

## Chapter 5: From Confederation to Federal Union

### Section 1: The Articles of Confederation

#### Republican Ideals and the State Constitutions

- **Republicanism:** leaders receive power from people to make laws for them
- Strict term limits for most politicians
- Each state passed **constitutions** to restrict powers of gov't
- Separation of church & state

## Republicanism and Women

- Women not granted full citizenship
- Women are not allowed to vote
- **Republican Motherhood:** idea that women could influence democratic values at home
  - Teach citizenship at home
  - What is a good citizen?

## A Plan for Confederation

- Fear of a strong gov't
- Fear of President
- 1777: **Articles of Confederation**: document that created a loose association of states
  - Weak national gov't
  - State gov'ts could overrule national gov't
- **Northwest Ordinance**: outlined steps for how new territories would become states
  - Slavery banned in new territories

### Weaknesses in the Confederation

- No President--didn't want a King
- No national court system--only states had courts
- Very weak national military
- Little power to make taxes
  - Gov't couldn't do much to help economy
- No national identity--we weren't "America"

## Shays's Rebellion

- December 26, 1786
- Massachusetts
- Daniel Shays--farmer & former soldier in Revolution
- Taxes on farmers to pay war debts--you lost your farm if you didn't pay tax
- Led 1200 farmers in attacks on banks
- State militia struggled to stop rebellion
- Failed rebellion--Shays lost
- Made everyone realize how weak our gov't was



## Section 2: Drafting and Ratifying the Constitution

### The Call to Philadelphia

- After Shays's Rebellion there was desire for national unity
- Continental Congress called **Constitutional Convention**
  - May 1787
  - Independence Hall in Philadelphia
  - Create a better gov't
  - Met in secrecy to keep problems quiet
  - 55 delegates from all 13 states
  - George Washington, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin

## Federal Power Versus States' Rights

- Problem was how much power national gov't should have over state gov'ts
- Two major plans
  - **Virginia Plan (big states)**
    - Create a President w/ real powers
    - **Bicameral** congress w/ representation based on population of state
    - **Federalism**: idea that states & national gov't can share power
  - **New Jersey Plan (small states)**
    - Wanted 3 Presidents to share power
    - **Unicameral** congress w/ equal votes
    - Scared of federalism b/c thought gov't would

## Compromise at the Convention

### ■ **Connecticut Plan or Great Compromise**

- Took ideas from both NJ & VA Plans
- Created **checks & balances** to limit powers of gov't
- One President
- **Bicameral** Congress
  - Senate: 2 votes per state
  - House of Representatives: votes based on population
- **Three-Fifths Compromise**: each slave counts as 3/5 of person
- Banned importing slaves after 1808

- Constitution finished Sept. 1787
- 39 delegates signed it
- States had to vote for it

## The Federalists & Antifederalists

- 9 of 13 states had to vote for it
- All people broke into 2 groups
- **Federalist:** supporter of Constitution--wanted stronger gov't
  - **Federalist Papers:** series of 85 essays published in newspapers
    - John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison
- **Antifederalist:** opposed Constitution--fearful of what strong gov't would do to us
  - Believed Constitution didn't protect our rights

## The Ratification Struggle

- Debate over Bill of Rights
- Antifederalists refused to vote for Constitution w/o promise of Bill of Rights
- New York & Virginia threatened to vote no
- Federalist Papers convinced most to support it
- All 13 states ratified it by 1790

## Section 3: The Constitution: A Living Document

### Federalism

- The new Constitution created a strong national gov't
- Worry about states losing power
- **Federalism:** idea that the state & national gov'ts share power
- **Delegated powers:** powers listed & given to national gov't
  - Declare war, coin money, run the army
- **Reserved powers:** powers granted to state gov'ts
  - Define marriage, run schools
- **Concurrent powers:** powers both gov'ts have
  - Collect taxes, borrow money, create courts
- **Supremacy Clause:** any law the National gov't makes overrides all state laws

## Separation of Powers

- Worry a President could become "king of America"
- **Separation of Powers**: certain powers only given to certain branches
- **Checks & balances**: idea that each branch is given powers that can restrict power of other branches
- **EXAMPLES**:
  - POTUS can **veto** laws
  - Congress can **impeach** President
  - POTUS picks judges but Senate approves
  - SCOTUS can rule laws & actions of POTUS as **unconstitutional**

3 branches

1. Judicial - courts
2. Legislative - Congress
3. Executive - President

## Flexibility and Change

- **Living Document:** Constitution can change over time depending on needs of time
- **Amendment:** any change to the Constitution
  - **Bill of Rights:** first 10 Amendments--our basic rights as Americans
  - 27 total Amendments in 230 years
- **Elastic Clause:** Congress can stretch power when "necessary & proper"
  - Allows Congress to add powers that are commonsense