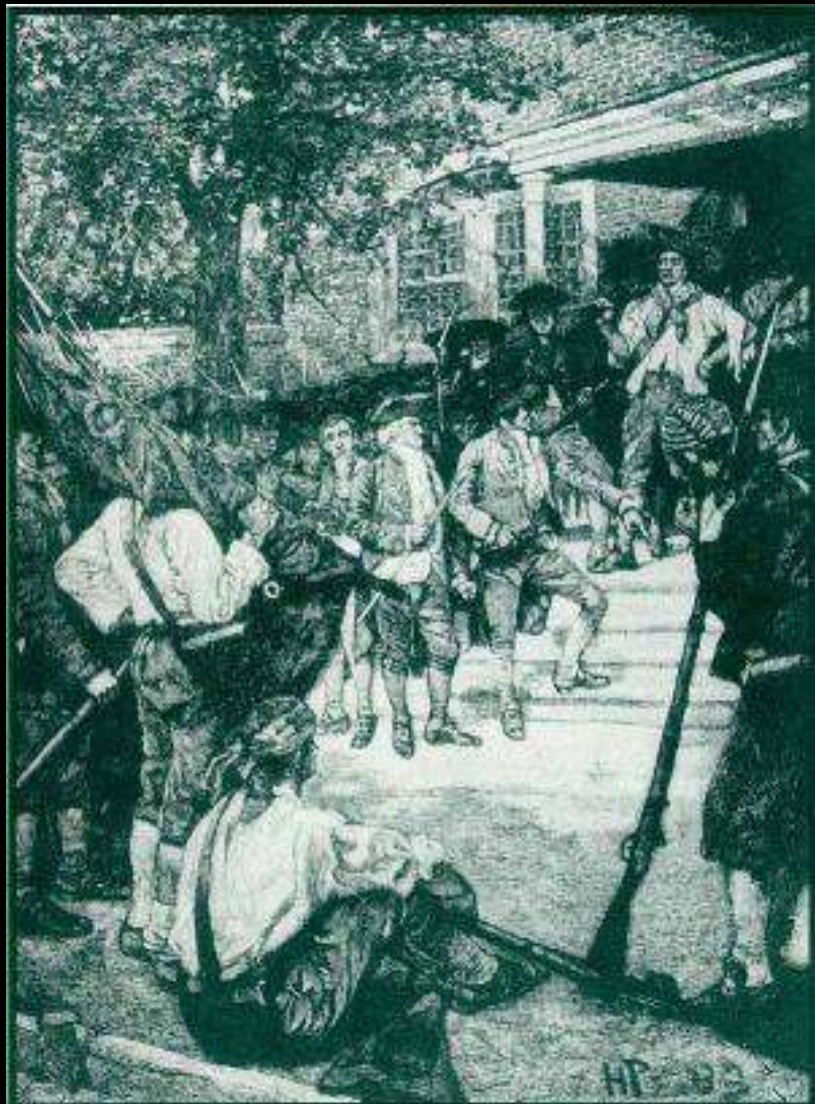
-State militia kills four; nation calls for a stronger national government.

-Articles of Confederation placed severe limits of government's ability to solve problems—fear of abuse of power.

-12 states participate in convention to create stronger government.



The portraits of Daniel Shays and Job Shattuck, leaders of the Massachusetts "Regulators," appeared on the cover of Bickerstaff's Boston Almanack in 1787.



## II. Creating a New Government

### A. Conflict and Compromise



-**James Madison** proposes Virginia Plan—representation based on population.

-Small states favor New Jersey Plan—each state has equal vote.

-Great Compromise establishes Senate and House of Representatives.

-Three-Fifths Compromise counts three-fifths of slaves as population.

### Southern States:

- ▶ Wanted slaves counted as population to determine representation in the House of Reps.
- ▶ Opposed counting slaves for the purpose of determining taxation

V.

