

SSUSH5 Investigate specific events and key ideas that brought about the adoption and implementation of the United States Constitution.

a. Examine the strengths of the Articles of Confederation, including but not limited to the Land Ordinance of 1785, Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and their influence on westward migration, slavery, public education, and the addition of new states.

Articles of Confederation

- Prior to the war ending, the Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation in 1777 as the colonies' first form of centralized government
- The Articles were a plan for a loose union, or confederation, which would be under the authority of the Continental Congress
 - The Articles were designed to be weak because the colonies did not want a powerful central government (Why?)



Strengths of the Articles of Confederation:

- Granted certain limited rights to Congress (could declare war, negotiate peace, regulate foreign affairs, conduct relations with Indians)
- Created plans for both settling and governing vast territory (Northwest Territory)

Land Ordinance of 1785:

- Congress created a system for distributing the newly acquired public lands
- Land was divided into hundreds of towns, each with six square miles
- Then, each was subdivided into 36 sections and sold for at least \$1 per acre
- Farmers could not afford, only wealthy land speculators could buy

Northwest Ordinance of 1787:



1. Gave money for education in NW
2. Freedom of religion in NW
3. Outlawed Slavery in NW
4. Outlined process for adding new states

Northwest Ordinance of 1787:

○ Process for becoming a STATE:

1.UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

2.ORGANIZED TERRITORY

- Congress appoints a Governor.
- When population reached 5,000 adult male landowners → elect territorial legislature.

3.STATEHOOD

- When population reached 60,000 → people write constitution and ask CONGRESS to admit them as a state

Northwest Ordinance of 1787:

- Important because new states were added fully equal to the original 13.
- All additional 37 states were added using this process.

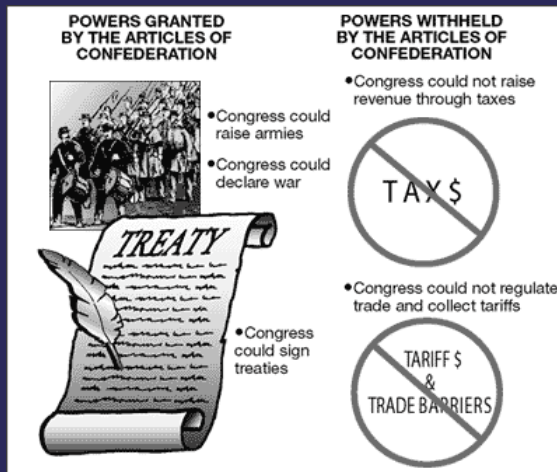


Weaknesses and Shays' Rebellion:

b. Evaluate how weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation and Daniel Shays' Rebellion led to a call for a stronger central government.

Why the Articles failed

- The Articles proved to be too weak
- The central government was too limited in what it could do



Some Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation	
Provision	Problem Created
Congress has no power to tax	Weak currency and growing debt Inability to pay army leads to threats of mutiny
Congress has no power to enforce treaties	Foreign countries angry when treaties are not honored; for example, Britain keeps troops on American soil
Every state, despite size has one vote	Populous state not equally represented
Congress has no power to regulate commerce	Trade hindered by states imposing high tariffs on each other
Amendment requires unanimous vote of states	Difficult to adapt articles to changing needs

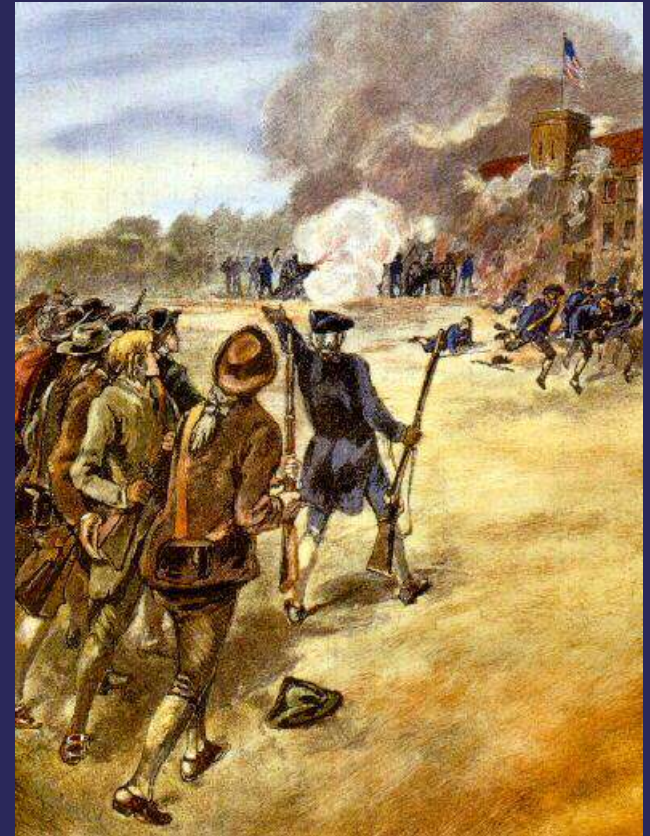
Weaknesses:

