The Proclamation of 1763 sought to halt the westward expansion of the colonist, thus the colonist believed the British government did not care about their needs.

This was one of many measures passed by the English Parliament that would be strenuously opposed by the American Colonists.
Huge debt from the French-Indian War caused the English Parliament to impose a series of taxes on the colonists.

The Sugar Act and the Stamp Act were two such taxes.
THE SUGAR ACT

• The Sugar Act (1764) placed duties (taxes) on certain imports that had not been taxed before

• More importantly, it meant colonists accused of violating the Act were tried in Vice-Admiral Courts rather than Colonial Courts
In March of 1765 Parliament passed the Stamp Act which imposed a tax on documents and printed items such as wills, newspapers, and cards (a stamp would then be placed on the item).
RESISTANCE GROWS

• In May of 1765 Colonists formed a secret resistance group called, Sons of Liberty to protest the laws

• Merchants agree to boycott British goods until the Acts are repealed
MORE TAXES, MORE PROTESTS

- More taxes and acts soon followed: Declaratory Act
- Townshend Acts

The Townshend Acts taxed goods brought into the colonies from Britain—including lead, paint, glass, paper and TEA
TENSION MOUNTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

- The atmosphere in Boston was extremely tense
- The city erupted in bloody clashes and a daring tax protest, all of which pushed the colonists and England closer to war
- **Boston Massacre** was in 1770 when a mob taunted British soldiers – 5 colonists were killed

*BOSTON MASSACRE 1770 BY PAUL REVERE*
BOSTON TEA PARTY 1773
BRITS RESPOND TO TEA VANDALS

• After 18,000 pounds of tea was dumped by colonists into Boston Harbor, King George III was infuriated.
• Parliament responded by passing the Intolerable Acts; which included the closing of the Harbor, the Quartering Act, Martial law in Boston.
THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION

- Colonists start to organize and communicate
- First Continental Congress met in 1774 and drew up rights
- Military preparation began
- England reacts by ordering troops to seize weapons

FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS - 1774 PHILLY

ATTENDEES INCLUDED SAMUEL ADAMS, PATRICK HENRY, AND GEORGE WASHINGTON
With Paul Revere’s announcement, the Colonists and the British began fighting in April of 1775.

The first battle of the American Revolution lasted only 15 minutes, but its impact has lasted for over 200 years.
SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

- May 1775, Colonial leaders met for a Second Continental Congress
- Some called for Independence, some for reconciliation
- Finally, the Congress agreed to appoint George Washington as head of the Continental Army
BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL

- British General Thomas Gage decided on an attack on Breed’s Hill (near Boston)
- Deadliest battle of war as over 1,000 redcoats and 450 colonists died
- Battle misnamed Bunker Hill (Breed’s Hill would have been more accurate)

June 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill
British plan was for Howe's light infantry to break through along the shore and get behind the Americans. Howe's main force was then to seize rail-fence position, turn left, and attack Breed's Hill in rear. Meanwhile Pigot, without attacking, was to threaten forces on Breed's Hill to hold them in position. The attempts at breakthrough of rail fence failed, and the battle developed into a series of costly frontal attacks.
OLIVE BRANCH PETITION

- By July 1775, the Second Continental Congress was readying for war, though still hoping for peace
- Most delegates deeply loyal to King George III
- July 8 – Olive Branch Petition sent to King who flatly refused it
INDEPENDENCE MINDED

- Public opinion shifted toward Independence
- Why? Enlightenment ideas (John Locke’s *Social Contract*, and Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense*)

HUGE BEST SELLER, “COMMON SENSE” 1776
On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress voted unanimously that the American Colonies were free and they adopted the Declaration of Independence.

The Colonists had declared their independence—they would now have to fight for it.
In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the British united States of America.

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them; a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed.--That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.--Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.--Yet who would dare to assert the Right of a People to be taxed in a manner inconsistent with those Principles, or to alter any of the Forms of Government which they may have established, without their Consent?

