

Creating a National Government for the United States of America

The Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution



Articles of Confederation Government: 1781-1789

North America After the Treaty of Paris, 1783



Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation



A unicameral Congress
[9 of 13 votes to pass a law].



13 out of 13 to amend.



Representatives were frequently
absent.



Could not tax or raise armies.

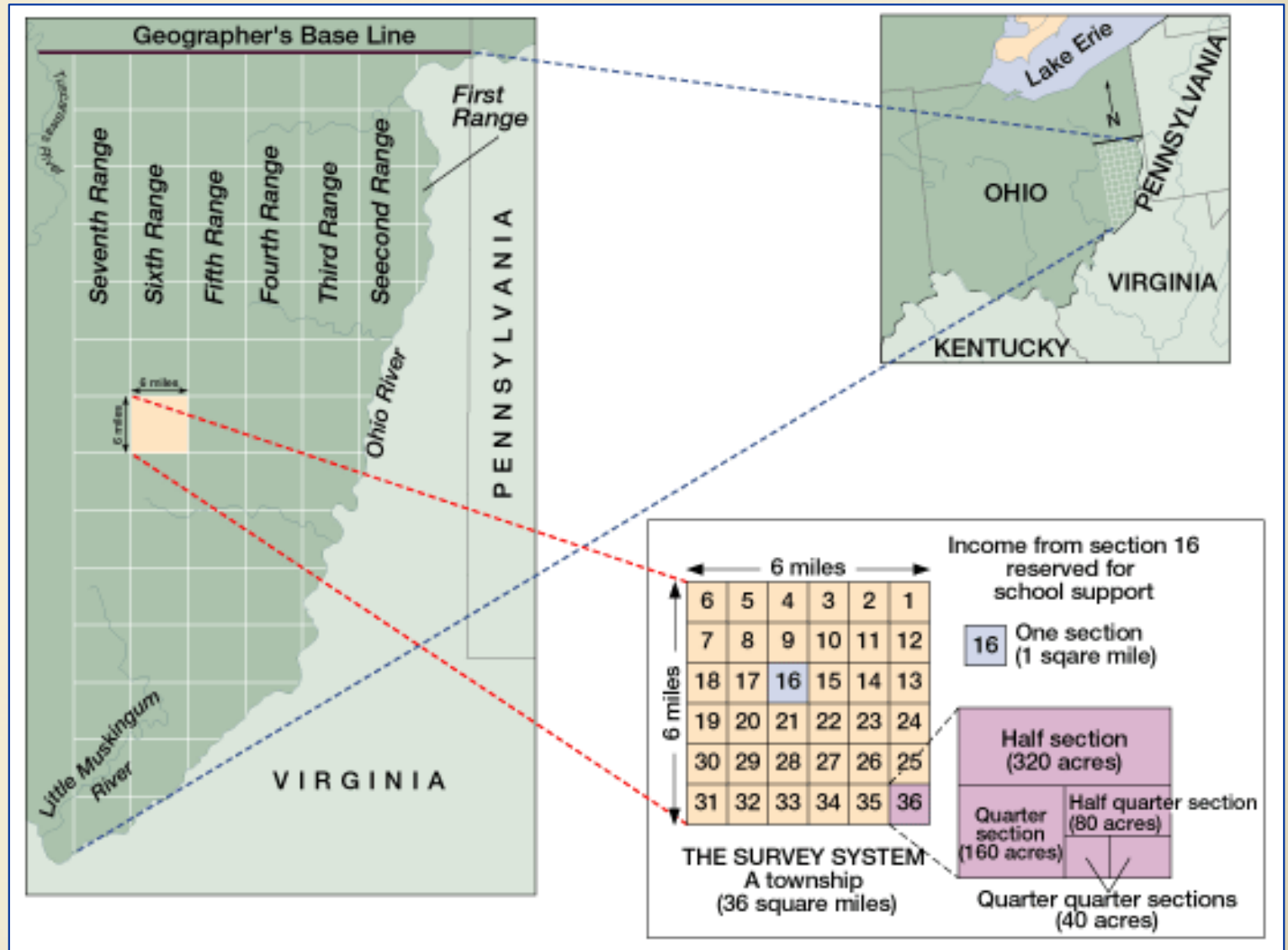


No executive or judicial branches.