- Could not establish a common currency
- Could not regulate trade
- Had to rely on money from the colonies (which was unreliable)
- Could not pay war debts
- Could not tax
- Each state, regardless of size had only 1 vote
- Amendments being passed required a unanimous vote

Shays' Rebellion:

- To pay off its war debts, Massachusetts raised taxes, which heavily affected farmers
- When farmers couldn't pay the high taxes, their farms were taken
- Daniel Shays, a Massachusetts farmer and former captain in the Continental Army, led a short lived rebellion against the state in protest against the taxes

Why would farmers be upset about paying taxes to the government?



Shays' Rebellion and changes to the Articles:

- Though unsuccessful, Shays' Rebellion caused concern for those in power that states might take property away from the wealthy
- Shays' Rebellion, and the weaknesses of the Articles, convinced the Confederation Congress that a convention of the states needed to be called in order to revise the Articles
- In May 1787, delegates met in Philadelphia at the Constitutional Convention to revise the Articles

A historical painting depicting the signing of the United States Constitution in 1787. The scene is set in a grand, ornate room with high ceilings, large windows with dark drapery, and a large, multi-tiered chandelier hanging from the ceiling. Numerous men in 18th-century attire are gathered around a large table, some seated and some standing, engaged in conversation or signing documents. In the background, two large American flags are displayed on poles. The overall atmosphere is formal and significant.

c. Explain the key features of the Constitution, including the Great Compromise, limited government, and the Three-Fifths Compromise.

Constitutional Convention:

- The delegates in Philadelphia decide not to revise the Articles, but rather to write an entirely new document
- The delegates kept the meetings a secret as not to have outside pressure and opinions put upon them

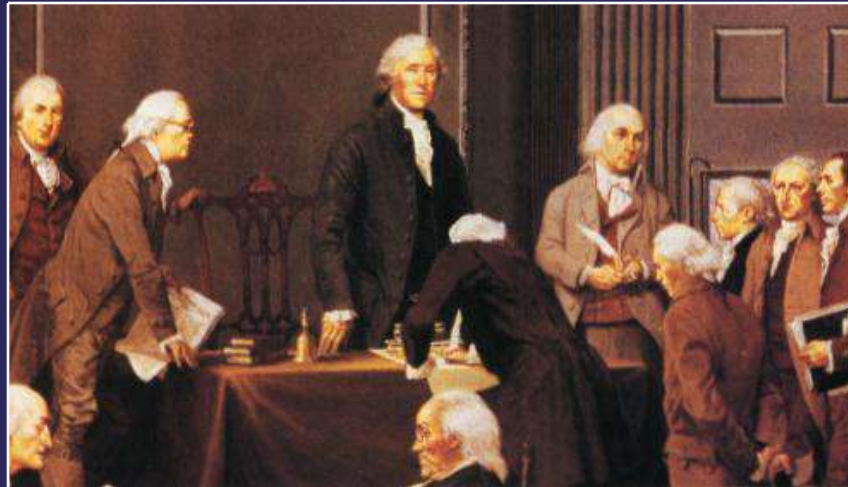


Creating the United States Constitution:

- The Great Compromise: settled how states would be represented in the new government, setting up the House of Representatives, which appealed the larger states, and the Senate, which appealed to the smaller states

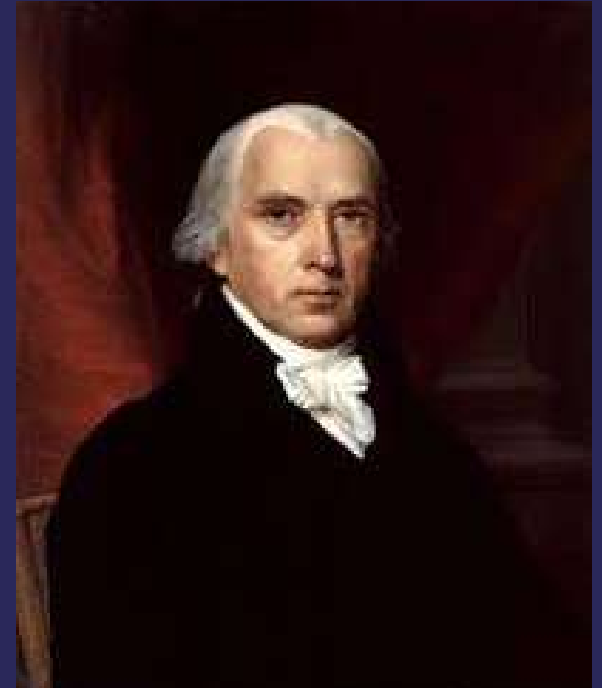
The Great
Compromise
was a merger of
the Virginia
Plan and the New
Jersey
Plan

