

LIFE IN A NEW NATION

President of the United States
That should have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on the Oath of Office, the Chief Justice shall preside. And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Don't call me a colony anymore!



The thirteen colonies are no longer ruled by the British King George III. The colonies won the Revolutionary War and are now FREE to rule themselves. **The colonies**

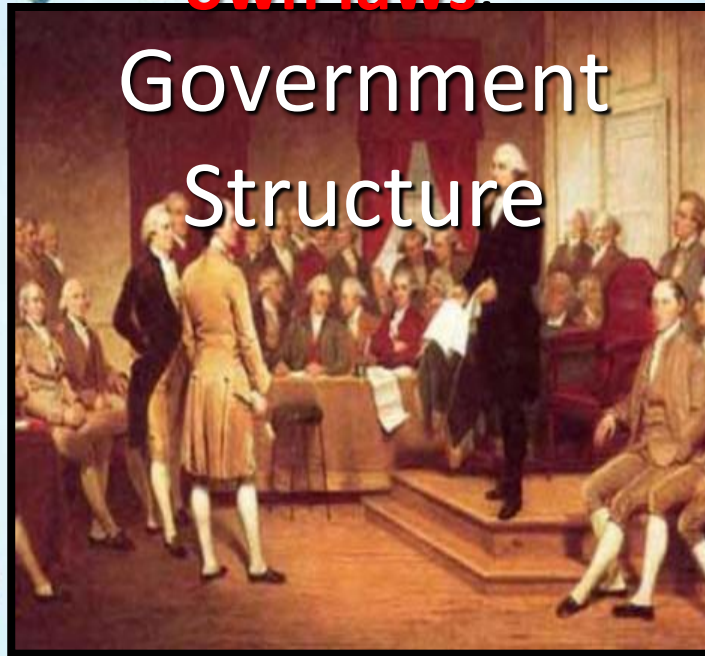


are now called states!

- The thirteen former colonies had very little experience working together (*do you see how this might be a problem?*)
- In the past, Britain had made all the major decisions. Now, the **Americans** had the task of establishing thirteen state governments and a federal government!

The Founding Fathers created a ***federal*** system that created a ***national*** government, but **allowed the 13 states to keep power and make their own laws.**

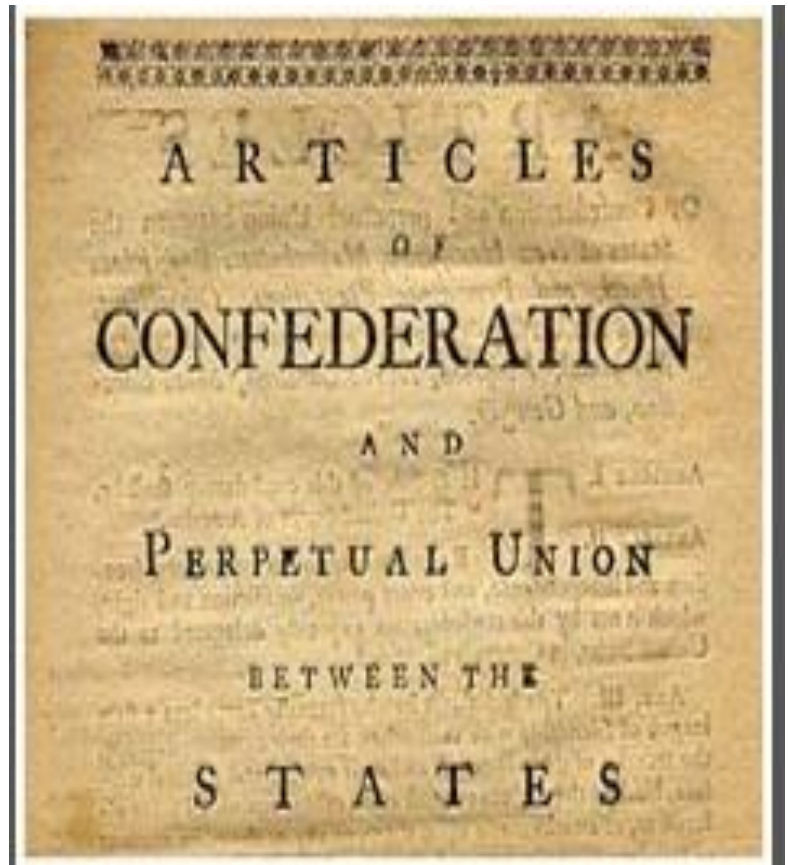
Government Structure



Many of the ideas of the Enlightenment served as ***inspiration*** for the new national government of the United States.

The Articles of Confederation

- Because there was no official United States government – like we have today – the Continental Congress realized they had to create “*something*” to govern the new nation.
- They couldn’t be called the Continental Congress anymore.
- Their **new government name would be the Congress**; and, they created new laws called the Articles of Confederation.



Quick Review

House of Burgesses – Colonial times; under
England



Continental Congress – when they broke from
England



Congress – after the American Revolution

**At this time, Congress does not have three (3)
separate houses – there is only one house.**



- The **Articles of Confederation** was the United States Founding Fathers' first attempt at creating a Constitution.
- It created a **confederation** (alliance) of independent states, and acted as the first real government between the states!