State Claims to Western Lands



Land Ordinance of 1785



Northwest Ordinance of 1787



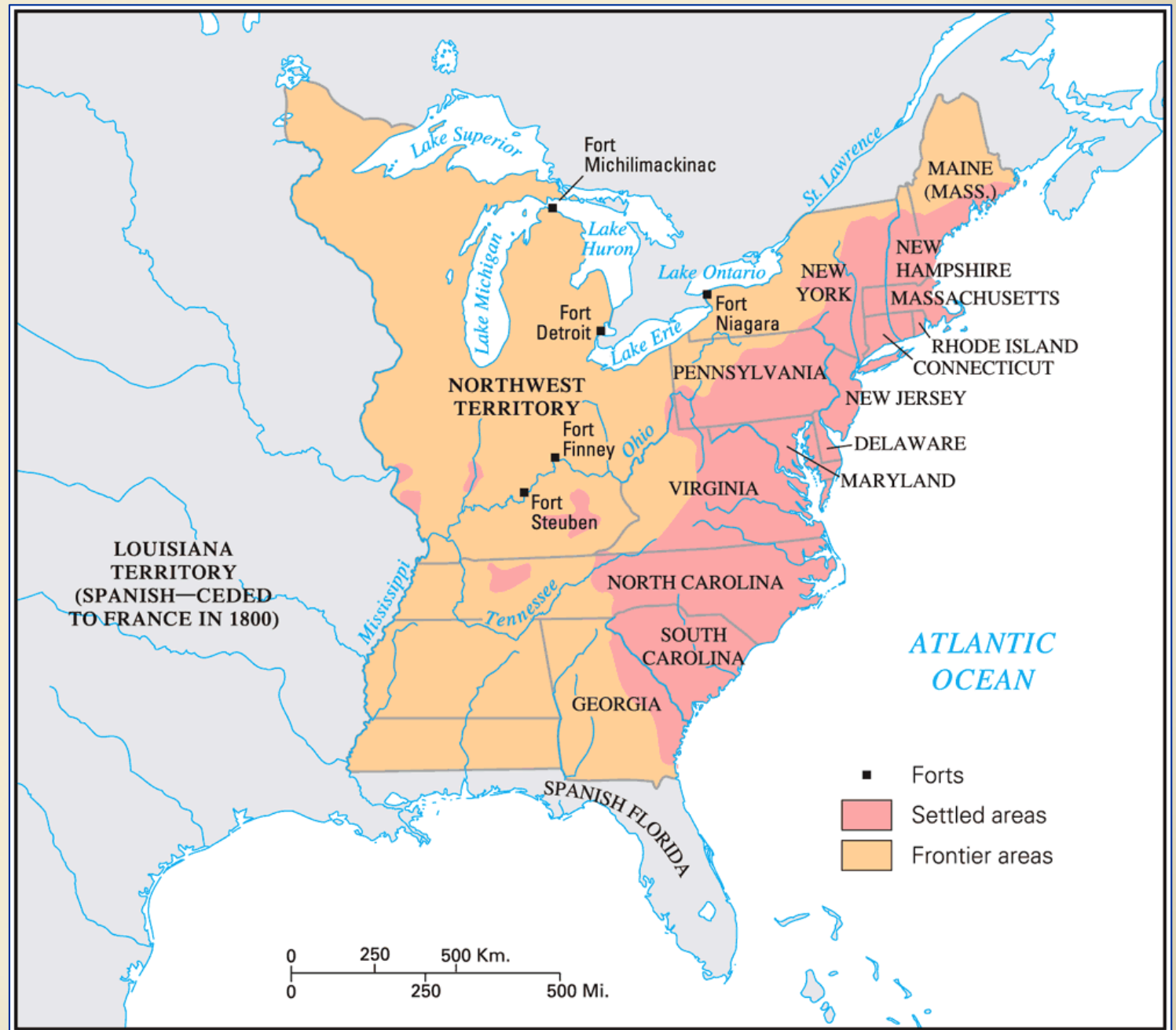
One of the major accomplishments of the Confederation Congress!



Statehood achieved in three stages:

1. Congress appointed 3 judges & a governor to govern the territory.
2. When population reached 5,000 adult male landowners → elect territorial legislature.
3. When population reached 60,000 → elect delegates to a state constitutional convention.

The United States in 1787



To all to whom these Presents shall come, we the undersigned Delegates of the States affixed to our Names send greeting.

Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts-bay Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

I.