How are states represented in the Senate?
Why would this appeal to the smaller states?



Virginia Plan: James Madison

- Larger population
- Wanted a strong President
- Wanted representation based on population
- Wanted to count slaves as part of population
- Wanted a bicameral legislature (2 houses), House of Representatives



New Jersey Plan: William Paterson

- Smaller population
- Wanted representation to be based on equality-2 per state
- Wanted a unicameral legislature (1 house), Senate

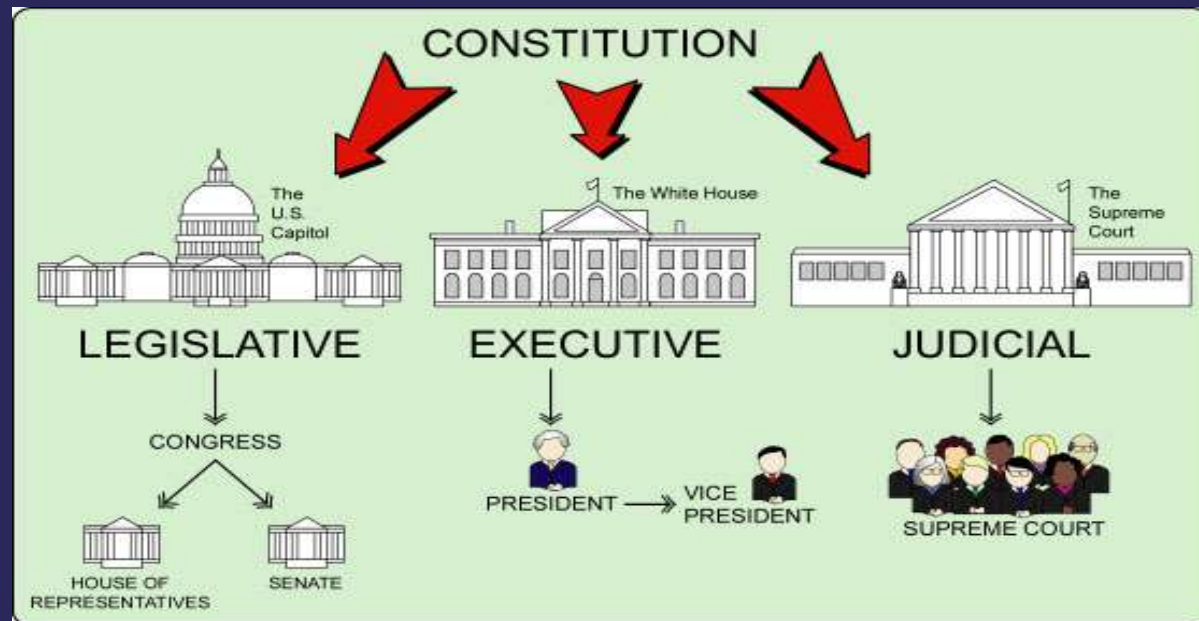


Great Compromise:

- Compromise between the Virginia Plan (larger states) and New Jersey Plan (smaller states)
- Created a bicameral legislature:
 1. HOR (based on population)
 2. Senate (based on equality-2 per state)
- Addressed slavery issue (Three-Fifths Compromise)
- Established FEDERALISM: federal and state governments share power

Separation of Powers: Created the 3 branches of government to prevent the concentration of power and provide for checks and balances

- **Legislative:** made up of the 2 houses of Congress, would *make the laws*
- **Executive:** headed by the president, would implement and *enforce the laws* passed by Congress
- **Judicial:** a system of federal courts, would *interpret the laws*



Limited Government:

- The framers of the Constitution feared misuse/abuse of power
- The framers listed what powers the federal government does and does not have in Article I of the Constitution
- Limited government also appears in the Bill of Rights



QUIZ

1. Which plan were the smaller states in favor of?
2. Which plan was the larger states in favor of?
3. What is the name of the plan that used ideas from both plans?
4. List one reason why the Articles of Confederation were weak.

