

# **CHAPTER 8: FORMING A GOVERNMENT** **(1771–1791)**

## **Section 1: The Articles of Confederation**

### **American Ideas and Documents About Government**

- Magna Carta (1215) and English Bill of Rights (1689)
- The Enlightenment – the use of reason and expressed a belief in human goodness
- Town meetings and Virginia House of Burgesses
- Great Awakening – a widespread Christian movement that emphasized faith in God
- Mayflower Compact
- Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

### **The State Constitutions Influence**

- created a republic and limited government
- protected individual rights of citizens
- supported separation of church and state
- expanded suffrage

### **Powers of Government under The Articles of Confederation**

- could make coins and borrow money
- could negotiate and make treaties
- could settle conflicts between states
- could ask states for money and soldiers

### **The Northwest Ordinance**

- created the Northwest territory
- created a system for bringing new states into the union
- included a bill of rights
- provided for education
- banned slavery

## **Section 2: Problems in the New Nation**

### **A Lack of Respect**

- Foreign governments treated the new government of the U.S. with a lack of respect.
- The government was viewed as being weak and powerless.

## **Economic Problems under the Articles of Confederation**

- international trade issues
- domestic problems
- unequal exports and imports
- no power to pass tariffs nor regulate interstate commerce
- inflation and depression

## **Causes of Shay's Rebellion:**

- high taxes
- heavy debt
- farm foreclosures
- imprisonment for debt

## **Consequences of Shay's Rebellion:**

- revolt
- demand for a stronger central government

## **Section 3: The Constitution**

**Issues Debated at the Constitutional Convention** (The delegates met at the Constitutional Convention to improve the Articles of Confederation).

- representation
- slavery
- economy
- powers of the government
- Virginia Plan
- New Jersey Plan

## **Compromises Reached at the Constitutional Convention**

- The Great Compromise (1787)
- Three-Fifths Compromise (1787)

## **Constitutional Balance of the Federal Government**

- federalism – system of government in which power is distributed between the central authority and individual states
- legislative, executive, and judicial branches
- checks and balances.

## **Section 4: Ratification of the Constitution**

### **Anti-federalists believed the constitutional convention:**

- had gone too far in creating a new government
- gave too much power to the central government
- excluded a bill of rights

### **The *Federalist Papers* Support the Constitution**

The *Federalist Papers* argued that

- the federal government would not overpower the states
- no one group would control the government

### **The Constitution**

- The constitution went into effect in June 1788 when New Hampshire, the ninth necessary state, ratified it.

### **Demanding A Bill of Rights**

- Many Anti-federalists did not think that the Constitution would protect personal freedoms.
- The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution through the amendment process.