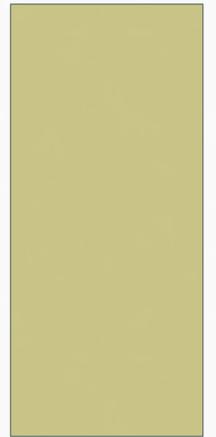


UNIT 3: THE CONSTITUTION



ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

- The Articles of Confederation was written during the American Revolution. Americans fear a powerful national government.
- As a result, the Articles created a government that had no executive branch and lack the power to tax, regulate commerce, or establish a national currency.

SHAY'S REBELLION

- Daniel Shay led more than a thousand farmers, like him.
- Burdened with personal debts caused by economic problems stemming from the states Revolutionary War debts in 1786.
- Without the power to tax, America's weak government couldn't repair the national economy.

RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

- In May 1787, George Washington became president of the Constitutional Convention supporting the establishment of a stronger central government.
- He and the founding Fathers created a **federalist** form of government for the United States.

THE GREAT COMPROMISE

- One great issue the delegates faced in making a new government was how different sized states could have equal representation.
- Larger states supported the idea where representation should be based off population known as the **Virginia Plan**.

THE GREAT COMPROMISE

- Smaller states supported the idea in which all the states would be equally represented known as the **New Jersey plan**.
- The compromise made a legislature of two chambers (Bicarmal legislature):
 - House of Representatives, which was based off of population
 - Senate, where all states have equal representation.

SLAVERY

- Slavery existed in all states, southern states depended on slave labor because their economies were based on producing cash crop.
- Southern states demanded that slaves be counted towards population. Northern states resisted.
- After debating, a compromise was made also known as the **3/5 Compromise**. This allowed the states to count 3/5 of their slaves to their population.

SEPARATION OF POWERS

- Many still feared a strong central government so the framers of the Constitution created a limited government.
- Limited Government is divided powers leading to the branches of government today.
- 3 branches: Executive, legislative, and judicial branches
- To further safeguard against the abuse of power, the Constitution gave each branch of government a way to check and balance the power of the other branches.

FEDERALIST & ANTI-FEDERALIST

- Federalist wanted a strong central government.
- Anti-Federalist are opposed to a strong central government.
- To get the Anti-federalist to agree with the type of government, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and others wrote a document called The federalist Papers.
- This document created what we have today the Bill of Rights.
- This also created states rights.

PRESIDENCY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

- First president of the United states.
- He set important patterns for future presidents.
- He favored nonintervention in Europe.
- He responded to the Whiskey Rebellion by showing his constitutional authority to enforce the law and that if Americans did not like the law the way to change it was through petition to Congress peacefully.

POLITICAL PARTIES

- Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton were apart of Washington Administration
- Thomas Jefferson believed that the national government must limit its power to those describe by the constitution.
- Hamilton wanted to expand the power of the government to stabilize the nation and its economy.
- In Washington Farwell address he warned of the dangers of political parties.

PRESIDENCY OF JOHN ADAMS

- John Adams was the second president of the United State
- Elected in 1796
- His presidency was plagued by conflicts with France and Great Britain which crippled the economy.
- Congress during this time increased citizenship requirements.
- Congress also tried to limit speech and press rights.
- Jefferson and Madison argued states can refuse to enforce federal laws they did not agree with(States rights concept)

SAMPLE QUESTION

John Locke's theory that all people have basic natural rights directly influenced

- A. The Proclamation of 1763
- B. the Declaration of Independence
- C. the outbreak of the French and Indian War
- D. the expansion of the transatlantic mercantilism.

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SAMPLE QUESTION

The Bill of Rights was adopted by Congress in 1791 to preserve which political principle?

- A. the separation of powers
- B. the restriction of political political terms
- C. the prohibition of racial discrimination
- D. the limitation of the federal government.