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Establishing a Constitutional Democracy

The First National Election

- Ratifying (approving)
- Federalists- those who wrote and campaigned for ratification of the Constitution.
- Anti-Federalists- opponents
- "The right of conscience, trial by jury, liberty of the press, all pretensions to human rights and privileges, are rendered insecure, if not lost." --Patrick Henry
- Pseudonyms of Federalists:
 - A Federal Farmer
 - A Son of Liberty
 - A Citizen
 - A Countryman
- "The peace of the states would be hazarded to the double contingency of external invasion and internal contention." --Alexander Hamilton
- 1788- Federalists persuaded 11 of 13 states to ratify the Constitution.
- Feb. 1789- George Washington was elected president.
 - North Carolina was ratified.
- Freeholders- male property owners.
- Constitution- the basic governing document of the United States.
- The Constitution's authors drafted the document to win the support of the electorate in the late 1780s.
- The Constitution has stood the test of time and how it can be changed.
- Took political theories from Europeans in the 1600s.
- 1584- the British "Virgin Queen" Elizabeth granted Sir Walter Raleigh the right to explore & colonize a portion of the New World.
 - He succeeded in naming his territory "Virginia" after his benefactress.
 - Made another attempt to found a profitable settlement, named Jamestown after King James.
- 1619- elected the first representation assembly.
- 1624- James reclaimed territory from the now-bankrupt Virginia Company.
- Divine right- a doctrine stating that God selects the sovereign for the people.
- Royal colony- one governed by the king's representative with the assembly's advice
- Mayflower Compact- the first document in colonial America in which people gave their express consent to be governed.
- Proprietary colonies- governed either by a prominent English noble (proprietor) or by a company.
- Colonial assembly- the lower legislative chamber elected by male property owners in the colony.
- Colonial council- the upper legislative chamber appointed by British officials upon the recommendation of the governor.
- Patronage power- the power to handout jobs & benefits.
- 1750- restrictions denied the vote to as much as one quarter to one half of the male population.
- Taxation without representation- the levying of taxes by a government in which the people are not represented by their own elected officials.

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- Stamp Tax- required that colonies purchase a small stamp to be affixed to pamphlets, playing cards, dice, newspapers, marriage licenses, and other legal documents.
- Stamp Act Congress- became the first political organization that brought together leaders from throughout the colonies for a common purpose.
- Patriots- a political group defending American liberties against British infringements.
- 1773- Boston Tea Party
- First Continental Congress- the first quasi-governmental institution that spoke for nearly all the colonies.
- Second Continental Congress- directed the struggle for independence.
- Declaration of Independence- the document asserting the political independence of the U.S.A from Great Britain.
- Tories- colonists who opposed independence
- Divine Right 3 Principles:
 1. Government arises from the consent of the governed.
 2. Power should be divided among separate institutions.
 3. Citizen rights must be protected.
- Separation of Powers- a system of government in which different institutions exercise the various components of governmental power.
 - Legislative
 - Executive
 - Judicial
- Whigs- political opposition in eighteenth-century England that developed a theory of citizen rights and representation.
- James Harrington, the Whigs' most influential thinker.
 - He favored small self-governing republics (cities governed by virtuous citizen leaders).
- Articles of Confederation- the first basic governing document of the United States & forerunner of the Constitution.
 - 1781- the Articles of Confederation is ratified.
- Shays' Rebellion- an armed uprising in western Massachusetts in 1786 led by Revolutionary War captain Daniel Shays, was especially disruptive.
- Annapolis Convention- Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and ten other delegates met to discuss constitutional reforms in 1786.
- Virginia Plan: Primary
 - Each state is represented in proportion to its population.
 - Congress has general power.
 - Supreme Court settles disputes among individuals.
- The lower chamber—the future House of Representatives—would be elected by the voters.
- The upper chamber—the future Senate—would be nominated by state legislatures and elected by the lower house.
- New Jersey Plan: Secondary
 - Every state has the same number of representatives in Congress
 - Congress has only limited, defined powers.
 - Supreme Court settles only certain disputes (for example, those involving foreigners).
- Connecticut Compromise (The Great Compromise) - called for a House proportionate to population and a Senate in which all states were represented equally.

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- Electoral College- those electors chosen to cast a direct vote for president by a process determined by each state.
- The first stage involves selection of the Electoral College and gives an advantage to larger states.
- Judicial review- court authority to declare laws null and void on the grounds that they violate the Constitution.
- Supremacy clause- which says the Constitution is the "supreme Law of the Land," to which all judges are bound.
- Three-fifths compromise- which counted each slave, for purposes of representation, as "three-fifths" of a person.
- Bill of Rights:
 1. Freedom of speech, press, and assembly (Amendment I)
 2. Free exercise of religion (Amendment I)
 3. Right to bear arms
 4. Protection against soldiers being quartered in private homes
 5. Home security against unreasonable searches and seizures
 6. Cannot be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law
 7. Cannot be forced to testify against oneself
 8. Trial by jury
 9. No cruel or unusual punishment
 10. Assurance that people retain other rights not explicitly stated
 11. Powers not delegated to national government are retained by states or people
- The Federalist Papers- these essays are generally regarded as the finest essays on American political theory ever written.
- Checks & balances- a division of governmental power among separate institutions, giving each institution the power to block the actions of the others.