The Stile of this Confederacy shall be "The United States of America".

II.

Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.

III.

The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever.

Shay's Rebellion (Fall 1786 - 1787)

- Farmers in western Massachusetts took up arms to protest against increased state taxes
- Terrifies Government officials. **NO STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO PUT DOWN REBELLION**
 - No National Army
 - No Federal Taxes



Constitutional Convention ,1787



**Philadelphia -
55 delegates
met in private to
construct a new
government for
our nation.**

Independence Hall, Philadelphia

55 Delegates gathered here
during the summer of
1787

Their plan was to revise
the Articles of
Confederation

They decided that a brand new
government was needed



KEY QUESTION: *How can delegates strengthen the national government while preserving the rights of the individual states?*

- Representation- small state v. large state
- Slavery, Taxes, Need for national executive

How to balance conflicting interest of different groups in society?

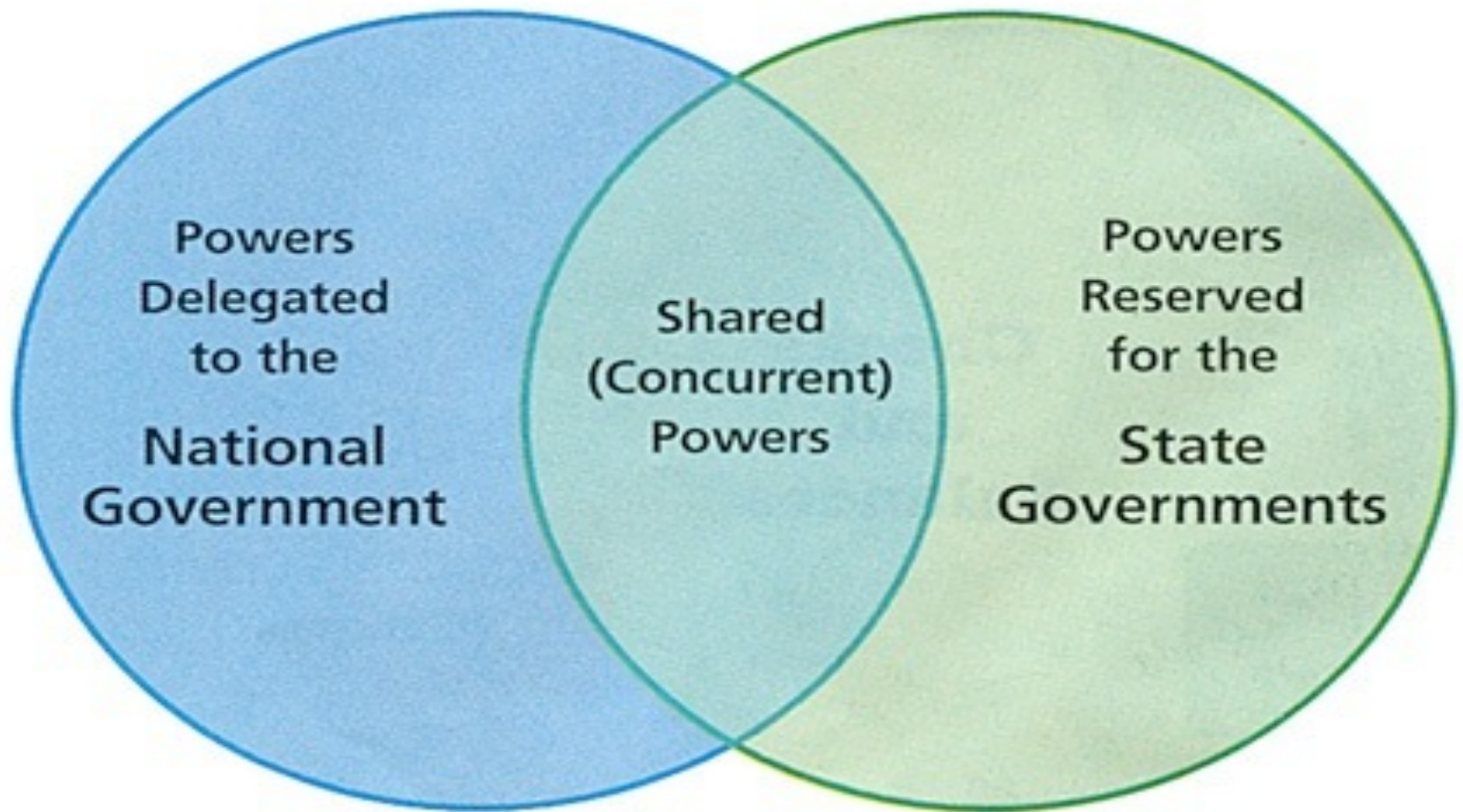
- Farmers, merchants, plantation owners

States vs. Central Government

WHO SHOULD HAVE MORE POWER?



