

We the People

of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity: We do hereby declare our Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not, when elected, have seven Years, and be at least twenty one Years of Age; five Years, and be seven Years of Age, when elected, in each subsequent Term; and shall, when elected, be seven Years of Age, when elected, in each subsequent Term.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not, when elected, be seven Years of Age, when elected, in each subsequent Term; and shall, when elected, be seven Years of Age, when elected, in each subsequent Term.

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen every second Year by the People of the several States; and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not, when elected, be thirty Years of Age, and seven Years of Age, when elected, in each subsequent Term; and shall, when elected, be seven Years of Age, when elected, in each subsequent Term.

Section 4. The Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

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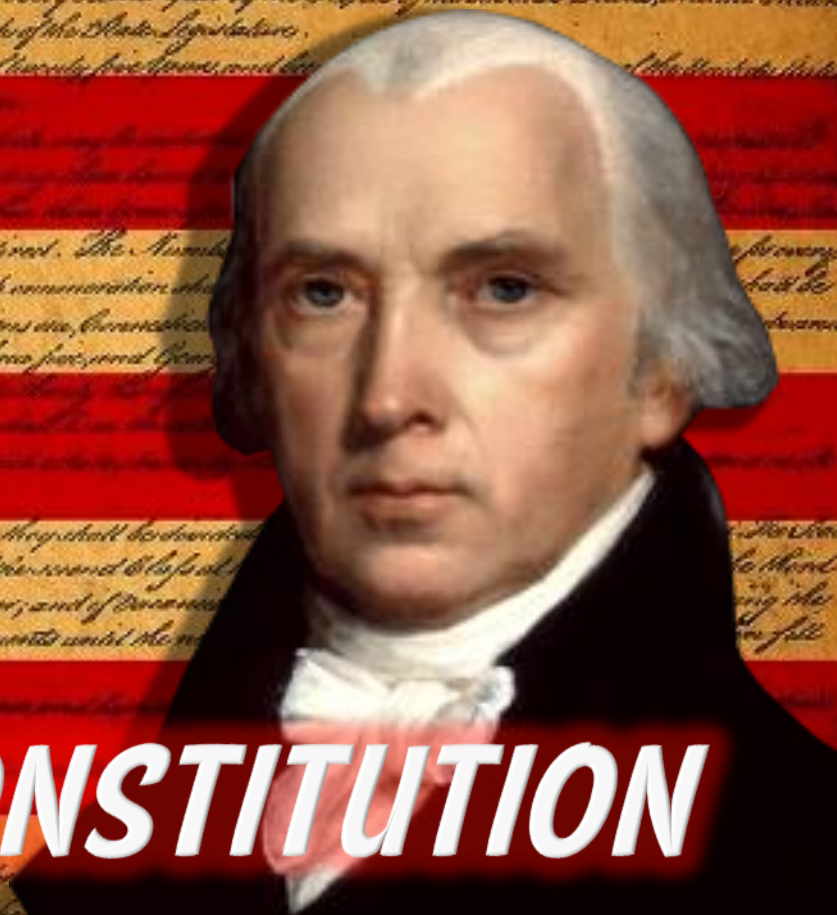
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CREATING THE CONSTITUTION

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

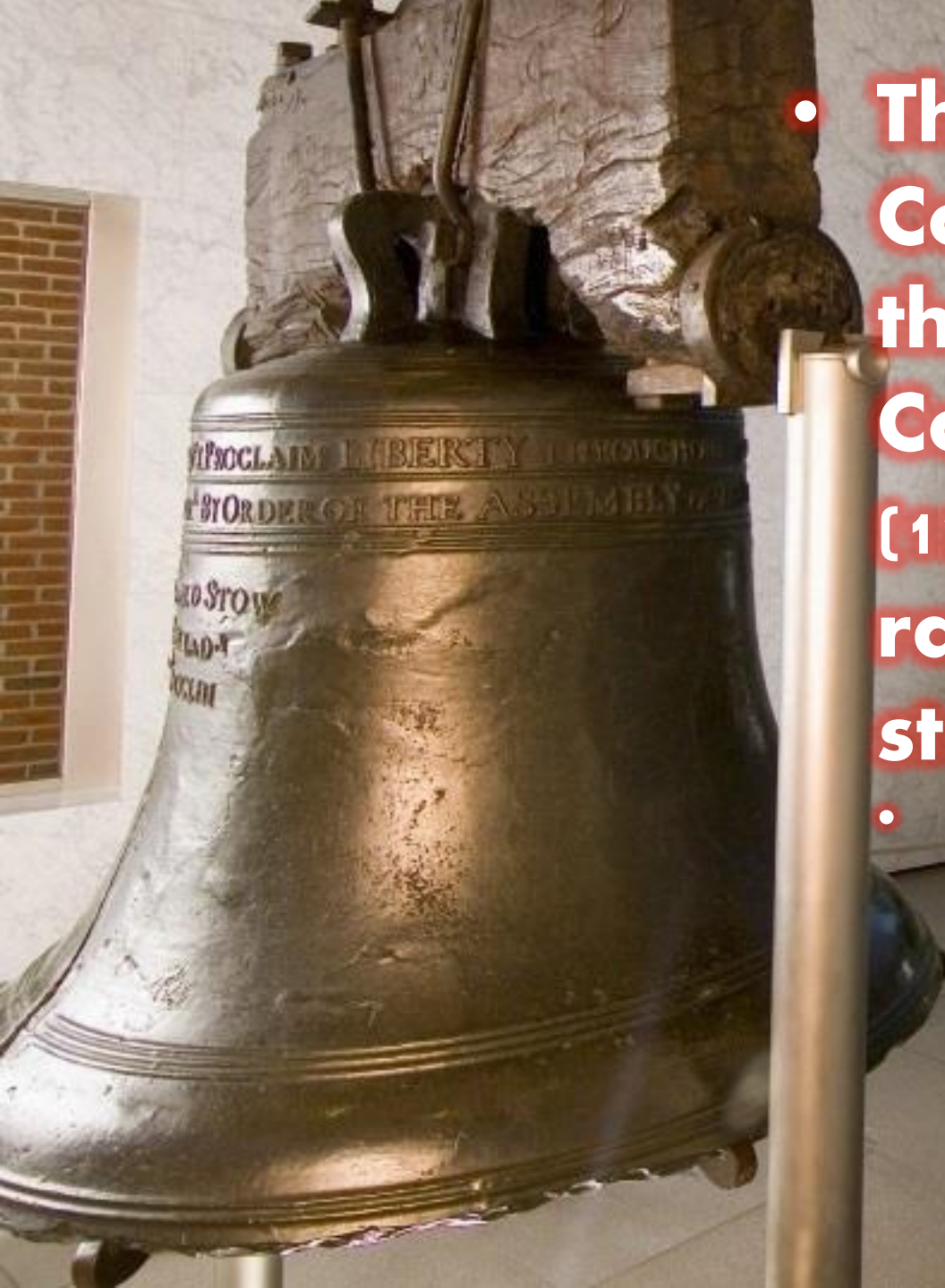
The background of the slide is a dark, textured surface covered with numerous unlit incandescent lightbulbs. One lightbulb in the center-right area is illuminated, casting a warm, yellow glow that highlights its shape and the surrounding bulbs. The overall atmosphere is one of intellectual pursuit and enlightenment.