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THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE – SECTION 2

- Colonists divided between Loyalists and Patriots
- New York City early site of battles
- Colonial troops retreat, then surprise British troops at Saratoga
WINNING THE WAR

- With French military leader Marquis de Lafayette’s help, Colonial troops became effective fighters
- May 1780, British troops successfully take Charles Town, S.C.
- However, it was the last major victory for the British as General Cornwallis finally surrendered at Yorktown, Va. on October 18, 1781
- The Americans victory shocked the world
TREATY OF PARIS

- Peace talks began in Paris in 1782
- American negotiating team included John Jay, John Adams, and Ben Franklin
- Treaty signed in September of 1783 and officially recognized the independence of the United States and set boundaries
After the Revolution, many favored a Republic

Some supported a strong federal government (Federalists) while others favored states rights (Anti-Federalists)
ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

- The Second Continental Congress issued a set of laws called the Articles of Confederation in 1781
- Gave states one vote each in Congress regardless of population of state
- Split power between National Government and State
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

- America’s first Constitution
- Established National governments ability to wage war, sign treaties, coin money, run post office
- Land Ordinance of 1785 – made land parcels small & affordable
- Northwest Ordinance of 1787 – set requirement for states
WEAKNESSES OF THE ARTICLE OF CONFEDERATION

- Congress could not collect taxes
- Each state had one vote regardless of population
- No executive branch
- No national court system
- Nine of thirteen states needed to agree to pass any law
- Lacked national unity
- Weak Central Gov’t
SHAY’S REBELLION

- An event that highlighted the weakness of the Central (National) government was Shay’s Rebellion.
- Farmers in western Massachusetts rose up in protest over increased taxes.
- Daniel Shay led 1,200 farmers toward the arsenal in Springfield.
- The event caused alarm throughout the republic.
CREATING A NEW GOVERNMENT

• The delegates at the Constitutional Convention realized the need to strengthen the central government
• They soon decided to create an entirely new Constitution instead of amending the Articles
• Compromise was the order of the day
VIRGINIA VS. NEW JERSEY PLANS

- **Virginia Plan**: Bicameral Legislation based on state population

- **New Jersey Plan**: Unicameral Legislation based on one state = one vote
GREAT COMPROMISE

- After a deadlock that dragged on & on, Roger Sherman finally suggested the Great Compromise which satisfied both big & small states.
- Bicameral Congress with House of Reps based on population (VA Plan) and Senate based on one state = one vote (NJ Plan).
THREE-FIFTHS COMPROMISE

- Next difficult issue: Slavery
- Southern states wanted slaves included in the population figures used to determine Representatives
- Northern states which had few slaves, disagreed
- Compromise was to count each slave as \( \frac{3}{5} \)ths of a person
DIVISION OF POWERS

- Next issue: Should the National government or the states hold power? Who shall be sovereign?
- Delegates choose to split power
- Federalism system developed
- Federal government had delegated, or enumerated powers (Coin, trade, war, etc.)
- States had reserved powers (education)
Federal System

- Authority is divided, usually by a written constitution, between a central government and regional (aka constituent) governments.
  - Both act directly on the people.
  - Both are supreme (in theory) within their sphere of authority.
  - 87,500+ governments in U.S.
Why Federalism?

- A compromise between advocates for strong national government and states’ rights supporters.

- State traditions and local power could be retained, while common problems national in scope could be dealt with by a central government with more authority.
Powers of the Federal Government

• Enumerated Powers
  – Coining money, post offices, interstate commerce, naturalization laws, foreign relations

• Implied Powers
  – Elastic Clause (aka Necessary and Proper Clause – Article I, Sec. 8)
    • Provides flexibility by giving Congress powers reasonably inferred but not expressly stated in Constitution.
Powers of the States

- 10th Amendment
  - Powers not delegated to national government, nor prohibited to the states, are reserved to the states, or to the people.