Federalism



The overlapping spheres of power bind the American people together.

Debate Over Representation

Virginia Plan -- Favored by Large States

Representation in Legislative branch
based on the population of each state

Wanted govt. to have three branches:
Executive, Legislative, Judicial

Debate Over Representation

New Jersey Plan - Favored by Small States

Regardless of population, each state would have equal representation in the Legislative branch

Wanted a “unicameral” (one branch) government - Legislative branch

Debate over representation threatened to destroy chance for a new government

The Great Compromise

Federal government with 3 branches

Legislative Branch - makes laws

Executive Branch - enforces laws

Judicial Branch - interprets laws

The Great Compromise

Legislative branch with two houses
(bicameral legislature)

1. House of Representative

Representatives elected by the people. Number of representatives determined by state population. (Virginia Plan)

2. Senate

Each state has two senators - be chosen by state government. (New Jersey Plan)

The Great Paradox

Should Slavery be Allowed to Continue?

How can slavery exist in a country founded on the idea that *all men are created equal* and possess the *unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*?

Northern economy did not need slavery, but the economy of the South was based on slavery

Jefferson, “. . . like holding a wolf by the ears, you don’t like it - but you don’t dare let it go. . .”

Should Slaves be counted?

Southern States . . . YES - for representation in the government, but NO for taxation

Larger population = more power in govt.

Northern States . . . NO - for representation in government, but YES for taxation

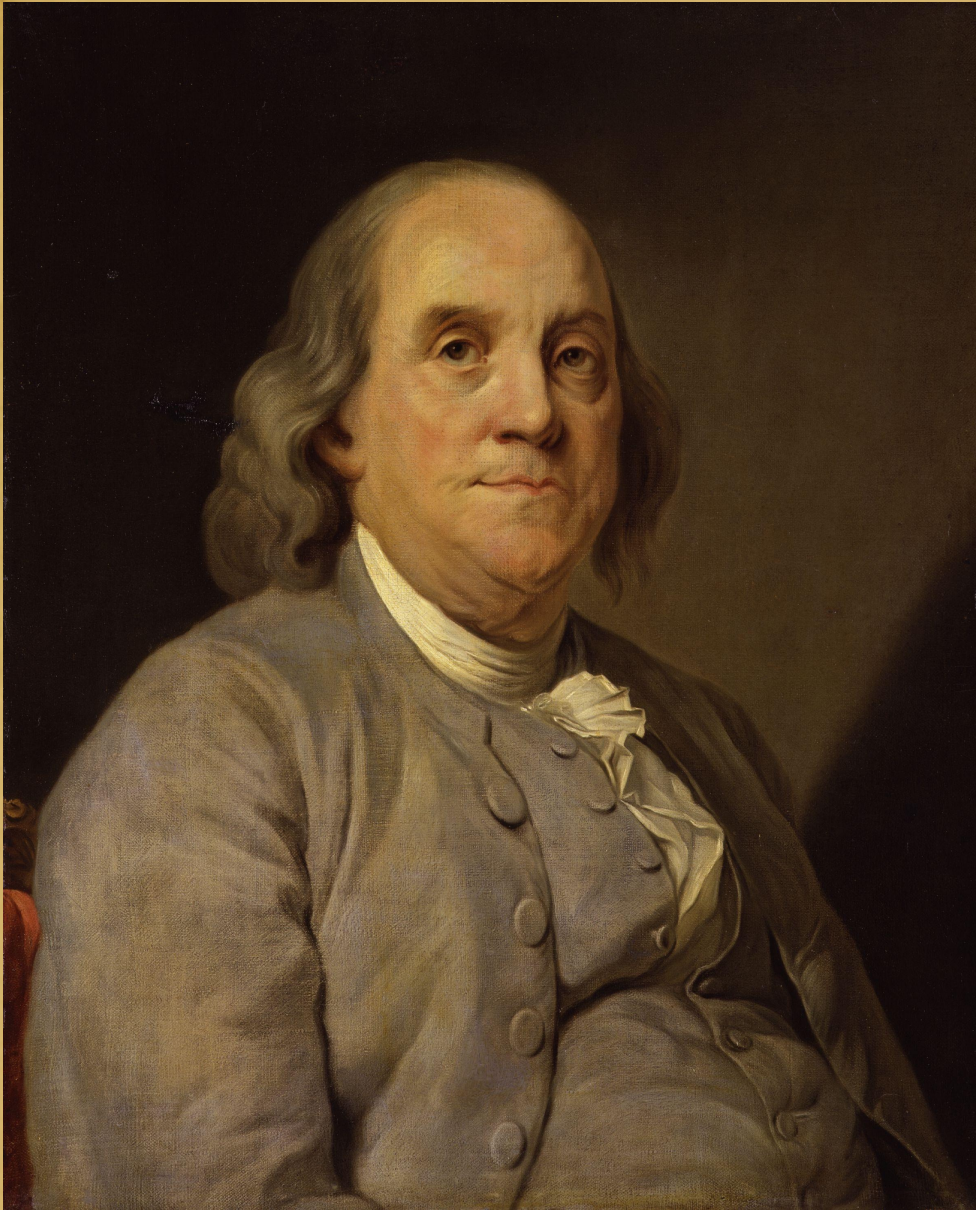
Reduce govt. power of southern states,
make southern state pay higher taxes