### Northern States:

- ▶ Opposed counting slaves as population to determine representation in the House of Reps.
- ▶ Favored counting slaves for the purpose of determining taxation

### THE 3/5<sup>th</sup> COMPROMISE:

- 3/5<sup>th</sup> of slaves counted as population in determining representation to the House of Representatives
- 3/5<sup>th</sup> of slaves would be counted for the purpose of determining taxation

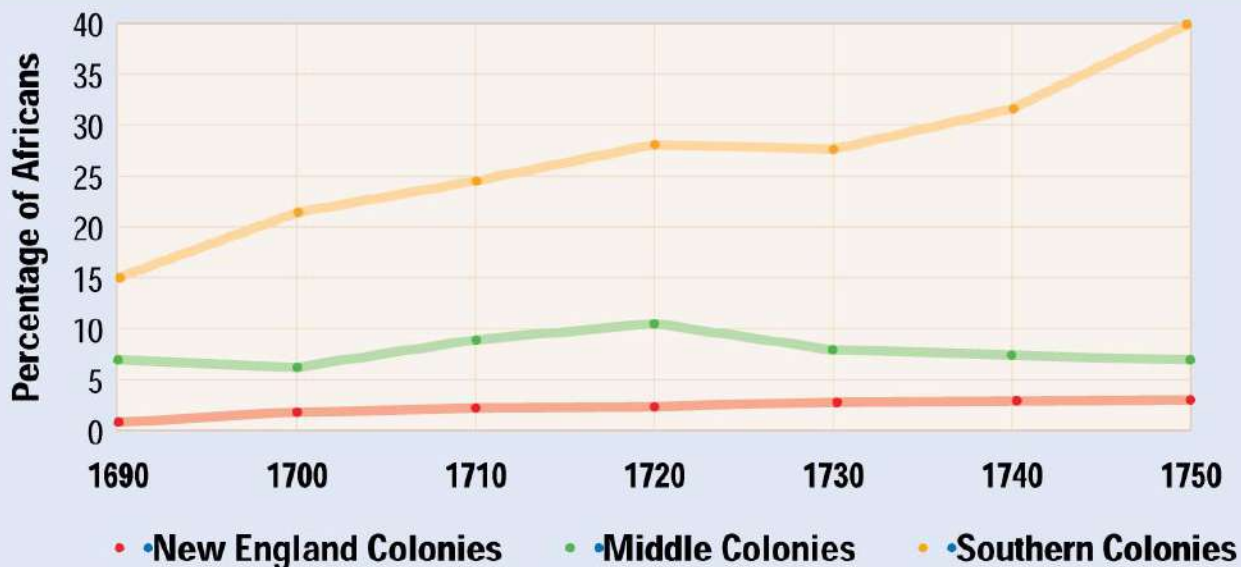


# Africans in the Colonies

## Estimated African Population in the Colonies, 1690–1750

	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740	1750
New England Colonies	750	1,680	2,585	3,956	6,118	8,541	10,982
Middle Colonies	2,472	3,361	6,218	10,825	11,683	16,452	20,736
Southern Colonies	13,307	22,476	36,063	54,058	73,220	125,031	204,702
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,529</b>	<b>27,517</b>	<b>44,866</b>	<b>68,839</b>	<b>91,021</b>	<b>150,024</b>	<b>236,420</b>

## Africans as a Percentage of Total Population in the Colonies, 1690–1750



## B. Division of Powers

-Delegates create Federalist government with three branches.

-**Federalism**—power divided between national and state government.

**Key Conflicts in the Constitutional Convention**

**STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT vs. STRONG STATES**

- Authority derives from the people.
- In a new plan of government, the central government should be stronger than the states.
- Authority derives from the states.
- Under a modified Articles of Confederation, the states should remain stronger than the central government.

**LARGE STATES vs. SMALL STATES**

- Congress should be composed of two houses.
- The number of delegates to both houses of Congress should be assigned according to population.
- A Congress of one house should be preserved.
- Each state should have one vote.

**NORTH vs. SOUTH**

- Slaves should not be counted when deciding the number of congressional delegates.
- Slaves should be counted when levying taxes.
- Slaves should be counted when determining congressional representation.
- Slaves should not be counted when levying taxes.

