

## Shaping a New Nation

Americans adopt the Articles of Confederation. A new constitution is ratified after Federalists agree to include a Bill of Rights.

# Shaping a New Nation

**SECTION 1** Experimenting with Confederation

**SECTION 2** Drafting the Constitution

**SECTION 3** Ratifying the Constitution



## Section 1

# Experimenting with Confederation

Americans adopt the Articles of Confederation but find the new government too weak to solve the nation's problems.



## SECTION

# 1 Experimenting with Confederation

## Americans Debate Republicanism

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### Colonies Become States

- People consider self-governing colonies basic political unit
  - colonists give their allegiance to colony
  - idea persists when colonies become states

*Continued . . .*



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## SECTION

## 1

*continued* **Americans Debate Republicanism****Unity Through a Republic**

- Colonists believe democracy gives too much power to uneducated
- Prefer **republic**—citizens rule through elected representatives
- Views of **republicanism**, government based on consent of people:
  - John Dickinson: put nation's good above self
  - Adam Smith and followers: pursue own interests

*Continued . . .*

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## SECTION

## 1

*continued* **Americans Debate Republicanism****State Constitutions**

- Many states limit powers of government leaders
- Guarantee specific rights to citizens; stress liberty, not equality
- Only white males can vote; in some states must own property

**Political Precedents**

- Previous republican governments cannot be adapted to U.S. needs:
  - none balanced concerns of state and national governments
- Ancient Greece, Rome, Italian city-states did not last



## SECTION

## 1

## The Continental Congress Debates

### Representation by Population or by State?

- Size, population varies; represent people or states in Congress?
- Congress believes it represents states; every state gets one vote

### Supreme Power: Can It Be Divided?

- **Confederation** or alliance: national government, states share powers
- **Articles of Confederation**—laws assigning national, state powers
- National government handles war, treaties, weights, measures, mail
- No executive or court system established to enforce, interpret laws

*Continued . . .*



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## SECTION

## 1

*continued* The Continental Congress Debates**Western Lands: Who Gets Them?**

- By 1779, 12 states approve Articles of Confederation
- Maryland approves when western land claims given to U.S.
- Articles of Confederation go into effect March 1781

**Governing the Western Lands**

- **Land Ordinance of 1785** creates plan for surveying western lands
- **Northwest Ordinance of 1787**—plan for creating territories, statehood



## SECTION

## 1

## The Confederation Encounters Problems

### Political and Economic Problems

- Confederation lacks unity; states pursue own interests
- Congress amasses huge debt during Revolutionary War
- Rhode Island rejects tariff on imports; foreign debt cannot be paid

### Borrowers Versus Lenders

- Creditors favor high taxes so they will be paid back
- Taxes put farmers in debt; many lose land and livestock
- Debtors want large supply paper money; creditors want small supply

*Continued . . .*



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## SECTION

## 1

*continued* **The Confederation Encounters Problems****Foreign-Relations Problems**

- U.S. does not pay debts to British merchants or compensate Loyalists
- In retaliation, Britain refuses to evacuate forts on Great Lakes
- In 1784, Spain closes Mississippi River to American navigation
- Westerners unable to ship crops east through New Orleans
- Congress unable to resolve problems with foreign nations

## Section 2

# Drafting the Constitution

At the Philadelphia convention in 1787, delegates reject the Articles of Confederation and create a new constitution.