1. Why did our founding fathers create the US Constitution, thus replacing the Articles of Confederation?
2. What is the Constitution?
3. What are the basic principles of the Constitution?
4. How are citizens freedoms guaranteed under the constitution?

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, 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.

Article I

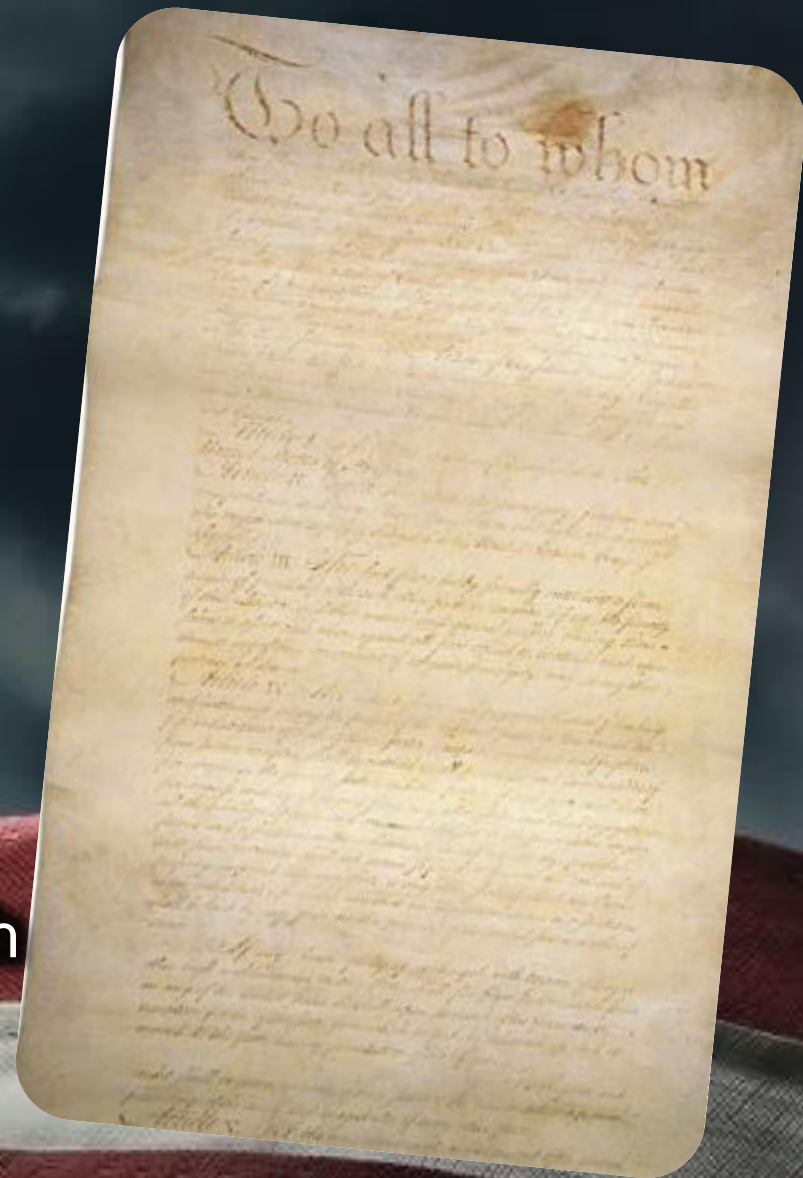
**WHY DID OUR FOUNDING FATHERS
CREATE THE US CONSTITUTION, THUS
REPLACING THE ARTICLES OF
CONFEDERATION?**



- **The Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation (1777), and were ratified by the states in 1781.**
 - **At this point in history America was still fighting for its independence.**

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

- In 1781 the Articles of Confederation became law of the land
 - The Articles created a loose confederation (union) of independent states and a weak central government, leaving most of the power with the state governments
 - It was a start but was too weak to be effective
 - Will eventually be replaced in 1788 by the Constitution



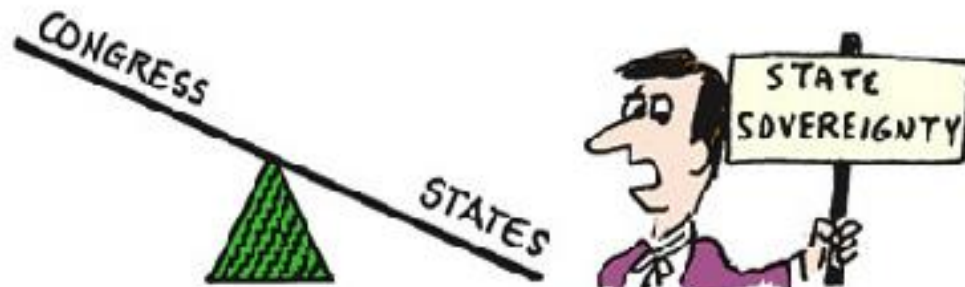
SHIFTING THE BALANCE OF POWER

MONARCHY 1607-1776
BRITISH CONSTITUTION (UNWRITTEN)



CONFEDERATION 1781-1788
ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

Why would giving the states more over the federal (national) government be problematic?



ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

WEAKNESS

RESULTING PROBLEM

Congress had no power to tax

Weak currency & increased debt lead to inability to pay army—threats of mutiny

Congress had no power to enforce treaties

Foreign countries angry when treaties are not honored

Every state, despite size has one vote

Populous states not equally represented

Congress has no power to regulate commerce

Trade hindered by states, high tariffs (taxes) on each other

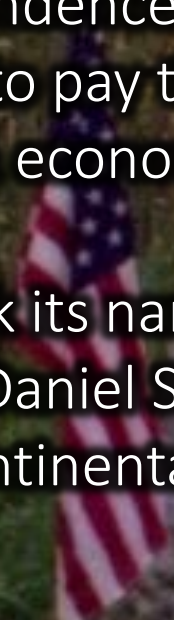
Amendments requires unanimous vote of states

Difficult to adapt articles to changing needs

SHAYS REBELLION

- Shays' Rebellion is the name given to a series of protests in 1786 and 1787 by American farmers against state and local enforcement of tax collections and judgments for debt.
- Many of these men who had fought for America's independence were jailed for being unable to pay their taxes due to bad harvests & economic difficulties
- The rebellion took its name from its symbolic leader, Daniel Shays a former captain in the Continental army.

LAST BATTLE
OF
SHAYS
REBELLION
HERE
27.
1787.



AMERICA IS WEAK

***AT THIS POINT,
THE US WAS A
WEAK COUNTRY
AND WAS GETTING
POORER.***



CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

How did the Articles of Confederation shift Power from who was running the government before?

- Before the King had all the power and with the AOC the states have most of the power

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

How strong was the central government under the Articles of Confederation?

- **Weak** central government
 - Couldn't enforce laws, tax, regulate trade state to state

A strong national government is
need to save the country from
financial & political ruin.



CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



And so...

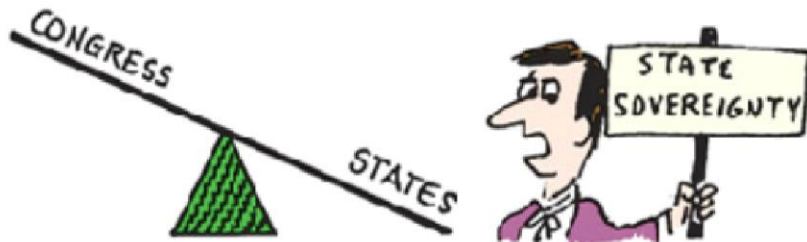
- 12 states sent 55 delegates to meet in Philadelphia
 - Independence Hall the same place 11 years earlier the Dec. of Indp. Was adopted
- They disregarded Congress' mandate to revise the Articles of Confederation based on state sovereignty
 - instead 4 months later with a completely new governing document →
THE CONSTITUTION

MONARCHY 1607-1776
BRITISH CONSTITUTION (UNWRITTEN)



The new
Constitution
was based on
national
sovereignty
Federal
republic

CONFEDERATION 1781-1788
ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION



REPUBLIC 1788
U.S. CONSTITUTION



WHAT IS THE CONSTITUTION?

- The supreme law of the United States.
- It is the foundation and source of the legal authority underlying the existence of the United States of America and the Federal Government of the United States.
- It provides the framework for the organization of the United States



*Instruction manual
to run our country*

WHO WROTE IT?

How can we create a strong national government without taking rights away from the people?

- James Madison was the main author of the constitution
- Spend a year prior studying democratic philosophies
 - Read more than 200 books
 - During the 4 month convention he took notes on every word spoken



CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

What is the Constitution?

- Blueprint on how to run our country

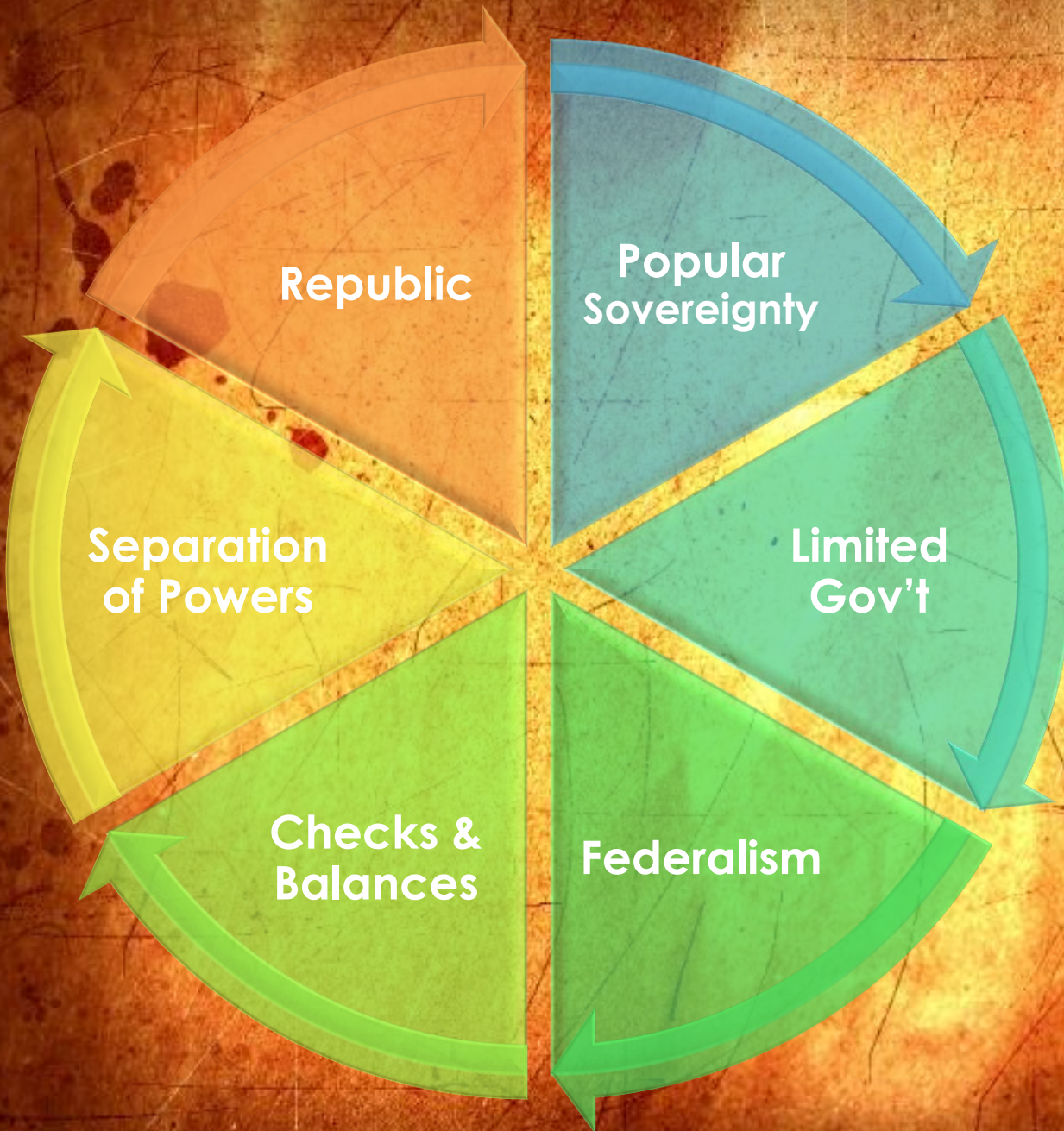
CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