## C. Separation of Powers

-Legislative branch makes laws.

-Executive branch enforces laws.

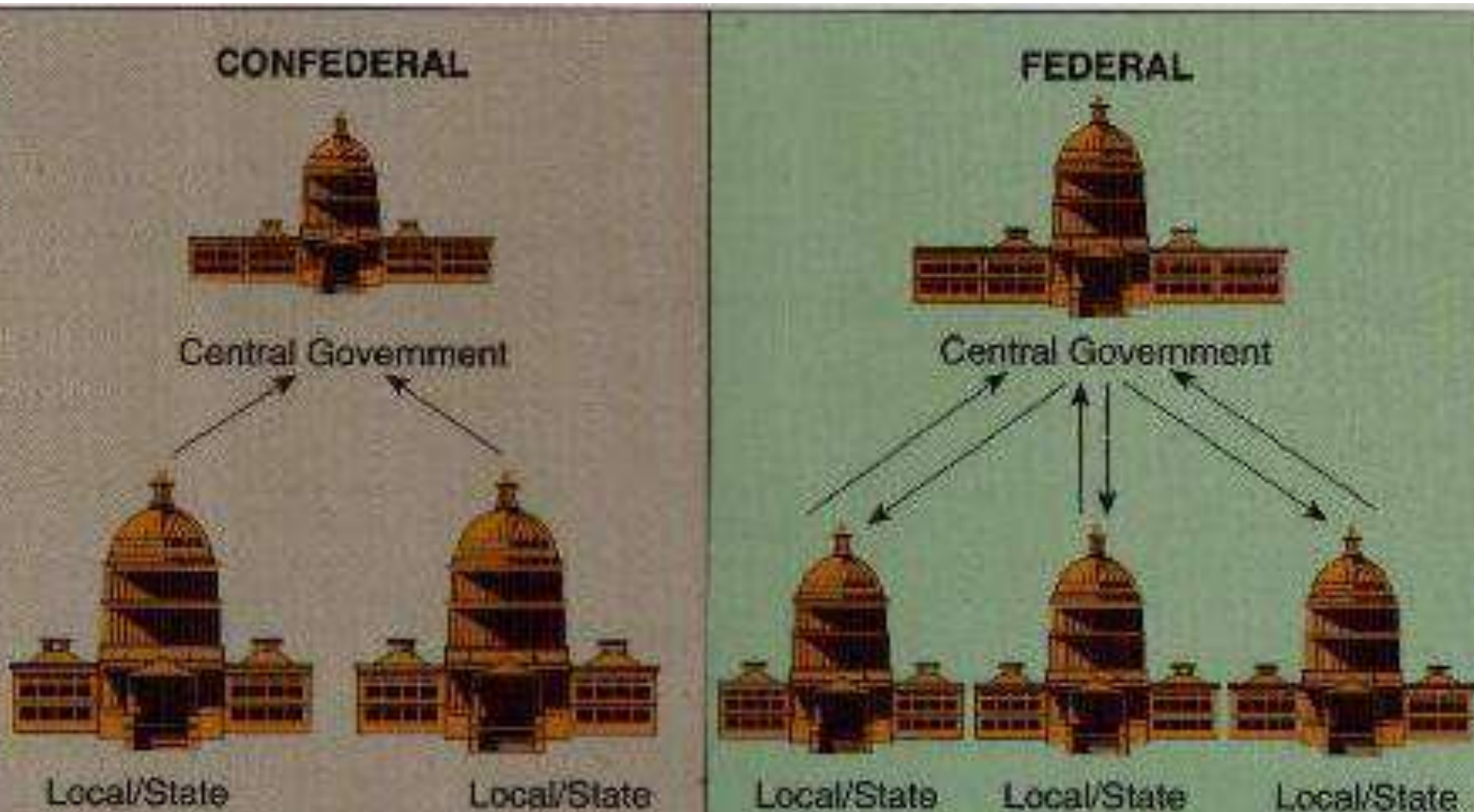
-Judicial branch interprets laws.