The Issue of Slavery:

○ Southern states wanted to count slaves as part of their population in determining representation in the House (the larger a state's population, the more representation they would have in the House)

○ Northerners opposed this because slaves could not vote or pay taxes



Three-Fifths Compromise:

- A solution to the slavery representation issue was reached with the Three-Fifths Compromise
- Each slave was counted as three-fifths of a person to be added to the states' population in helping with representation in the House of Representatives



The Issue of Slavery:

- Southerners also wanted the Constitution to forbid government interference in the slave trade and limit Congress' power to regulate trade
- As a compromise, the delegates decided:
 - The new Congress could not tax exports
 - Could not ban the slave trade until 1808

Constitutional Convention:

- In September 1787 the Confederation Congress approved the new Constitution
- The task now was to convince at least nine of the thirteen state governments to ratify the document in order for it to take effect



Federalists v. Anti-Federalists:

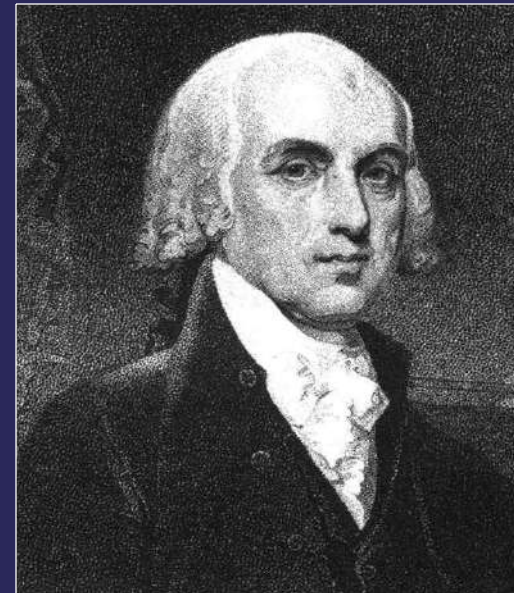
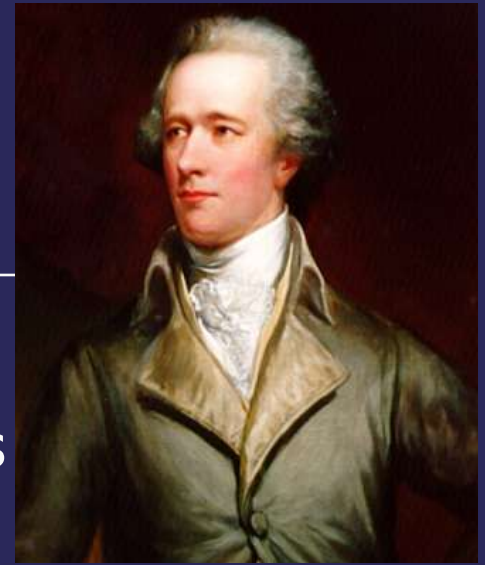
d. Evaluate the major arguments of the Anti-Federalists during the debate on ratification of the Constitution, *The Federalist Papers*, and the roles of Alexander Hamilton and James Madison.

Ratifying the Constitution:

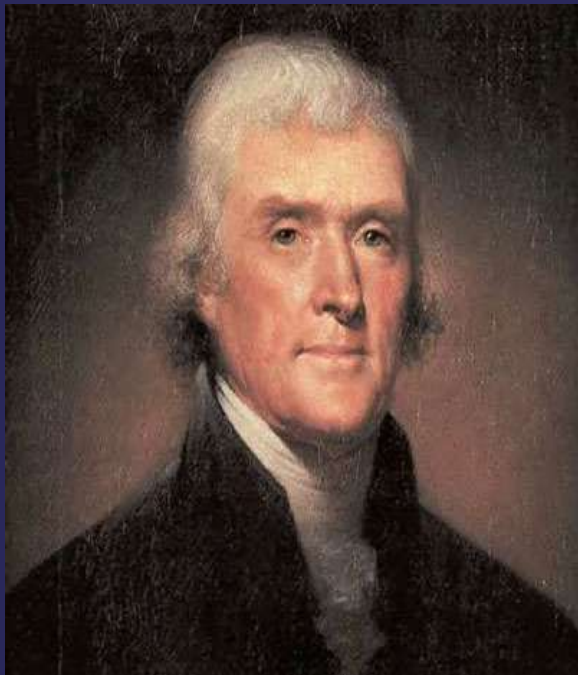
- In order for the Constitution to take effect, nine of the thirteen states had to ratify, or vote in favor of it
- Two groups emerged in the ratification debate:
 - The Federalist, who supported ratifying the Constitution
 - The Anti-Federalist, who opposed the Constitution