Who was the main author of the Constitution?

- James Madison



WHAT WERE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES ADDED TO THE CONSTITUTION?



Republic

Popular
Sovereignty

Limited
Gov't

Federalism

Checks &
Balances

Separation
of Powers

***BASIC
PRINCIPLES IN
THE
CONSTITUTION***

REPUBLICANISM

- When American leaders created the USA, they made the deliberate choice to replace royal rule with a republic.
- **Republic-** AKA **Representative Democracy:** Power rests with the citizens who elect leaders. These leaders will then make government decisions on their behalf.



FEDERALISM

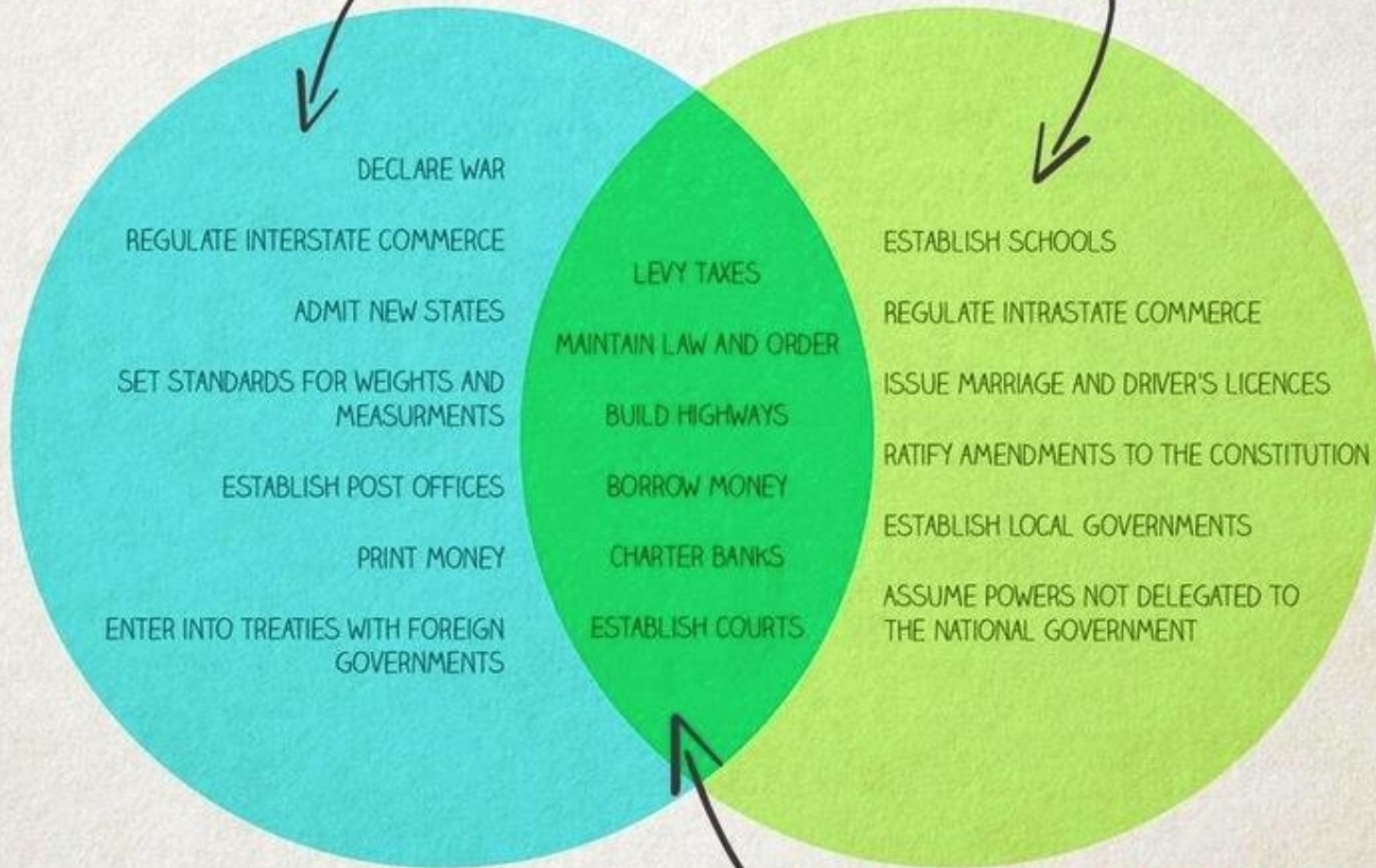
- To strengthen the central government but still preserve the rights of the states, the constitution created a system known as **federalism**- power divided between federal (national) government and state government.