-**Checks and balances**—system preventing any branch from dominating.



## D. Changing the Constitution

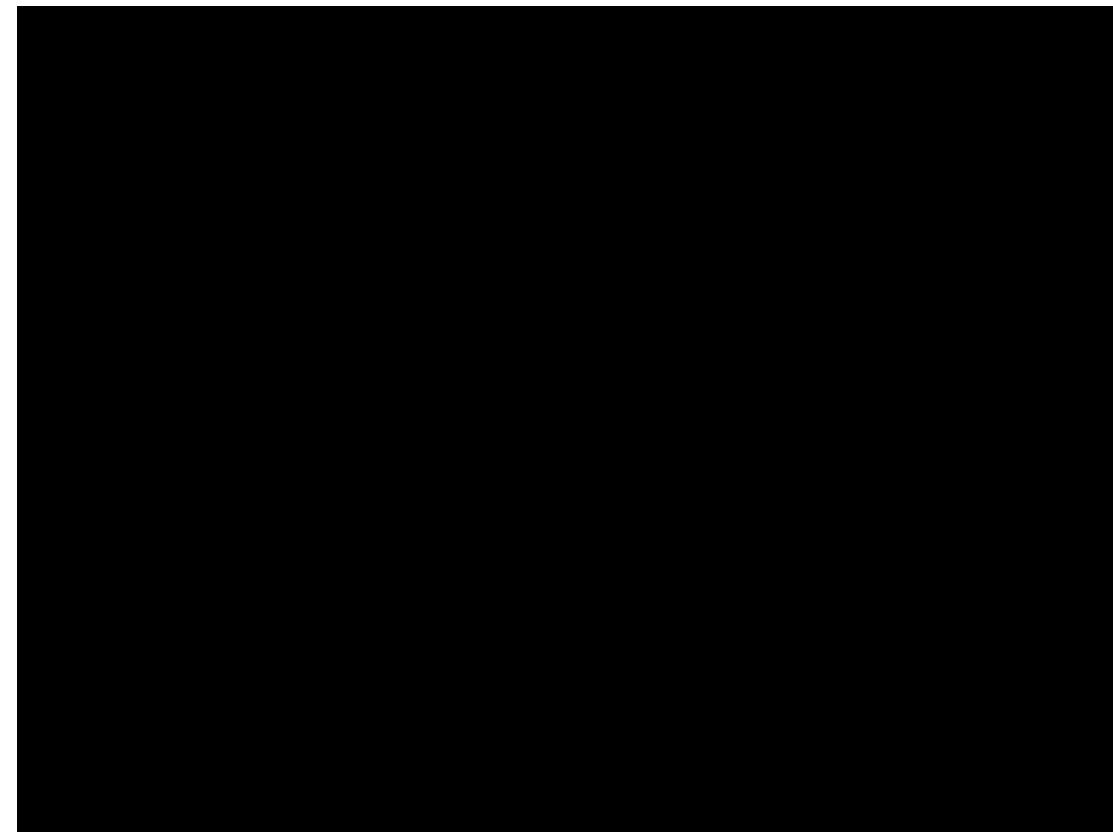
-Delegates create process to amend, or change, the Constitution.



# III. Ratifying the Constitution

## A. Getting the States' Approval

**-Ratification**—approval of Constitution by states; nine votes needed out of thirteen.



George Washington & the Constitutional Convention Video Clip

# The Federal System

## POWERS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



### DELEGATED POWERS

- Maintain army and navy
- Establish a postal system
- Set standards for weights, measures, copyrights, and patents
- Regulate trade between states and with foreign nations
- Declare war

## POWERS SHARED BY FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

### CONCURRENT POWERS

- Impose taxes
- Establish courts
- Regulate banks
- Borrow money to pay expenses
- Build roads
- Provide for general welfare

## POWERS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENTS



### RESERVED POWERS

- Establish local government
- Establish schools
- Regulate state commerce
- Make regulations for marriage
- Establish and regulate corporations

