

UNIT 1: PRINCIPLES of AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

caglecartoons.com



"THEY SAY THEY'RE BUILDING A WALL BECAUSE TOO MANY OF US ENTER ILLEGALLY AND WON'T LEARN THEIR LANGUAGE OR ASSIMILATE INTO THEIR CULTURE..."

Principles of the Constitution

Each of these concepts are important ideas that deal with limiting the power of government, and ensuring that the people retain power and rights.

1. **Popular Sovereignty**: The people rule.
2. **Limited Government**: The people retain certain rights that cannot be denied by the government.
3. **Individual Rights**: Freedoms guaranteed to citizens.
4. **Federalism**: The states and the federal government share power.
5. **Separation of Power**: 3 Branches each with different powers holding each other in line (**Checks & Balances**).
6. **Rule of Law** – Everyone must follow the law.

Types of Governments

- **Authoritarian Governments**: people have little to no power or rights.
 - **Monarchy**: power passed on through family succession to one person (king, queen, or ruling family).
 - **Dictatorship**: power is often seized by force either by a military force or political group.
 - **Aristocracy**: government by the wealthy.
 - **Theocracy**: government by religion.
 - **Oligarchy**: government by a small elite group.
- **Totalitarian**: government's control extends to almost all aspects of people's lives.



Democratic Governments

- **Direct Democracy**: All citizens rule (not practical today).
- **Constitutional Monarchy**: legislative body has power while monarch is a “figurehead” with limited power.
- **Representative Democracy/Republic**: People choose representatives to govern on their behalf.

Influences on Founding Fathers

- MAGNA CARTA (1215AD/CE): “Great Charter” not even ruler would be above the law.
- PARLIAMENT (late 1300s):
 - **BICAMERAL**: “Two house” English legislative body
 - **House of Lords**: Nobles that inherit seat
 - **House of Commons**: elected to represent towns & cities.
- ENGLISH BILL OF RIGHTS (1689AD/CE):
 - Guaranteed right to free elections & fair trial, abolished cruel & unusual punishments
 - Parliament could tax, make laws, control army
- ENGLISH COMMON LAW
 - Law based on **PRECEDENTS** (earlier decisions) that became basis of American legal system used in the development of contracts, marriages, etc...

■ THE ENLIGHTENMENT

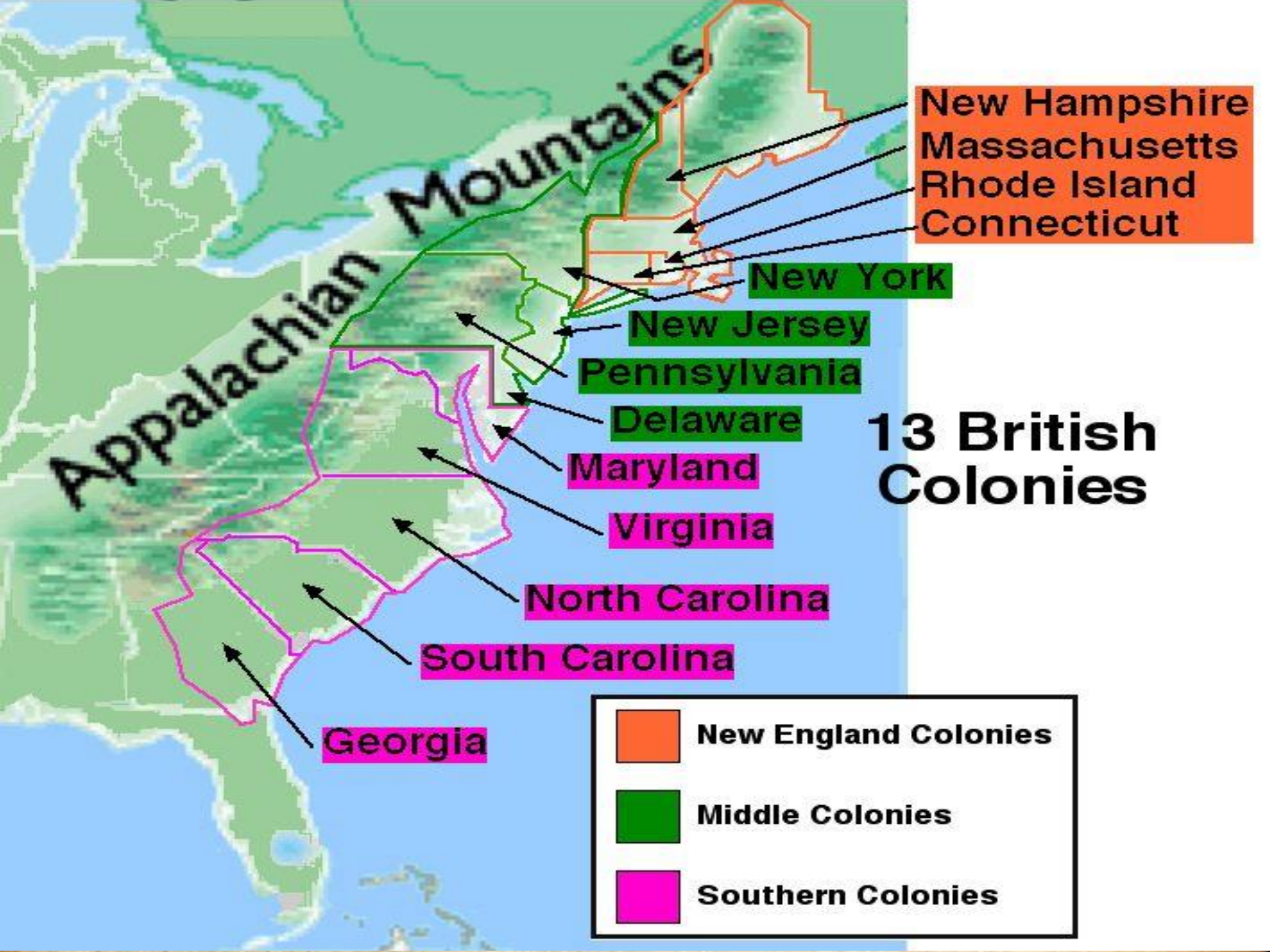
- Philosophical theories heavily influenced Founding Fathers in creating Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution with concepts:

- **Inalienable rights**
- **Structure of government**
- **Separation of powers with checks and balances**
- **Rule of law**
- **Equal justice under the law**

■ Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan* (1651)

- **“Social Contract Theory”**: without government = “state of nature...[solitary], poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”
- **Enter a social contract with strong ruler giving up rights and ability to revolt for protection and creation of a civil society.**

- John Locke's *The Second Treatise of Government* (1689)
 - Purpose of government is to protect the **God-given** “**natural rights**” of “**life, liberty, and property.**”
 - If government breaks this **social contract** people have right to overthrow them.
- Baron de Montesquieu's *Spirit of the Laws* (1748)
 - “**Separation of power**” with “**checks and balances**” between legislative, executive, and judicial branches to prevent too much power.
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *The Social Contract* (1762)
 - People alone had right to determine how they should be governed (popular sovereignty).



Appalachian Mountains

**New Hampshire
Massachusetts
Rhode Island
Connecticut**

New York

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

Delaware

Maryland

Virginia

North Carolina

South Carolina

Georgia

13 British Colonies

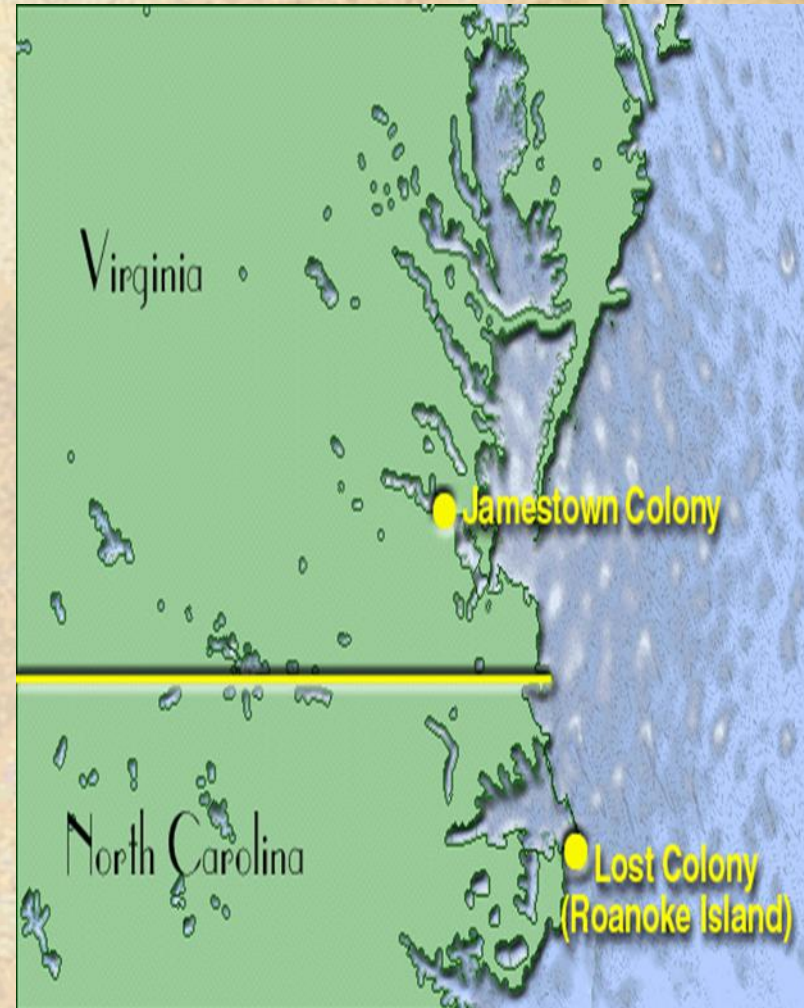
- New England Colonies**
- Middle Colonies**
- Southern Colonies**