## SECTION

## 2 Drafting the Constitution

### Nationalists Strengthen the Government

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#### Shays' s Rebellion

- 1786–87 armed farmers demand closing of courts to avoid losing farms
- **Shays' s Rebellion**—state militia defeats farmers led by Daniel Shays
- Many leaders fear rebellion will spread through country
- George Washington calls for stronger national government

*Continued . . .*



## SECTION

## 2

*continued* Nationalists Strengthen the Government**Call for Convention**

- 5 states send delegates to meeting on interstate trade (1786)
- Shays' s Rebellion leads 12 states to join Constitutional Convention
- **James Madison** of Virginia known as “Father of the Constitution”

**Convention Highlights**

- In 1787, 55 delegates meet at Pennsylvania State House
- Windows kept shut to prevent eavesdropping on discussions
- Washington unanimously elected presiding officer

## SECTION

## 2

## Conflict Leads to Compromise

### Big States Versus Small States

- Delegates recognize need to strengthen central government
  - decide to form new government
- Madison's Virginia Plan: bicameral legislature based on population
- William Paterson's New Jersey Plan: single house, one vote per state
- **Roger Sherman**, delegate from Connecticut, proposes **Great Compromise**:
  - Senate has equal representation, elected by state legislatures
  - House of Representatives, based on population, elected by people

*Continued . . .*



NEXT

## SECTION

## 2

*continued* **Conflict Leads to Compromise****Slavery-Related Issues**

- South wants slaves in population count for House, not for taxes
- North wants slaves in population count for taxes, not for House
- **Three-Fifths Compromise** allows  $3/5$  of state's slaves to be counted
- Congress given power to regulate foreign trade
- Cannot interfere with slave trade for 20 years

## SECTION

## 2

## Creating a New Government

### Division of Powers

- **Federalism**—division of power between national and state governments
- National government has delegated or enumerated powers
- Nation handles foreign affairs, defense, interstate trade, money
- Powers kept by states are called reserved powers
- States handle education, marriage laws, trade within state
- Shared powers include right to tax, borrow money, establish courts

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## SECTION

## 2

*continued* **Creating a New Government****Separation of Powers**

- **Legislative branch** makes laws
- **Executive branch** carries out laws
- **Judicial branch** interprets laws
- **Checks and balances** prevent one branch from dominating the others
- **Electoral college**—electors chosen by states to vote for president

**Creating the Constitution**

- Constitution can be changed through amendment process



### Section 3

# Ratifying the Constitution

During the debate on the Constitution, the Federalists promise to add a bill of rights in order to get the Constitution ratified.

## SECTION

## 3 Ratifying the Constitution

### Federalists and Antifederalists

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#### Controversies over the Constitution

- **Ratification** (official approval) requires support of nine states
- Voters elect delegates to vote on ratification at state convention
- Process bypasses state legislatures, who are likely to oppose
- **Federalists** favor balance between state, national governments
- **Antifederalists** oppose strong central government:
  - may serve interests of privileged minority
  - unlikely to manage a large country well
  - Constitution does not protect individual rights

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NEXT

## SECTION

## 3

*continued* **Federalists and Antifederalists****The Opposing Forces**

- Urban centers Federalist; merchants, workers favor trade regulations
- Small or weak states want protection of strong government
- Rural areas Antifederalist; farmers fear additional taxes
- Large or strong states fear loss of freedom to strong government
- ***The Federalist***—essays that defend, explain, analyze Constitution
- Antifederalists read Letters from the Federal Farmer:
  - lists rights they want protected

## SECTION

## 3

## The Bill of Rights Leads to Ratification

### People Demand a Bill of Rights

- Antifederalists demand written guarantee of people's rights
- Federalists promise bill of rights if states ratify Constitution

### Ratification of the Constitution

- December 1787–June 1788, nine states ratify Constitution
- Federalists need support of large states Virginia and New York
- After opposition and debate, Virginia and New York ratify by 1788
- The new government becomes a reality in 1789

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## SECTION

## 3

**continued The Bill of Rights Leads to Ratification****Adoption of a Bill of Rights**

- 1791, **Bill of Rights**, or first ten amendments, ratified by states
- First Amendment—freedom of religion, speech, press, politics
- Second, Third—right to bear arms, no quartering of soldiers
- Fourth through Eighth—fair treatment for persons accused of crimes
- Ninth—people’s rights not limited to those mentioned in Constitution
- Tenth—people, states have all rights not specifically assigned



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