Powers of the Congress

- The **laws of the new Congress were called the Articles of Confederation.**
- **All states were considered equal, and each state had one single vote.**
- Nine states had to agree on something before it could become a law for the country.
- The new Congress had very limited power – because all states had equal say and equal power. There was no central power yet, and no country leader.



ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

The Articles of Confederation were America's first Constitution. It provided for a weak central government and gave states too much power. In 1787, the Articles of Confederations were replaced during the Constitutional Convention.

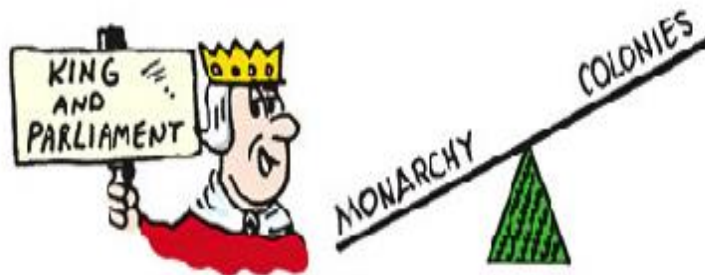
BY JOHN MURRAY HAMILTON JEFFERSON

REPRODUCED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATION

SHIFTING THE BALANCE OF POWER

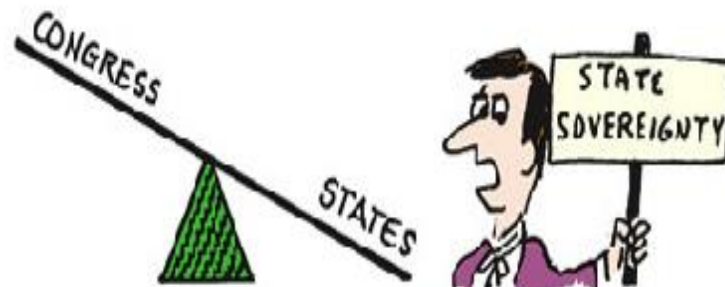
MONARCHY 1607-1776

BRITISH CONSTITUTION (UNWRITTEN)



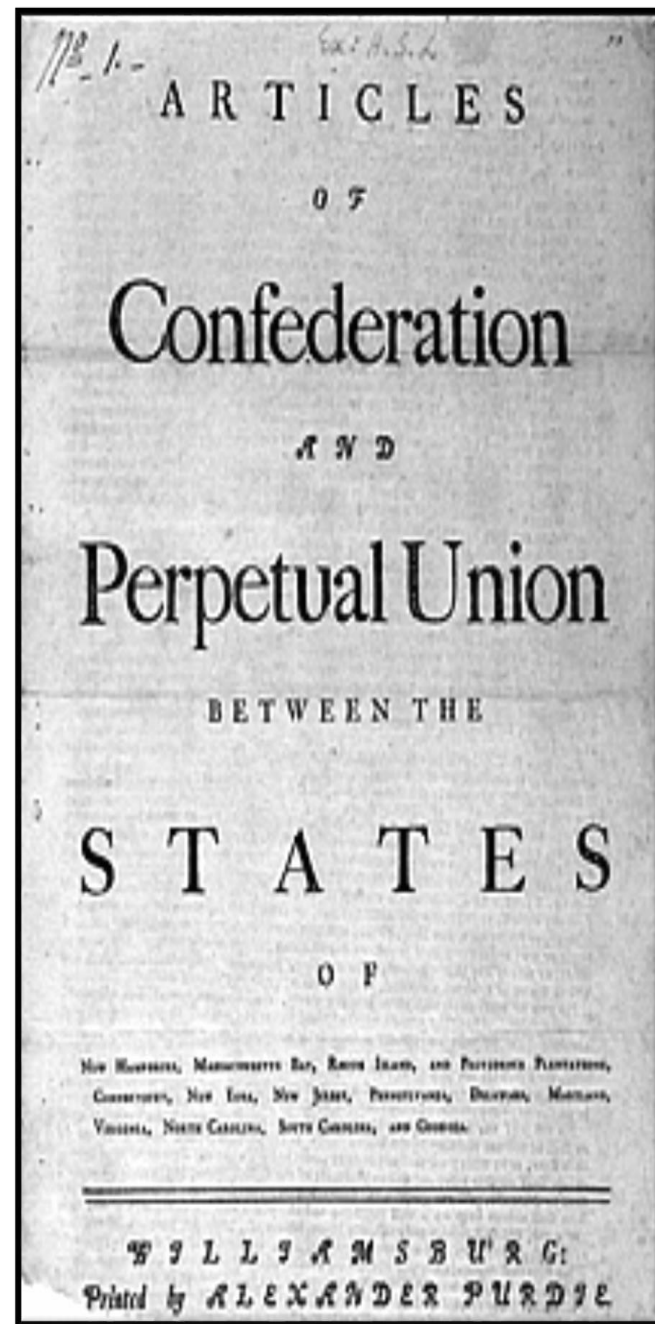
CONFEDERATION 1781-1788

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION



Turn & Talk:

Why do you think the states wanted a WEAK central government?



Limit the power of the United States government!



The states didn't big
government because they were
fearful of a king ruling over
them again!

[https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/
ushistory/articlesofconfederation/](https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/us/history/articlesofconfederation/) (:00 –
4:41) **or use:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5toPLtJmMJw>