MERCANTILISM

- **Colony**: A group of people in one place ruled by a government in another.
- Economic theory that country's **power depends on its wealth** in that they should sell more goods (exports) to other countries than it buys (imports).
 - Policy was for colonies to provide mother country with cheap source of raw materials resulting in favorable balance of trade.
- **Salutary Neglect**: England allowed colonies to basically rule themselves.

Types of Colonies

- **Proprietary Colony:** proprietor owned land and controlled the government.
- **Royal Colony:** owned and ruled directly by king.
- **Joint Stock Company:** investors share partial ownership and future profits.
- **Charter:** Granted by the King to set up colonial Government.



The 13 Colonies

	Colonies	Motivations	Economy
New England Colonies	Massachusetts New Hampshire Connecticut Rhode Island	Mainly religious dissenters – Puritans did not believe in toleration	Small scale farming, business & shipbuilding
Middle Colonies	New York New Jersey Pennsylvania Delaware	Mainly religious dissenters – Quakers (Penn)	Farming – wheat & other cash crops; industry – mines, etc...
Southern Colonies	Maryland Virginia Carolinas Georgia	Economic Reasons – indentured servants, debtors, & slavery	Agriculture – large scale plantation farming

Influences on Development of American Democracy

Virginia House of Burgesses

- VA colony was ruled by King and Virginia Company
- **Burgess: Representative**
- 22 men join the **first representative assembly in America.**
- **Begins self-government in America**
- **Bicameral legislature**



Mayflower Compact (1620)

- Plymouth, Massachusetts
- Religious Dissenters-Followed a faith other than Anglican Church
- Pilgrims (Puritans) realize they need rules by which to govern themselves after they went off course.
- Direct democracy- all men would (not just reps.) vote and majority rules.
- Started tradition of town meetings in New England.

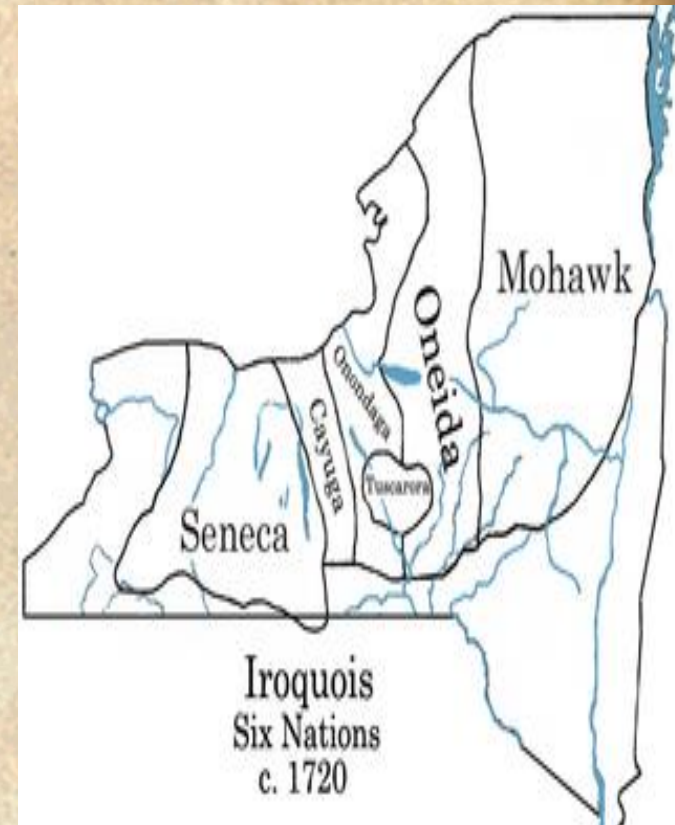


Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (1639)

- 1st written Constitution in the colonies
- Pledged no allegiance to crown

Iroquois Confederation (1722)

- Council of 6 nations that included the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora tribes.
- Set up Representative Government with Chiefs from 6 tribes making decisions for whole group.



COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Governor
- Appointed by King or Elected

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- Many were Bicameral
- Elected Members
- Representative Democracy

JUDICIAL BRANCH

- Judges were appointed by King
- Trial by Jury

Became the model for our government under the Constitution.

Colonial Discontent

Navigation Acts (1651): series of laws enacted by Parliament to tighten England's control of trade and manufacturing in its American colonies.