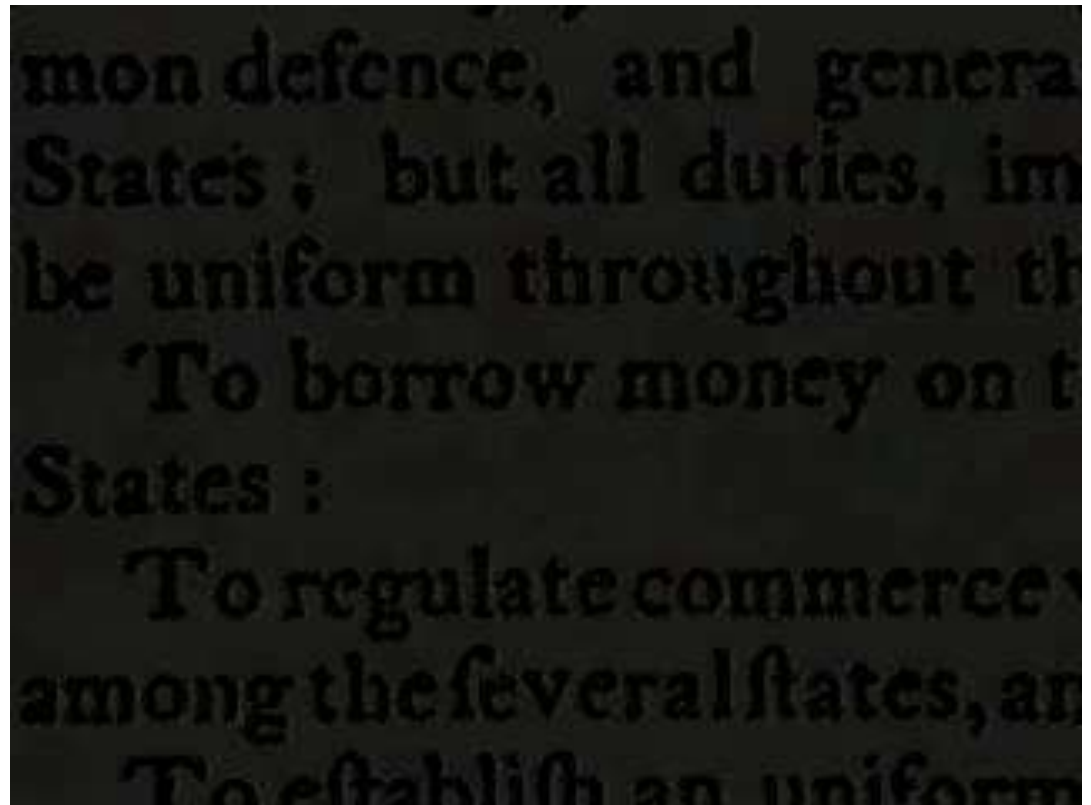
## B. Federalists and Antifederalists

-**Federalists**—favor the Constitution's balance of power.

-**Antifederalists**—against Constitution, want Bill of Rights.

-Federalists promise Bill of Rights, Constitution ratified June 1788.