-FEDERALISM-

NATIONAL

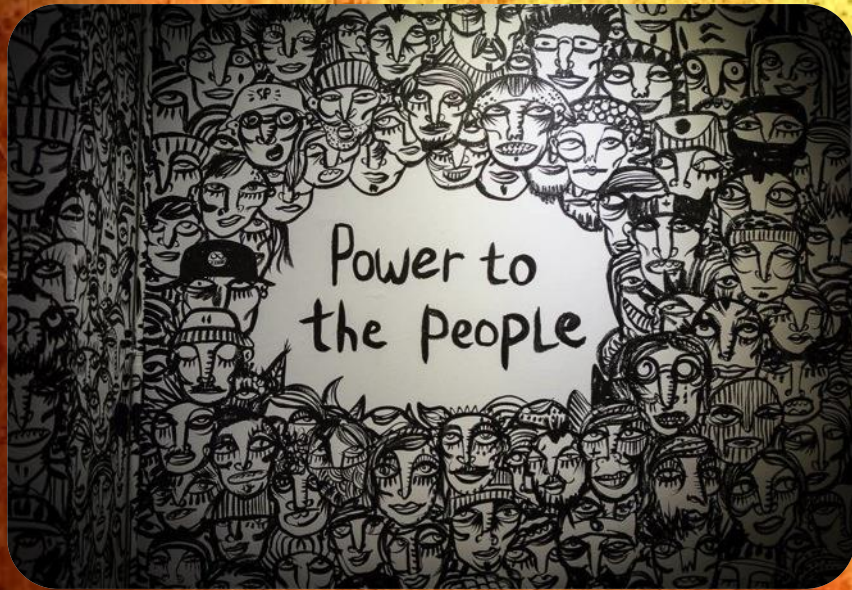
STATE



SHARED POWERS

POWER WITH THE PEOPLE

Popular Sovereignty –
Government power resides
from the consent of the
people



Limited government –
Government is not all
powerful, can only do what
the people let it.



SEPARATION OF POWERS

LEGISLATIVE

Article I

CONGRESS

MAKES LAWS
(meets in the Capitol)



Senate

Two senators from each state, regardless of population, are elected for 6-year terms.



House of Representative

House members are elected from states in proportion to population for 2-year terms.

EXECUTIVE

Article II

PRESIDENT

EXECUTES LAWS
(lives and works at the White House)



Each state elects presidential electors, based on the number of its congressmen. The electors then elect the president.

JUDICIAL

Article III

SUPREME COURT

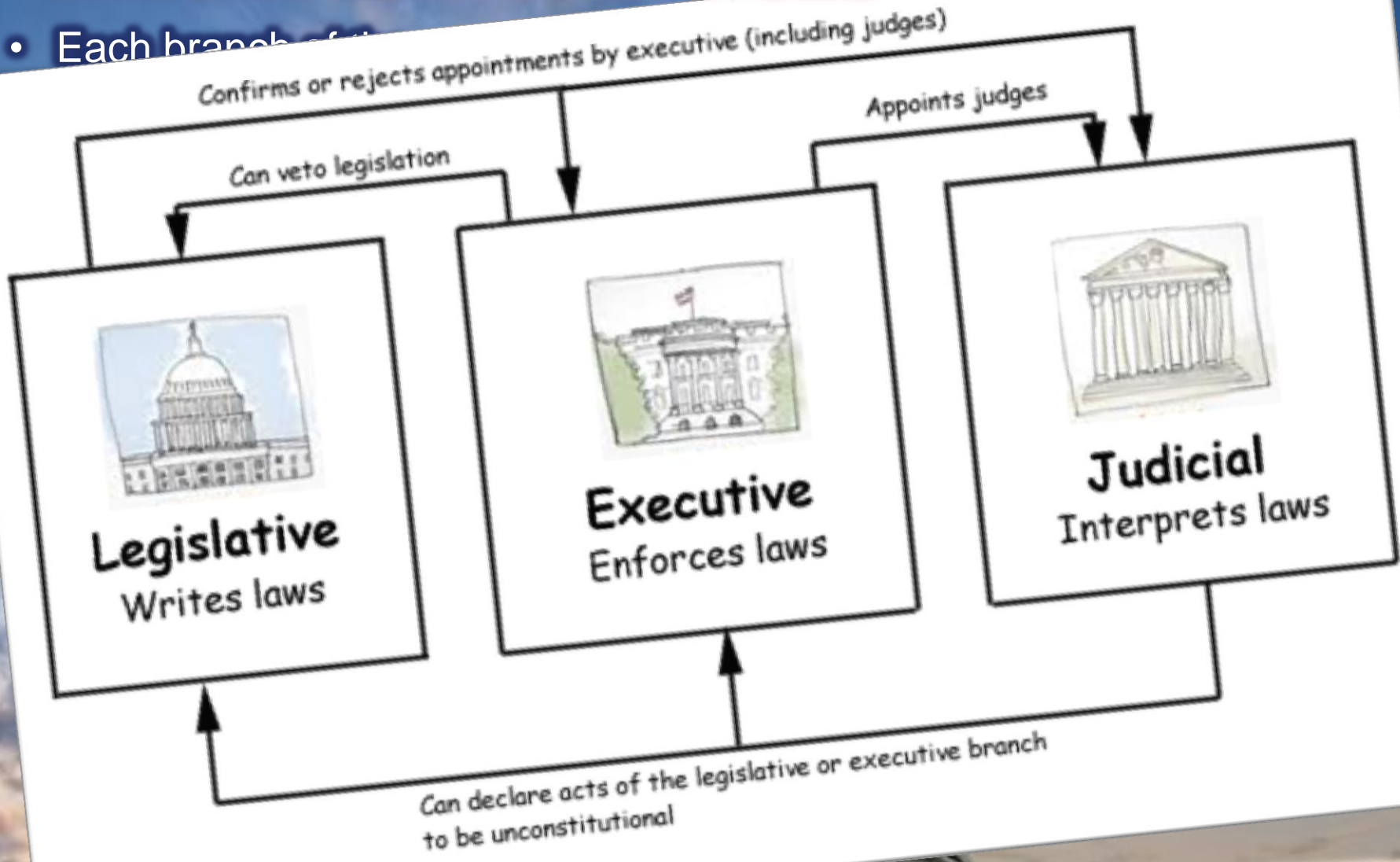
INTERPRETS LAWS,
THE CONSTITUTION, AND TREATIES OF
THE U.S. IN DECIDING CERTAIN CASES.
(meets in the Supreme Court Building)



The president appoints judges, with advice and consent of the Senate. The term of office for the nine justices (originally there were only six) is for life—during good behavior.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

- Each branch of the government has powers that check and balance the other branches.



CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

What type of democracy is the United States?

- Representative Democracy
- AKA Republic

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

What is Federalism?

- Power is divided between state and federal authority

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

What is it called when the government's power comes from the consent of its people?

- Popular Sovereignty

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

What principle is founded on the idea that a country's constitution requires the branches of government to remain independent of each other?

- separation of powers

***WHAT WERE
SOME
IMPORTANT
OUTCOMES?***



ISSUE: REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS

- When creating the constitution many items all states agreed on, but the delegates were split on whether each state should have an equal vote in congress.
- **New Jersey Plan**- Small states favored such a plan
- **Virginia Plan**- Big states insisted on representation reflective of population



VIRGINIA
PLAN! Based
on population

NEW JERSEY
PLAN! Equal
Representation

GREAT COMPROMISE

- Congress would be split in 2 houses
 - House of Reps- the # of a states representative would depend on population
 - Senate- each state would have equal representation
- Voters choose who to elect for House of Representative
- State Legislatures choose senators

CONGRESS



New Jersey Plan

Equal Representation for
all states

Virginia Plan

Representation based on
population



***GREAT
COMPROMISE***

US Congress- Split into 2 houses

1-based on population

1-based on equal representation

MORE OUTCOMES...

- Should there be a religious requirement to hold public office? ***NO***
- Who should declare war? ***CONGRESS***
- Should there be a standing army? ***YES***
- Do slaves count toward state population?
3/5 COMPROMISE
- Who should elect legislators? ***HR PEOPLE ELECT; SENATE WOULD THEN BE APPOINTED BY STATE LEGISLATORS (IN 1913 THEY WILL BE ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE)***
- Who would elect the president? ***PEOPLE THROUGH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE SYSTEM***

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

What was the result of the Great Compromise?

- **2 House Congress**
 - **SENATE-** equal representation per state
 - **HOUSE OF REPS-** based of population

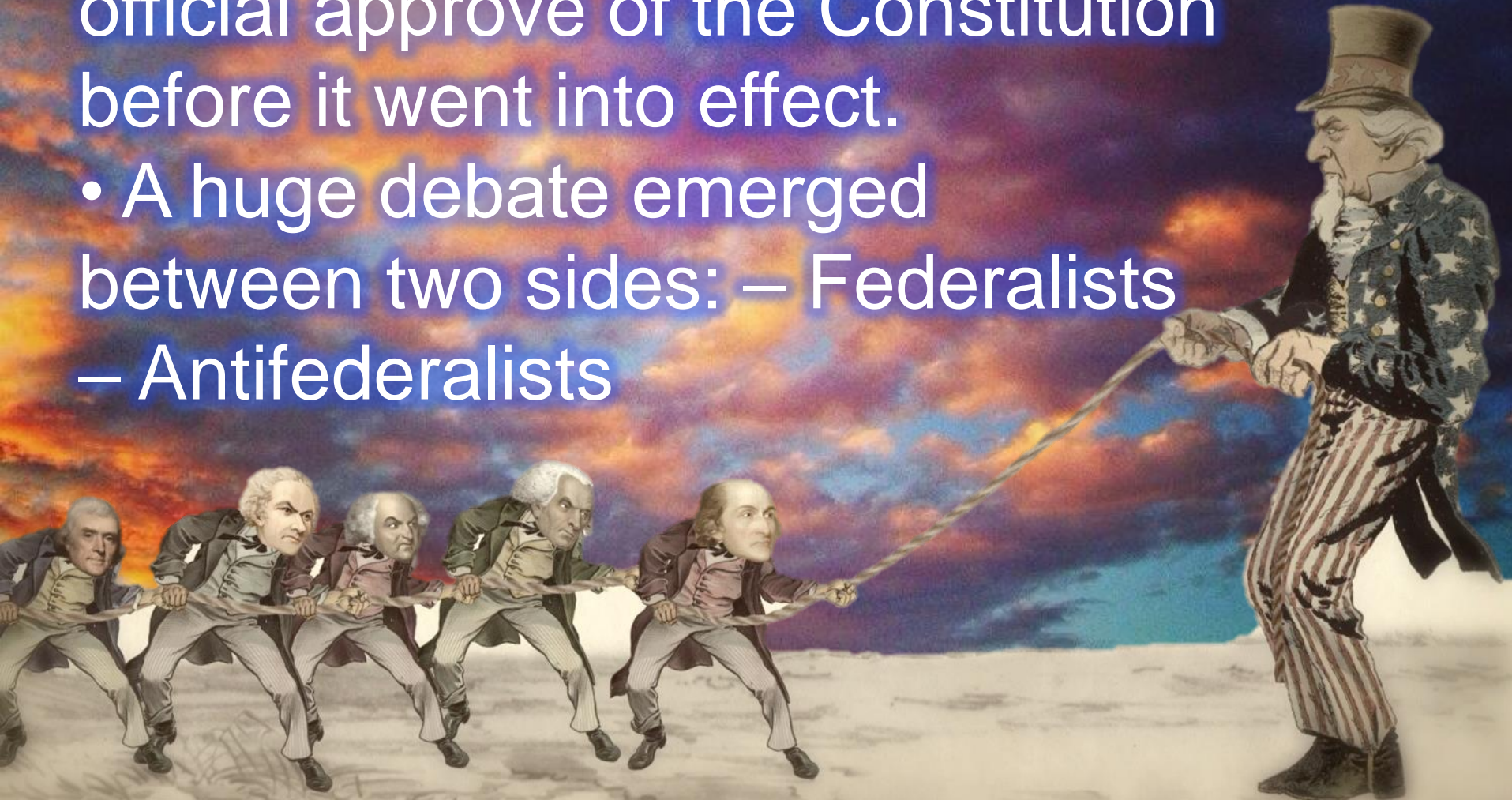
CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

What branch has the power to declare war?

