

The U.S. Constitution

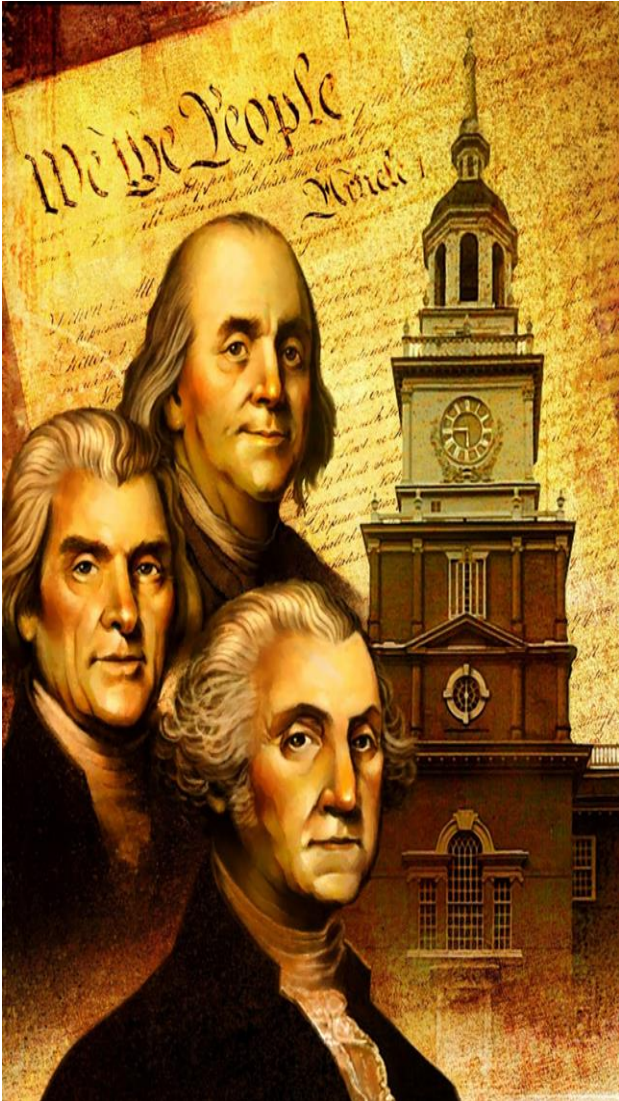
WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, to establish Justice, to insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

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.

Section 3. The Senate shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Electors in each State for six Years, and each Senator shall have the Qualifications requisite for Senators of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Creating a Formal Document



- It was agreed that the responsibilities of their new government needed to be written down.
 - James Madison wrote most of the Constitution.
 - He is called “The Father of the U.S. Constitution”
- However, in order for the new U.S. Constitution to become the LAW, **9 out of 13 states had to ratify the document.**
 - Ratify – pass as a law

The Preamble is the “introduction” of the U.S. Constitution.

The Preamble states the purpose of what the U.S. Constitution will do for the U.S.

Preamble

*W*e 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.

Organization of the New Government

Pream ble

- The Preamble, or introduction, to the Constitution began with the words **“We the People,”** emphasizing that the members of **the Constitutional Convention were acting as the representatives of the American people as a whole.**
- The Preamble gave six purposes for the new constitution and the government it created. These purposes were to:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_NzZvdsbWI
 - “form a more perfect union.”
 - “establish justice.”
 - “insure domestic tranquility (peace).”
 - “provide for the common defense.”
 - “promote the general welfare (well-being of citizens).”
 - “secure the blessing of liberty.”

Constitutio

Preamble. The Preamble states the purpose of the document.

Article I. Defines the powers and structures of the **legislative branch** (Congress).

Article II. Creates the **executive branch** of government (U.S. President).

Article III. Established the **judicial branch** of the gov't (Supreme Court).

Article IV. Outlines the obligations of the states to each other.

Article V. Changing the U.S. Constitution (**amend**).

Article VI. U.S. Constitution will become law of the land, once it's approved.

Article VII. Ratifying the Constitution – **9 out of 13 states must ratify**



Unscramble the Preamble



THE DEBATE OVER RATIFICATION

- Many were stressed that they wouldn't have enough states approve of the new U.S. Constitution.
 - They had to send a copy of the Constitution to each of the 13 states so each state could read and approve it
 - They only **needed 9 states to ratify the Constitution**
- Once the U.S. Constitution was read by the American public, two groups emerged.
 - Federalists
 - Anti-Federalists



What is the difference between a Federalist and an Anti-Federalist?

LET'S DO TWO SURVEYS

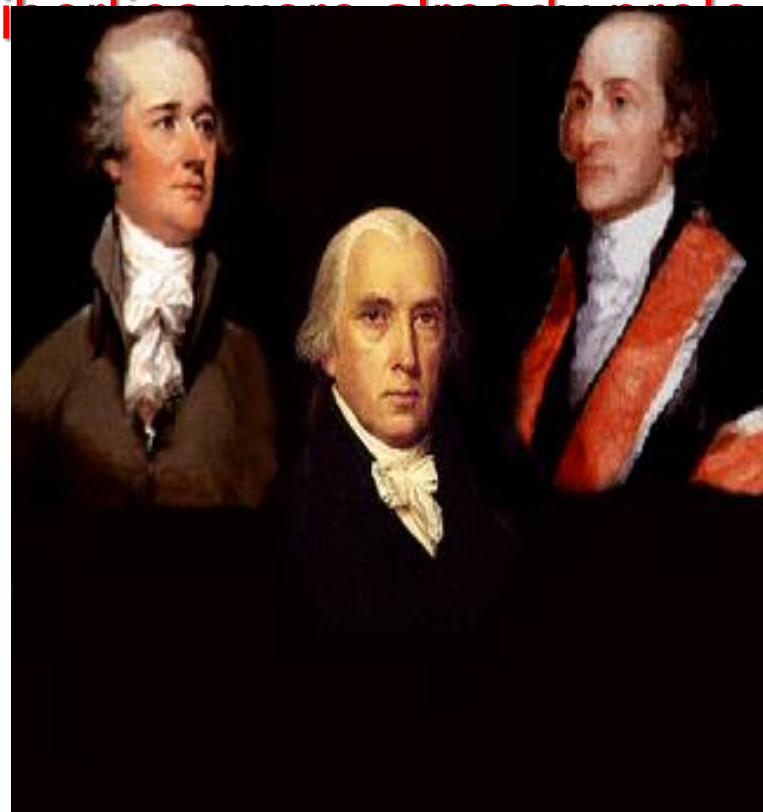
■ Federalists – were in support of the Constitution.

- Included George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, James Madison
- Favored a strong federal government

- Preferred a strong central government over individual liberties

Federalists:

- ▶ Favored ratification of the Constitution
- ▶ Favored a powerful federal government
- ▶ Argued a Bill of Rights was not needed, as federal power was limited
- ▶ “The Federalist Papers”



THE DEBATE OVER RATIFICATION

- **Anti-Federalists - opposed the new Constitution.**

- Included Patrick Henry and George Mason

- **Did not want a strong federal gov't, believed that the power should lie with the state governments.**

- Demanded a Bill of Rights be added to protect individual liberties.

I THINK THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD HAVE A BILL OF RIGHTS. I CAN WRITE ONE IN NO TIME. REMEMBER, I WROTE THE ONE FOR VIRGINIA.

