

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY


- 13 colonies had a tradition of **governing** themselves.....
- Elected their own representative law making bodies.
- Passed laws to keep peace within their communities.
- Colonies had a tradition of **representative democracy**.
- That's why they fought the Revolution.

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

- Our first **constitution** (*law of the land*) and attempt to create a **democratic government** based on the ideas of Declaration of Independence.
- Written by **2nd Continental Congress** during War and took effect in March 1781... Becomes the **Confederation Congress**
- Founding Fathers were determined not to have a king... **TYRANNY!**

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION
Confederation Government

- ✓ government of loosely organized states
- ✓ Each state independent & conducted own affairs
- ✓ Created weak national government that had little powers to solve US problems
- ✓ States' power > power of national government
 - ✓ Agreed to unite in times of crisis
 - ✓ "Treaty of Cooperation between the states"


Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation	Major Problem
◆ One vote for each State, regardless of size.	Could not tax, regulate trade or enforce its laws because the states held more power than the National Government.  <u>Why?</u> Feared a government like King George
◆ Congress powerless to lay and collect taxes or duties.	
◆ Congress powerless to regulate foreign and interstate commerce.	
◆ No executive to enforce acts of Congress.	
◆ No national court system.	
◆ Amendment only with consent of all States.	
◆ A 9/13 majority required to pass laws.	
◆ Articles only a "firm league of friendship."	

SHAYS' REBELLION

- ✓ In early 1787 a group of small farmers protested against the Massachusetts government.
- ✓ Why? They were in debt, their homes being repossessed and unfair taxation.
- ✓ They were led by Daniel Shays, a former army captain in the Revolutionary War.
- ✓ The purpose of the rebellion was to prevent foreclosures by keeping the courts from sitting until the next election.
- ✓ Shays' Rebellion was put down by private army paid for by wealthy merchants from Boston.
- ✓ The Articles of Confederation was unable to put down the rebellion with a national guard or army.

The Elites Response to Shays' Rebellion:

"Respectable" Americans were shocked by the violence. Feared "mobocracy"



Let us have { a Constitution } by which our lives, liberties and properties will be secured....

VA versus NJ Plans

VA	NJ
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bicameral:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Upper elected by lower- Lower elected by people on pop basis• Slaves counted as pop for representation• President elected by Congress or state legs• Nat' l gov' t veto power over state laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unicameral<ul style="list-style-type: none">- each state with one vote• Slaves NOT counted as pop for representation in House• President elected by popular vote

Great Compromise

1. Bicameral
 - Senate = 2 representatives/ state
 - House = popular election on population basis
2. "Three-Fifths Compromise" = Slaves counted as 3/5 population
3. Electoral College composed of elected reps (electors)/ state

Constitutional Debate

Federalists

- *Federalist Papers*
- "Publius": Madison, Hamilton, Jay
- Leaders = citizens of learning & wealth (Fed 10)
- People had failed test of public virtue
- Urban, commercial interests
- > Allowed self interest to trump national welfare
- E.g., MD land speculators, MA rebel followers of Shay

Anti-Federalists

- Were actually proponents of "federalism"
- maintain confederation
- power closer to people w/ authority in state legs
- "Centinel," "Cato," "Brutus," Patrick Henry, Richard H Lee, Sam Adams
- More agrarian, rural interests
- Constitution= support of "permanent aristocracy"
- "Conspiracy against liberty concerted by a few tyrants"