- No real attempt to enforce them until 1763.

French and Indian War (1756-1763)

- War between France and Great Britain for supremacy in the “New World” (*caused heavy colonial taxation-led to American Revolution*)

■ Proclamation of 1763

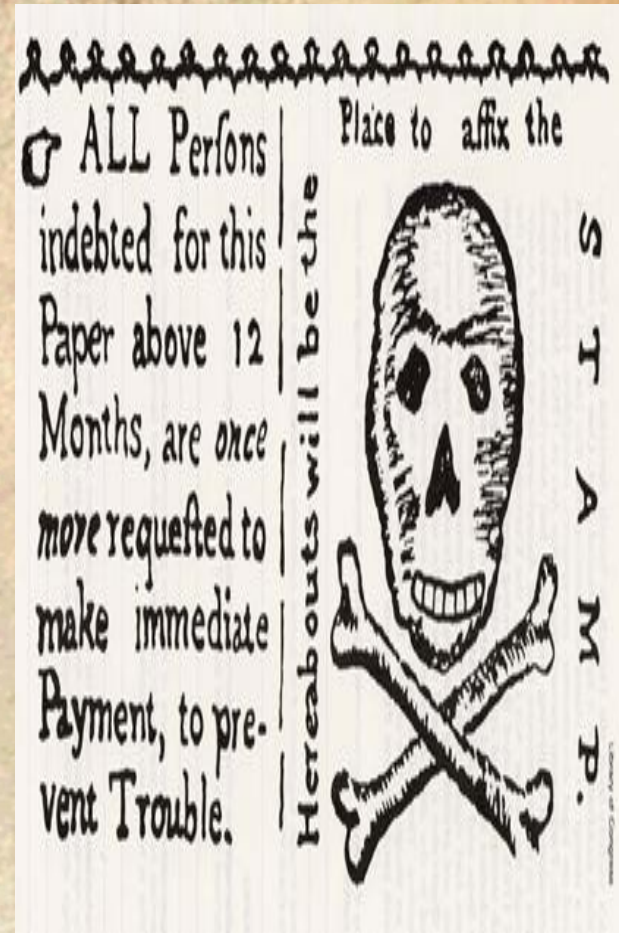
- British statement that colonists could not settle west of the Appalachian Mountains.

■ Quartering Act

- British 1760s law requiring colonists to supply the basic needs of British soldiers (**basis of 3rd amendment**)

■ Stamp Act

- British law placing a tax on printed colonial matter (PAPER PRODUCTS)



- **Declaratory Act**
 - Parliament has the right to tax and make decisions for the colonies.
- **Writs of Assistance**
 - British officers could summon for help and search any home (**basis of 4th Amendment**).
- **Townshend Acts**
 - Levied taxes on goods imported to colonies (Glass, tea, paper and lead)
 - Led to a boycott of the Stamp Act.

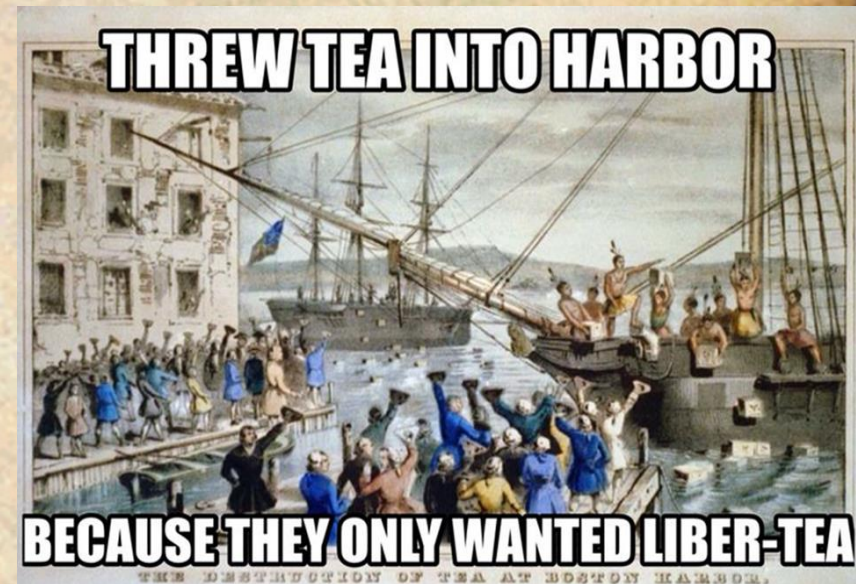


Boston Massacre

- 5 colonists killed protesting tax and harassing collectors. British soldiers later acquitted after defended by John Adams.