Resolution of the Issue

3/5 Compromise

**Five slaves would be counted as
three persons towards total
population for both taxation and
representation**

No slaves imported after 1808



Benjamin Franklin (c. 1785)
by Joseph Siffrein

Document Analysis Activity

Franklin's Final Speech
at the Constitutional
Convention

The Task

- Read & mark-up the document
 - Summarize the argument / claim / POV
- Evidence to support claim

Ratification Debate

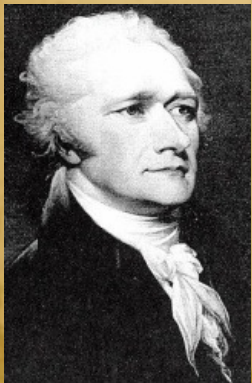
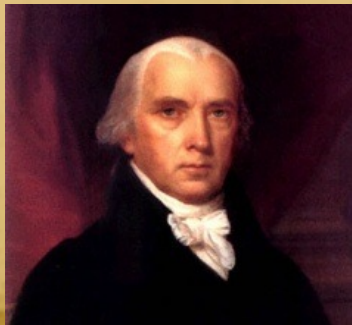
- Needed 9 of 13 states to ratify [officially approve] the Constitution, before it went into effect.
- A huge debate emerged between two sides:
 - Federalists
 - Anti-Federalists



Federalists v. Anti-Federalists

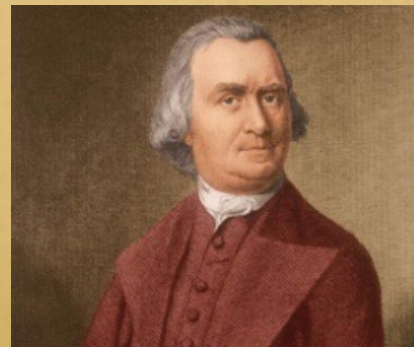
Federalists

- Supported the Constitution and a strong central government
- Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay
- Federalist Papers - series of articles written in defense of the Constitution



Anti-Federalists

- Supported a weaker central government - felt too much power was taken away from the states
- Opposed the Constitution
- Wanted a Bill of Rights
- Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry



Ratification

Ratification of the Constitution

Votes of State Ratifying Conventions

State	Date	For	Against
Delaware	December 1787	30	0
Pennsylvania	December 1787	46	23
New Jersey	December 1787	38	0
Georgia	January 1788	26	0
Connecticut	January 1788	128	40
Massachusetts	February 1788	187	168
Maryland	April 1788	63	11
South Carolina	May 1788	149	73
New Hampshire	June 1788	57	47
Virginia	June 1788	89	79
New York	July 1788	30	27
North Carolina	November 1789	194	77
Rhode Island	May 1790	34	32

- The Constitution was officially adopted after ratified by New Hampshire in 1788
- The new government began operating on March 9, 1789
- Bill of Rights passed by Congress on September 25, 1789.
- Bill of Rights was ratified by the states on December 15, 1791