- Legislative

RATIFICATION DEBATE

- Needed 9 of 13 states to ratify or official approve of the Constitution before it went into effect.
- A huge debate emerged between two sides: – Federalists – Antifederalists



FEDERALISTS

People who supported the Constitution

Supported removing some powers from the states to give more power to national gov't

Favored dividing power among different branches

Proposed a single person lead the executive branch

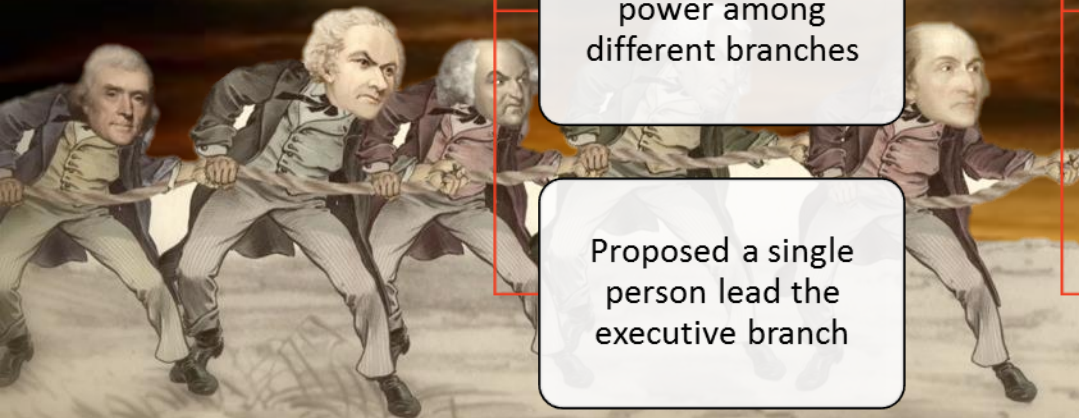
ANTIFEDERALISTS

Constitution opponents

Wanted important political powers to remain with the states

Wanted the legislative branch to have more power than executive

Believed a bill of rights needed to be added

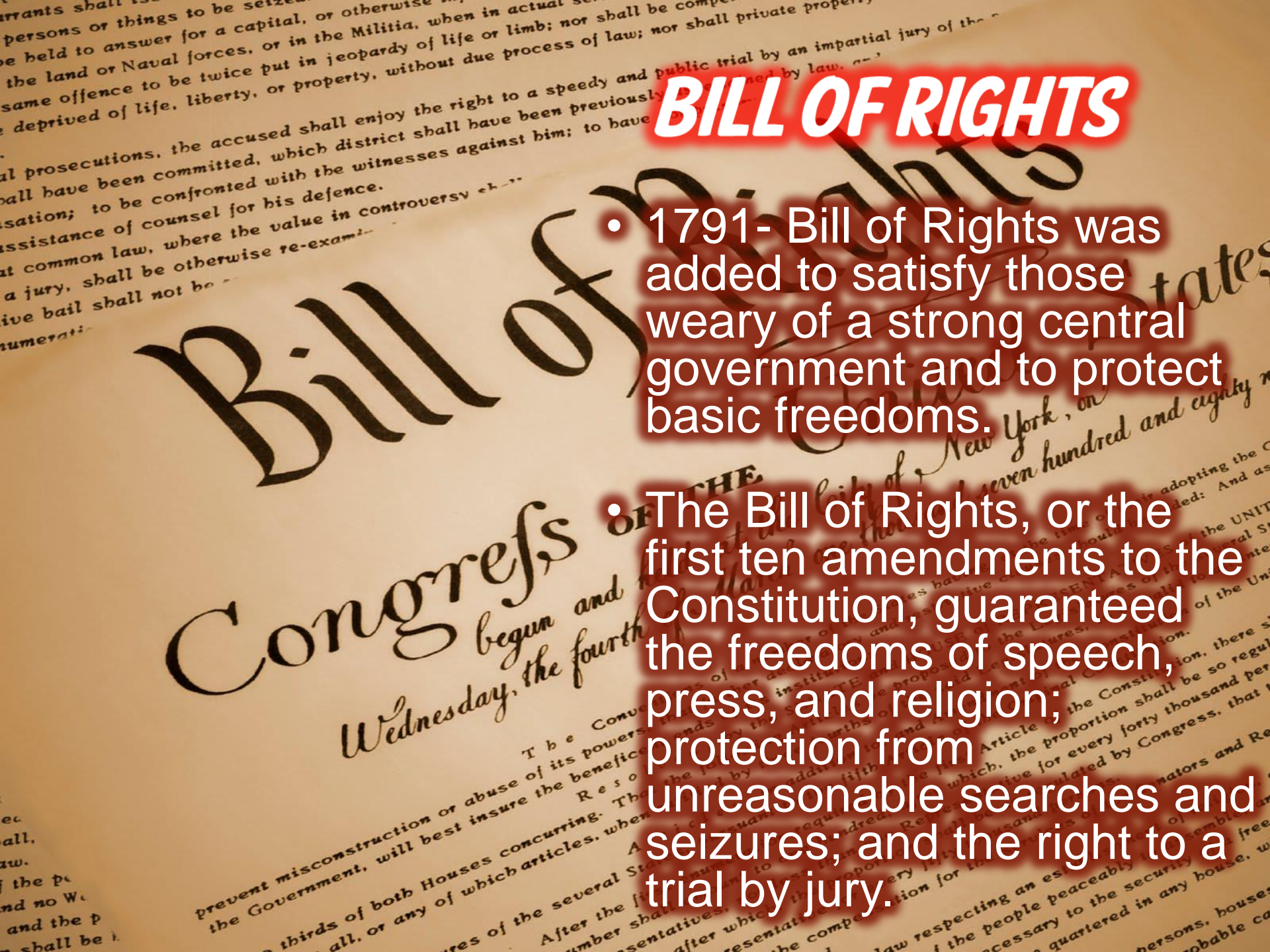


BILL OF RIGHTS

- 1791- Bill of Rights was added to satisfy those weary of a strong central government and to protect basic freedoms.
- The Bill of Rights, or the first ten amendments to the Constitution, guaranteed the freedoms of speech, press, and religion; protection from unreasonable searches and seizures; and the right to a trial by jury.