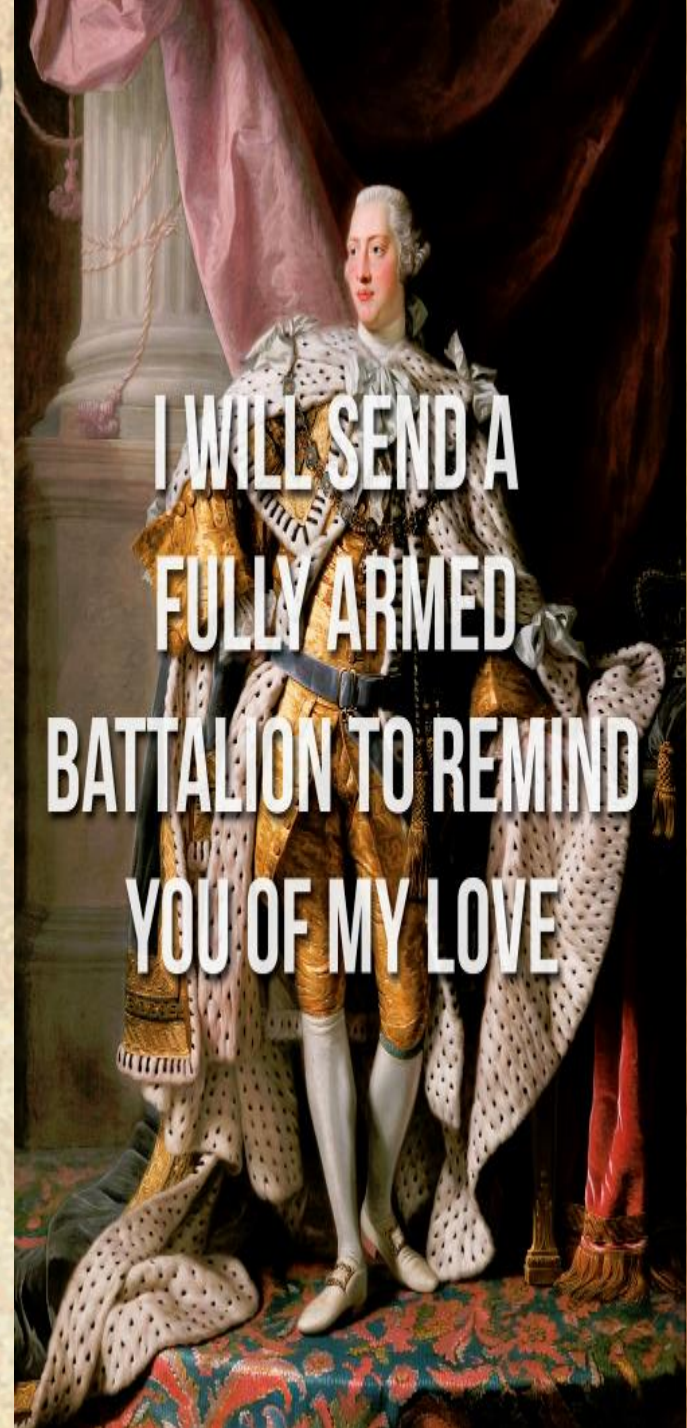
Tea Act

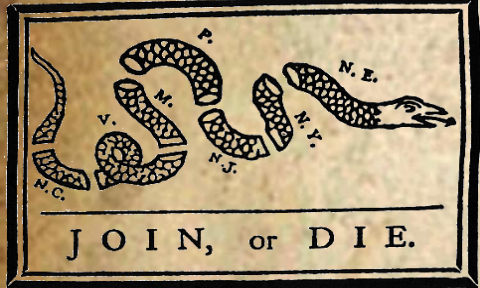
- Parliament lowers tax on British tea crippling other tea companies.
- Boston Tea Party (1773)
 - Sons of Liberty* dumped 46 tons of tea overboard into Boston Harbor to protest Stamp Act (£9,659 valued today at \$1.7 million)



Coercive Acts/ Intolerable Acts (1774)

- **British response to Boston Tea Party**
 - ***Massachusetts Government Act:*** Took away charter and Massachusetts' self-government and historic rights until they paid for tea.
 - ***Boston Port Act:*** Closed port
 - ***Administration of Justice Act:*** British officials tried in Britain (Washington's "Murder Act").
 - ***Quartering Act:*** colonists had to house and feed British troops without being reimbursed (**basis of 3rd Amendment**).





THESE ARE TIMES THAT TRY MEN'S
SOULS

The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from service of their country;

But he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered:

Yet we have this consolation with us,
that

THE HARDER THE CONFLICT, THE
MORE GLORIOUS THE TRIUMPH.