The Federalists:

- Supported the Constitution
- Believed that the system of checks and balances would protect the rights of the people
- The President would be the leader of the new government, but would have power checked by the legislative branch's power to impeach
- Believed that, though the national government would have supreme power, the states would retain many of their powers
- Alexander Hamilton and James Madison were two of the Federalist



Anti-Federalists:



- They believed in the need for a national government, but were concerned over who would retain the supreme power to rule, the states or the national government
- Made up mostly of western farmers
- Thomas Jefferson was an Anti-Federalist

Alexander Hamilton:

- Leader of the Constitutional Convention
- Federalist
- Disliked democracy, praised the British constitution (king)
- Believed government should have an aristocracy & monarchy
- Wanted government to have real power to command its citizens

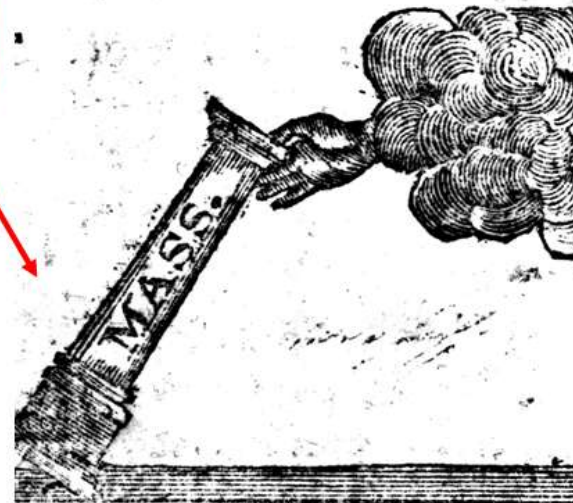
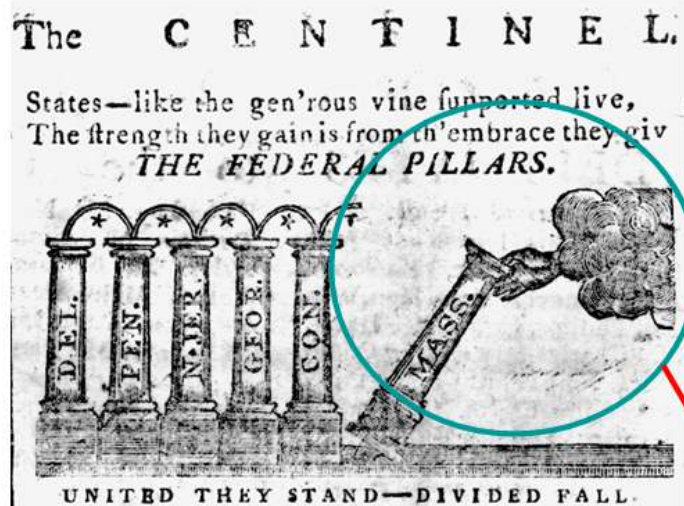
James Madison:

- Leader of the Constitutional Convention
- Known as “Father of the Constitution”
- Federalist
- Wanted to design a government that was strong & republican
- Kept notes of the convention

The Federalist Papers:

- *The Federalist Papers* were a collection of 85 essays written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay
- Published in NY newspapers, The Federalist were a way of explaining to the people how the Constitution worked, and why it was needed

Early political cartoon, examining the ratification of the Constitution:



What do you think is happening in this part of the picture?

Ratifying the Constitution:

- Five states ratified the Constitution within a month, however many Anti-Federalists were holding out until a bill of rights was added
- To sway Anti-Federalist, Federalists promised to add a bill of rights if the Constitution was ratified
- By May 1790 all thirteen states had ratified the Constitution

Bill of Rights:

e. Explain how objections to the ratification of the Constitution were addressed in the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights:

- The Bill of Rights, drafted by James Madison, are the first 10 Amendments (or changes) to the Constitution
- They were added as part of an agreement between the Federalist and Anti-Federalist
- The first 8 Amendments protect the rights of individuals from the federal government
- The 9th Amendment, states that the people have other rights not listed
- The 10th Amendment states that powers not given to the federal government are reserved, or given to the states (STATES' RIGHTS)

1st Amendment:

- The 1st Amendment serves as an example of how people's rights are protected from the federal government
- The 1st Amendment lists the Freedoms:
 - of religion
 - of press
 - of speech
 - to assemble
 - to petition