Federalist vs. Antifederalist video clip

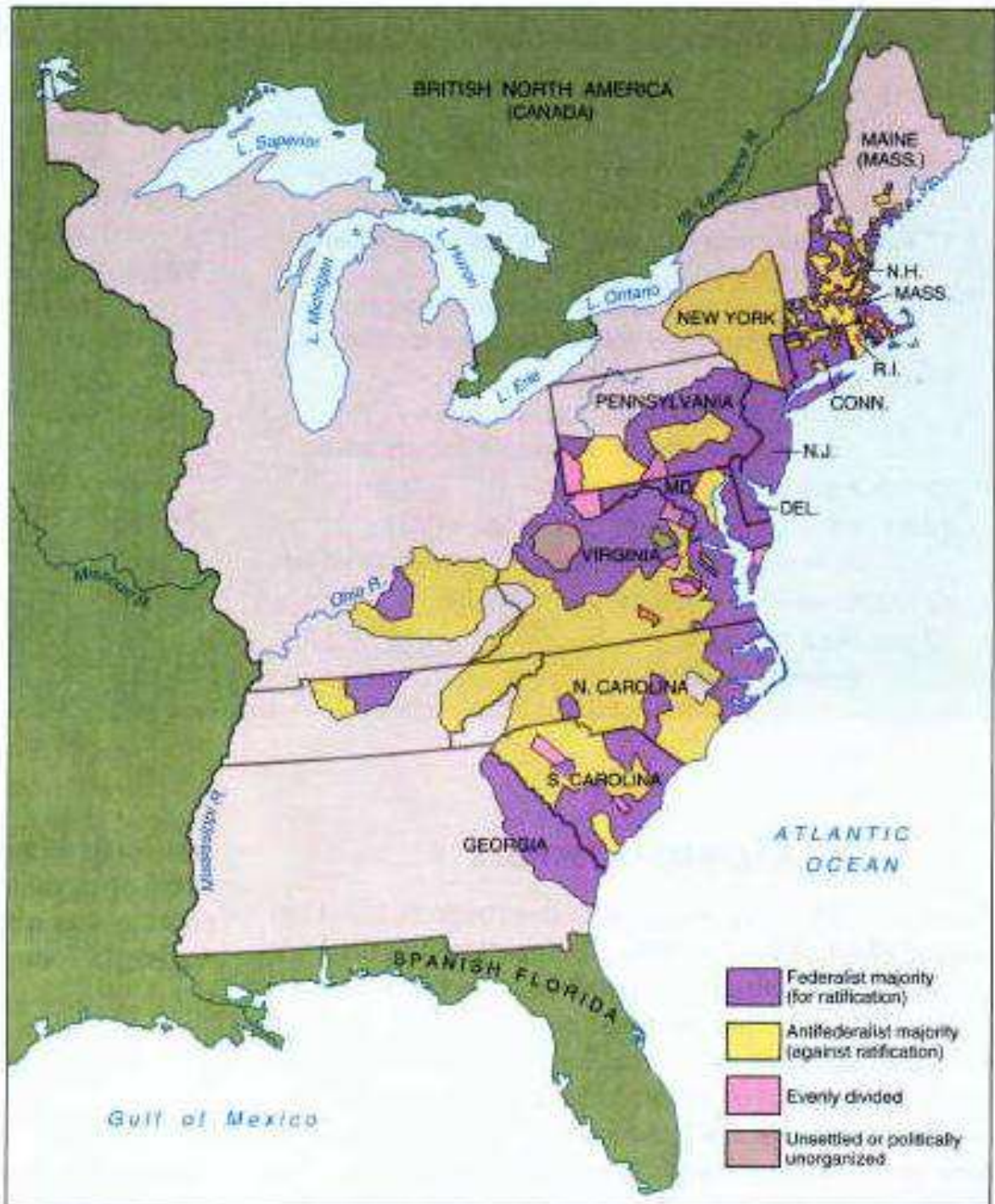


mon defence, and genera  
States; but all duties, im  
be uniform throughout th  
'To borrow money on t  
States :  
To regulate commerce  
among the several States, an  
To establish an uniform