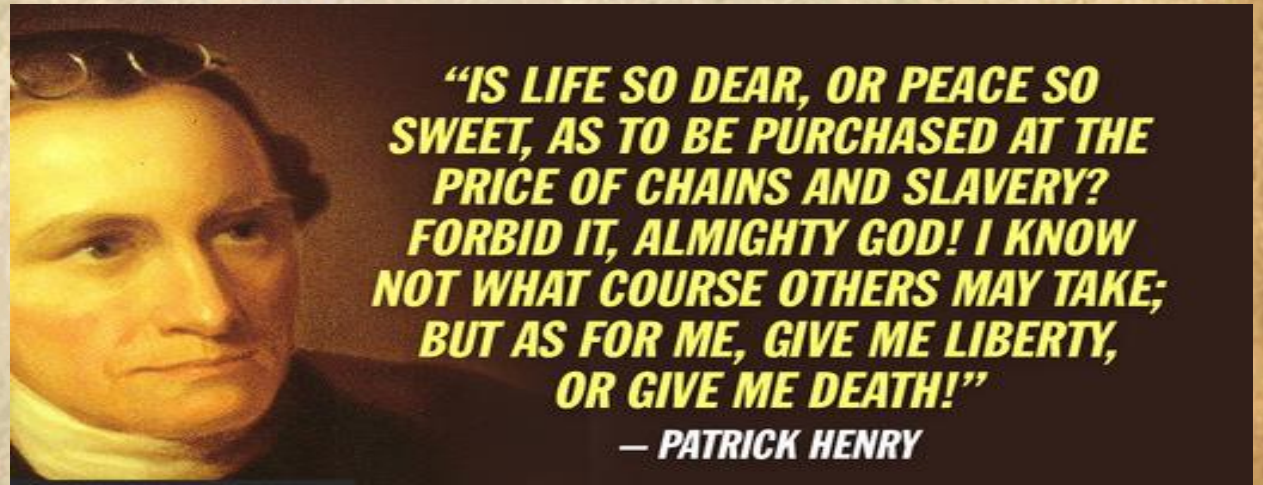
WHAT WE OBTAIN TOO CHEAP,
WE ESTEEM TOO LIGHTLY:

It is dearness only that gives everything
its value.



- **Albany Plan of Union (1754)** failed attempt to form colonial union.
- **Committees of Correspondence:** 1st institution for keeping colonies in contact with each other.
- **First Continental Congress (1774)**
 - Delegates sent George III letter demanding rights be restored or boycott continued.
- **Battle of Lexington and Concord**
 - “shot heard round the world”
- **Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense***
 - Called for independence from Great Britain.

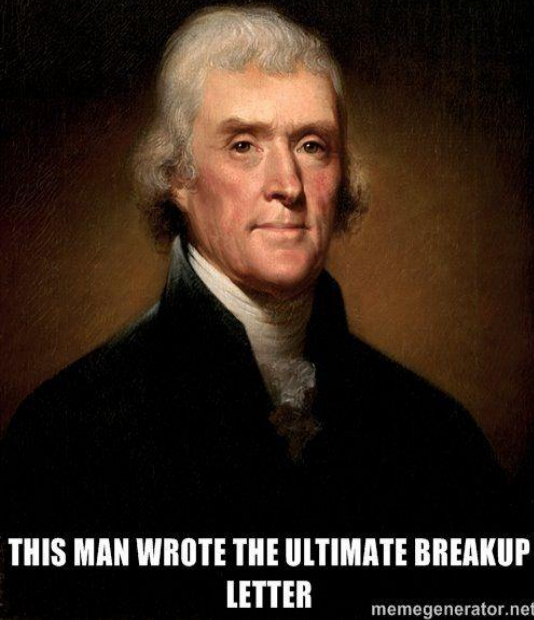
- **Second Continental Congress (1775): to answer question of independence.**
- **Olive Branch Petition: Attempt to compromise with King but decided to form a confederation to fight.**
- **Lee Resolution (Resolution of Independence)**
 - **Purpose:**
 1. Declare colonies rightfully independent of British Empire.
 2. Establish plan for ensuing American foreign relations.
 3. Establish a plan of a confederation to unite them officially.



"IS LIFE SO DEAR, OR PEACE SO SWEET, AS TO BE PURCHASED AT THE PRICE OF CHAINS AND SLAVERY? FORBID IT, ALMIGHTY GOD! I KNOW NOT WHAT COURSE OTHERS MAY TAKE; BUT AS FOR ME, GIVE ME LIBERTY, OR GIVE ME DEATH!"

— PATRICK HENRY

239 YEARS AGO...



THIS MAN WROTE THE ULTIMATE BREAKUP LETTER

memegenerator.net

YOU WANT TO BE INDEPENDENT?