Bill of Rights

Congress
began and
Wednesday, the fourth



CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

What was added to the Constitution that resulted in its ratification?

- The addition of the bill of rights

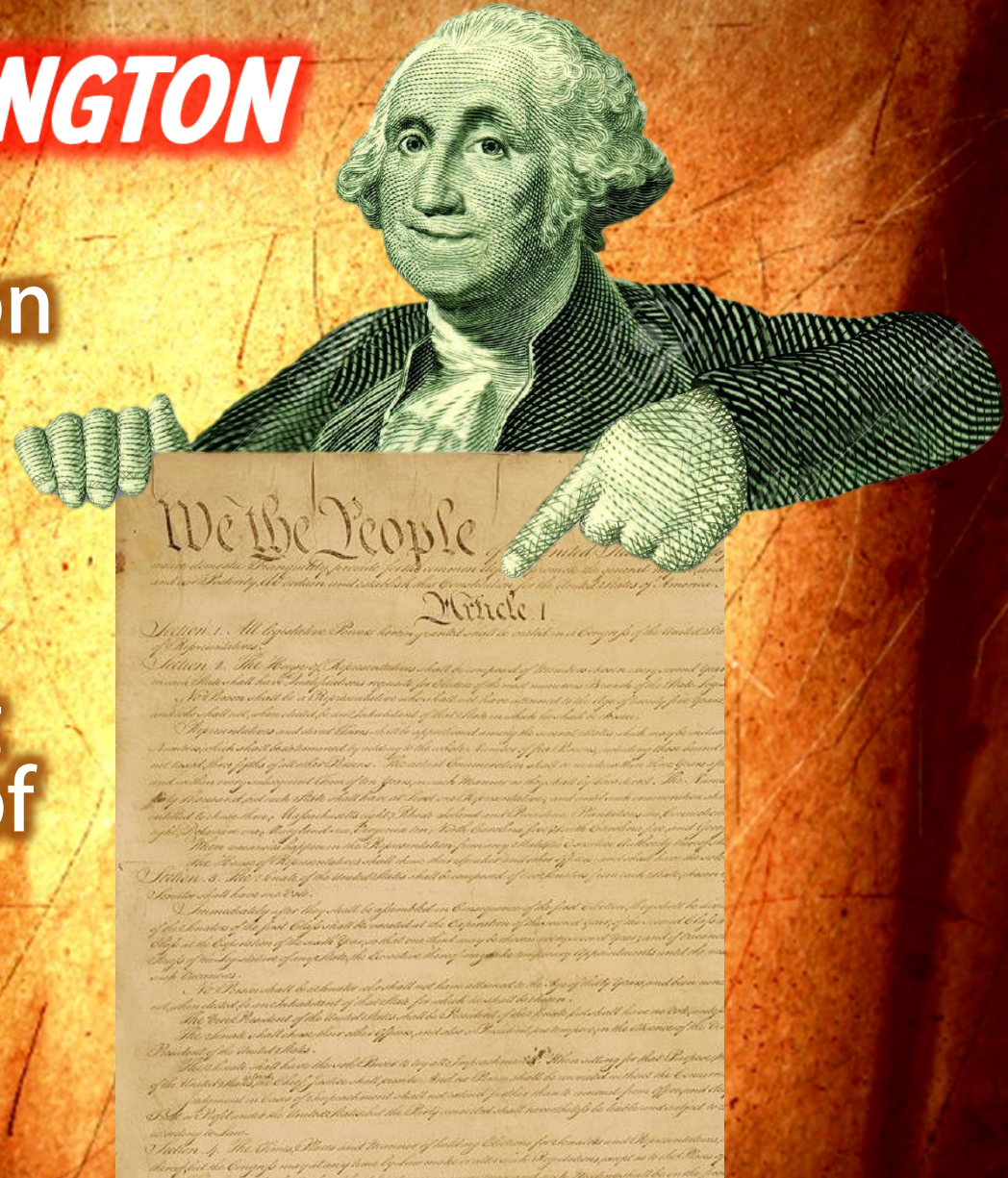
Checking For Understanding

What does the Bill of Rights do?

- Protect personal freedoms

GEORGE WASHINGTON

- George Washington was chosen as the first president under the new Constitution.
- The only president to ever get 100% of the electoral vote (and he did it twice!)



We the People

Article I

- Preamble: – Statement of purpose
- Articles: – I: Legislative Branch
 - II: Executive Branch
 - III: Judicial Branch
 - IV: Relations Among the States
 - V: Amendment Process
 - VI: Federal Power
 - VII: Ratification
- Amendments: – 27 Total – 1st ten are the Bill of Rights



***DOES THE CONSTITUTION SUPPORT THE IDEALS AS NOTED IN THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?***

***EXCERPT FROM THE DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE***

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness . . . to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed . . . it is the Right of the People . . . to institute new Government

PREAMBLE TO THE U.S. 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



**WRITE OUT THE
PREAMBLE OF THE
CONSTITUTION
CORRECTLY USING
THESE LICENSE
PLATES AS CLUES.**

A glowing yellow lightbulb is the central focus, surrounded by numerous unlit lightbulbs of various sizes and orientations. The background is dark, making the glowing bulb stand out prominently.

***WHY WAS ALL OF THIS
IMPORTANT??***

***THE STRENGTH OF THE U.S. TODAY IS BECAUSE
OF THE DECISIONS THE FOUNDING FATHERS
MADE ABOUT HOW TO ORGANIZE THE
GOVERNMENT.***