- Regulate trade within its borders, state militia

- Police power
  - Protection of health, morals, safety, and welfare
    - Crimes, marriage, contracts, education, traffic laws, and land use.
Concurrent Powers

- Powers held jointly by the national and state governments (most are implied rather than stated)
- Levy taxes, borrow money, establish courts, charter banks and corporations.
RATIFYING THE CONSTITUTION

- The Constitutional Convention adjourned in September of 1787
- Nine of thirteen states had to ratify the Constitution
- Supporters of the Constitution were Federalists. Those opposed were Anti-Federalist
FEDERALIST

- Led by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay, Federalist believed that while the Constitution was not perfect, it was far superior to the Articles of Confederation.
- They favored a strong central government.

James Madison
“Father of the Constitution”
The Anti-Federalist view was that the Constitution did not guarantee the rights of the people of the states. Led by Patrick Henry, George Mason, and Richard Henry Lee, the Anti-Federalists wanted a Bill of Rights to offset the strong central government. Lee penned his views in the widely read, *Letters from the Federal Farmers*. 
To satisfy the States-Rights advocates, a Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution to guarantee individual rights.

The Bill of Rights was ratified in December of 1791 - three years after the Constitution was ratified.

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First Ten Amendments

- Article I
  Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

- Article II
  A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

- Article III
  No Soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

- Article IV
  The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

- Article V
  No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall be compelled in any Criminal Case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

- Article VI
  In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining Witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

- Article VII
  In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

- Article VIII
  Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.

- Article IX
  The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

- Article X
  The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

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A reminder to be ever vigilant in the protection of these rights.
Presented in loving memory of Cordell Lamon 1902-1995

National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee
New York, NY 10010
OLDEST LIVING CONSTITUTION

- The U.S. Constitution is the oldest written national constitution in the world
- **Elastic Clause** key to flexibility
- Also ability to change, or “amend” the Constitution helps preserve it
- 27 Amendments have been added
The hero of the Revolution was the unanimous choice for the nation’s first president.

Washington took office under the Constitution and with the Congress.

He faced an enormous task of creating a new government.
JUDICIARY ACT OF 1789

- One of Washington’s first tasks was to create a judicial system
- Judiciary Act set up our justice system
- The act called for a Supreme Court, federal courts, and district courts
- The system guaranteed that the federal laws would remain “supreme”
WASHINGTON CREATES DEPARTMENTS

- Washington created 3 executive branches
- **State**: Thomas Jefferson
- **War**: Henry Knox
- **Treasury**: Alexander Hamilton
Hamilton Vs. Jefferson

- Hamilton was a staunch Federalist, while Jefferson was an Anti-Federalist
- Hamilton believed in commerce & industry, while Jefferson believed in a society of farmer-citizens
HAMILTON’S ECONOMIC PLAN

- Hamilton wanted a National Bank fully funded by the Government
- Opponents, like James Madison, felt the Constitution made no provisions for such a Federal bank
- Thus begins a long battle between those who interpret the Constitution loosely vs. strictly
TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

- Differences within Washington’s cabinet gave rise to a Two-Party System
- Supporters Hamilton’s strong government view called themselves Federalists
- Supporters of Jefferson’s vision of a strong state government were called Democratic-Republicans
WHISKEY REBELLION

- During Washington’s 2nd term in office (1794), Whiskey farmers, angered by an excessive tax, attacked tax collectors
- Washington responded with great force (13,000 troops)
- Set precedent for armed force to support federal authority
ELECTION OF 1796

- Federalists nominated Vice President John Adams
- Democratic-Republicans nominated Thomas Jefferson
- Adams wins and runner-up Jefferson becomes vice-president (as law dictated)
XYZ AFFAIR

- Adams attempts to avoid war with France after France ships seize American ships
- He sends official to meet with France foreign minister
- France sends three low level officers
- Adams is insulted and refers to them as “X, Y, and Z”
- Next two years an undeclared naval war between France & U.S. was waged
To counter what he considered a threat against the government, Adams passed through Congress the Alien and Sedition Acts.

- Alien Act raised residence requirements for citizenship from 5 to 14 years and allowed President to deport anyone.
- Sedition Act set fines & jail for anyone making false statements against the government.
In an event that would foreshadow future conflicts, two Southern States (Va, & Ky.) asserted the principle of nullification. Nullification meant that a state could nullify, or consider void, any act of Congress they deemed unconstitutional.