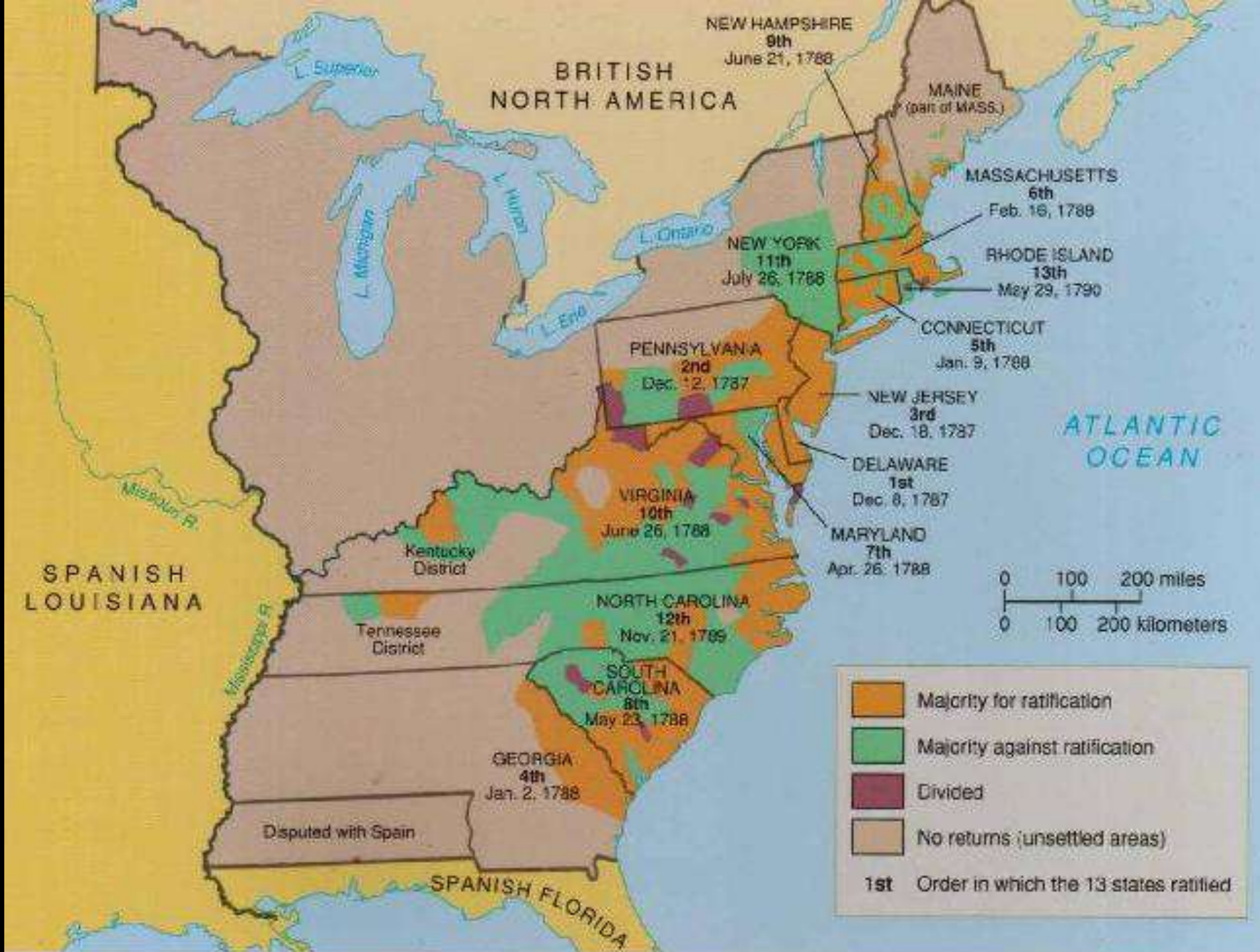
## MAP 6.6

### Federalist and Antifederalist Strongholds, 1787-1790

Federalists drew their primary backing from densely populated areas along major transportation routes, where trade, mobility, and frequent contact with people in other states encouraged a nationalistic identity. Antifederalist support came from interior regions where geographic isolation bred a localistic perspective. However, some westerners, especially in Georgia and western Virginia, voted for a strong central government that would push back the Indians or the Spanish.