THAT'S ADORABLE

mematic.net

Declaration of Independence

*1st part of Lee Resolution

3 main ideas

1. Unalienable rights: “life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness”
2. Grievances: Listed the abuses colonists suffered under British king.
3. Right to revolt: British rule contradicted the purpose of Government (Social Contract)



ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

First plan for structure of government

- **Unicameral Congress: Each State had one Vote.**

Powers of Congress

- **Make Laws**
- **Declare War & Make Peace**
- **Make Treaties & Alliances**
- **Borrow Money**
- **Maintain Army & Navy**
- **Treaty of Paris (1783)**
- **Set up system to add new territories**
 - **Land Ordinance 1785:** surveying new areas
 - **NW Ordinance of 1787:** new States/outlaws slavery in new territories



The Articles of Confederation:

Strengths

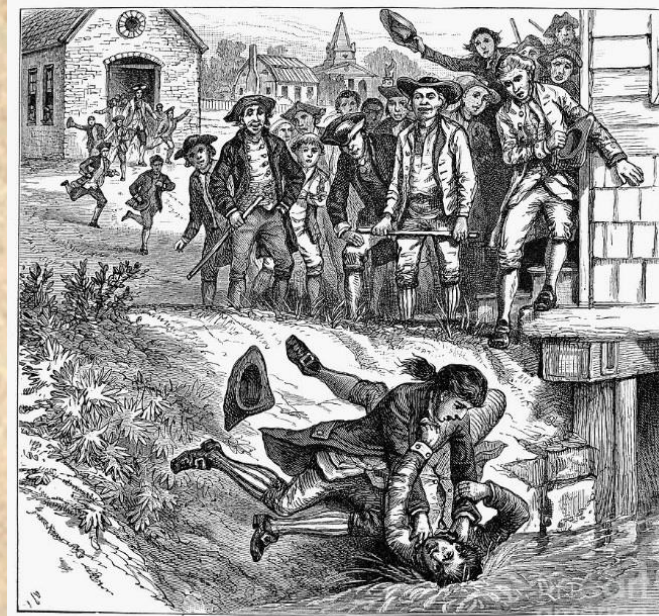
1. Laid foundations for administration of national government.
2. Solved the issue of the Northwest Territory with two laws:
 - **Ordinance of 1785:** created system of surveying and selling “western lands”
 - **Northwest Ordinance (1787):** laid basis for organization of new territorial governments and set precedent for admitting new states to the Union

Weaknesses

1. **Lack of Power and Money**
 - to collect taxes
 - to regulate trade.
 - to enforce its laws
2. **Lack of Central Power**
 - No President/Executive Branch
 - No single leader of group directed government policy
 - No national court system existed
3. **Rules Too Rigid**
 - Could not pass laws without the approval of 9 out of 13 states.
 - Changes to the Articles had to be unanimous (all 13 states)
 - Each state got 1 vote regardless of population

Shays' Rebellion (1786-87)

- Angry farmers led by Daniel Shays
- Farmers had no money due to war
- Were having land taken away and imprisoned for debt due to high land taxes
- **Importance:** Showed weakness of the government under A of C
- Later influenced Massachusetts to ratify the Constitution in 1788



A Scene in Shays's Rebellion.



The Constitutional Convention



Party at Hancock's!

Oil paint adds
10 pounds.
Don't tag me.

Can we get
this down to 140
characters?

What this country
needs is a
good theme song.

Who's got a quill
handy?

- **Convention began on May 25, 1787 in Philadelphia, PA with 55 delegates from 12 states (except Rhode Island).**
- **Delegates:**
 - **All were white males**
 - **Middle to upper class**
 - **Young (mid 30s)**
 - **Oldest was Ben Franklin at 81**
 - **George Washington presided over meeting**
- **Two plans emerged as solutions for problems with Articles of Confederation.**

Option 1: The Virginia Plan

- James Madison
- Called for a stronger national government
- Executive Branch
- Judicial Branch
- Bicameral legislature
 - 1st house elected by the people
 - 2nd house chosen by the 1st house
 - Representation based on population
 - Larger states got more votes
- **Problem:** Small states feared they would have less representation

Option 2: New Jersey Plan

- **William Paterson**
- **Government would have three branches**
- **Executive branch with several leaders**
- **Unicameral legislature**
 - **Each state got one vote**
- **Problem: Large states wouldn't agree**

Solution: The Connecticut or Great Compromise

- Roger Sherman
- ***Compromise***: solution both sides could agree and live with.
- **Bicameral legislature**
 - **Upper House (Senate)**: States would have **equal votes**.
 - **Lower House (House of Representatives)**: voting would be ***proportionate to population***.
 - **3/5 Compromise**: Each slave would be counted as **3/5 of a person** in order to decide lower house representation.

The Executive Branch Question (Presidency)

- Sherman felt it should be chosen by the people.
- Delegates felt that a “popular” election would be “too much democracy.”
- **Solution:**
- *Electoral College Compromise*: group of people would be named by each state legislature to select President and Vice-President.

