

Reflect

Answer the Qs in the margin.

Given their recent history, why did the states fear a powerful government?

What were some problems that a government with only limited authority encountered?

Guiding Thought: What ideas and debates led to the Constitution and Bill of Rights?

Ch. 3: The Constitution

Dissatisfied with British rule, the American colonists rebelled and created the United States of America with a new system of government.

The enduring document they created—the Constitution—has guided the nation for over 200 years.

After declaring independence in, each state wrote its own constitution.

- They created governments with representatives by the people.
- Most contained a **bill of** listing freedoms guaranteed to citizens.

The Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation was the new nation's constitution.

Fearing theof power, the states gave the new federal government only **limited** authority.

Congress could declare and conduct and could regulate trade with foreign countries and Indian nations.

Under the Articles, Congress had authority over the Territory. It passed two laws to organize and govern this land.

Problems emerged under the Articles of Confederation.

- States taxed goods from other, which hurt interstate commerce.
- The nation could not pay its debt.
- With no national army, the states could notthe nation's borders or gain respect abroad.
- In Massachusetts, farmers faced losing their when they couldn't pay their debts.
 - In 1786, Danielled a mob of angry farmers on a federal arsenal.
 - Known as **Shays' Rebellion**, the incident highlighted the of the federal government under the Articles.

The Constitutional Convention

In May 1787, state delegates met in Philadelphia tothe Articles of Confederation.

- Delegates restructured the national government in what became known as the Constitutional

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Compare and contrast the Virginia and New Jersey Plans.

Describe the Great Compromise in your own words.

How was the power of government blocked from becoming tyrannical?

-states favored the **New Jersey Plan**.
 - There would be a one-house Congress.
 - States would be represented as, no matter their size.
 - The U.S. would remain a confederation of sovereign states with powers granted to the national government.
- **Large states favored James Madison’s Plan**.
 - Congress would be a bicameral legislature.
 - In both houses, states with populations would have more members.
 - A President would command the armed forces.

The Great Compromise

The Great Compromise proposed by Roger Sherman included:

- a House of Representatives based on the Virginia Plan.
 - More populous states would havemembers.
 - a Senate based on the New Jersey Plan. Each state would have senators.
- the Three-Fifths Compromise counted each slave as of a person for a state’s representation in the House. Enslaved people could not vote.

Before the Constitution could go into effect, it had to be ratified by 9 of the 13 states.

- Those in were called **Federalists**.
- Opponents were called **Antifederalists**.
- With New Hampshire’s ratification in 1788, the Constitution was the new of the land.

Under **federalism**, power was divided between the states and the federal government.

- The Constitution promoted a **of powers** into distinct executive, legislative, and judicial branches.
- Each branch has **checks and** on the others.
 - This prevented the concentration of power in any one branch of the federal government.

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SUMMARY- Summarize your notes: You need a minimum of 4 complete sentences.