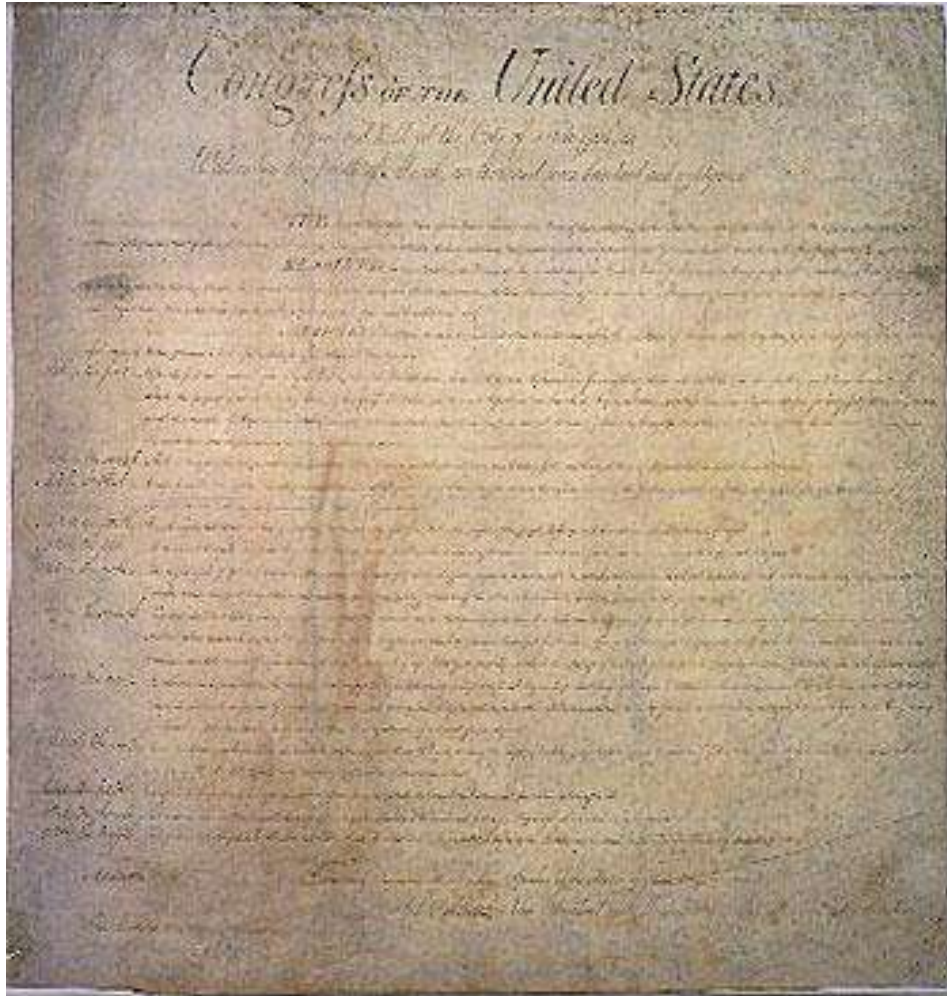




RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION, 1788-1790

## C. Adoption of a Bill of Rights

-**Bill of Rights**—first ten amendments, guarantee citizen's individual rights.



## CAUSES

- **Articles of Confederation prove ineffective**
- **Strain of economic problems disrupts the nation**



# The Constitutional Convention



## EFFECTS

- **Convention establishes a new government with  
three branches  
a two-house legislature  
checks and balances**
- **The national government is strengthened**
- **Confidence increases in national government**

# IV. Continuing Relevance of the Constitution

## A. A Relevant Document

- Constitution is oldest written national constitution still in use.
- Constitution's elastic clause allows expansion of government power.
- Amendment process is difficult to prevent arbitrary changes.
- Only 27 amendments passed in the last 200 years.

# REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The debate of whether or not \_\_\_\_\_ should be counted as representation was solved by the 3/5 Compromise.
2. After the Revolution, many Americans favored a \_\_\_\_\_ form of government which is best described as a government ruled by elected representatives.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ was the result of the New Jersey Plan and the Virginia Plan combined to guarantee equal representation for all states along with representation based on population.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is used to describe a peaceful way to settle a dispute between two groups who disagree about how to do something.
5. The Feature of the Constitution that prevents one branch of government from dominating the other two branches is known as the system of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The promise that caused the Constitution to be ratified was the Federalists promise to add a \_\_\_\_\_.

## Words:

bill of rights  
republic

Compromise  
slaves

checks and balances  
Great Compromise