Commerce & Slave Trade Compromise:

- President enters into treaties
- Congress cannot tax exports
- Treaties – 2/3 Senate approval
- Slave trade not prohibited (20 years)

The Court System

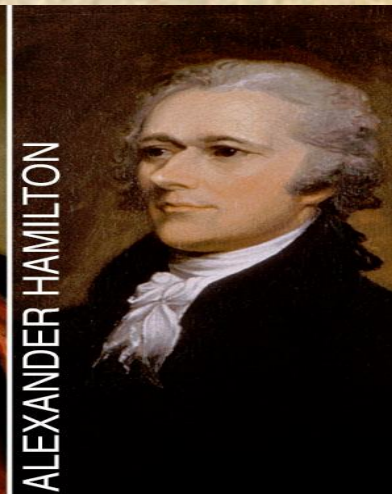
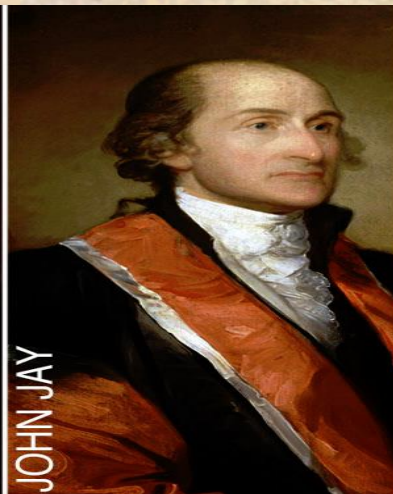
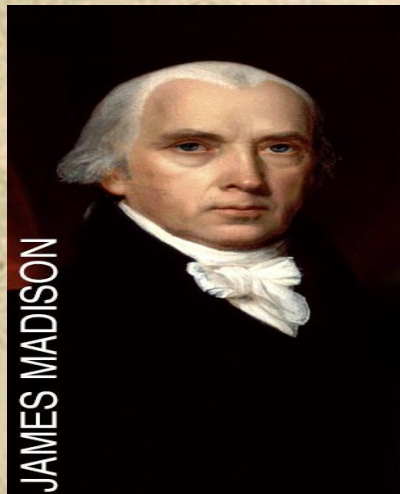
- **Supremacy Clause**: stated that the Constitution and federal laws were the “*Supreme Law of the Land.*”
- **Judiciary Act of 1787**: made the Supreme Court the final interpreter of the Constitution.

Ratification

- **To pass into law or approve.**
- **Approval of 9 states needed to ratify new Constitution.**
- **Delegates went back to states to hold ratification conventions.**
- **Two opposing views on ratification with the anti-federalists and federalists.**

The Federalists

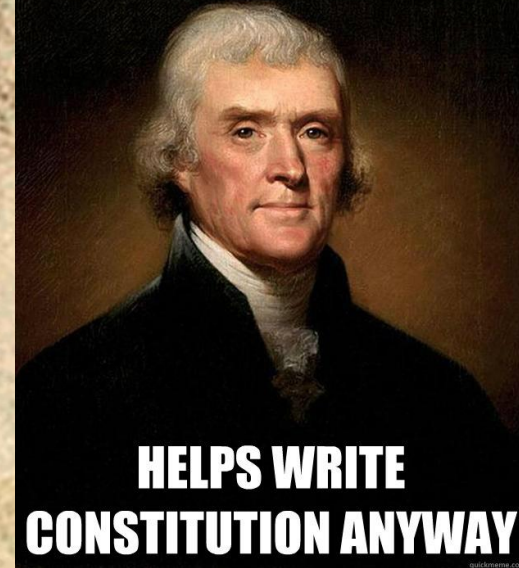
- **Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison**
- **Interstate and international traders and bankers living on coast in large cities.**
- **Under the Constitution, a strong national government would protect citizens' rights therefore Bill of Rights wasn't necessary since every state constitution had one.**
- ***The Federalist Papers*: Series of essays defending the Constitution.**



Anti-federalists

- **Thomas Jefferson**
- **Farmers, artisans, and laborers**
 - **Objections**
 - **Constitution needed Bill of Rights to ensure citizens' rights are protected.**
 - **Too much power was taken from the states and given to the National Government.**

IS AN ANTI-FEDERALIST



- **On June 21, 1788 New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify the Constitution that then became law.**
- **Rhode Island was the last of the original 13 states to ratify in 1790.**

United, We Stand – Divided, We Fall.



Government
under the
Articles of
Confederation
1781

A loose alliance of independent states

A one-house legislature

No executive or judicial branches

Only states can tax

States may coin money

No regulation of trade between states

Most power held by states

Government
under the
Constitution
1789

A national government representing all citizens

A two-house legislature

Executive and judicial branches established

Congress also given the power to tax

Only the national government may coin money

National government regulates trade between states

Power shared by national and state governments