

# 8 CHAPTER STUDY CARDS

## Government Under the Articles

- ★ **Articles of Confederation.** (1777–1778)
  - Set up a weak central government.
  - Each state had only one vote in Congress.
  - **Weaknesses:** lacked power to regulate trade; no national court system; lacked power to tax; lacked a national army.
  - **Strengths:** Passed **Northwest Ordinance**, creating procedures to admit new states.
- ★ **Critical Period.** (1781–1787)
  - **Shays' Rebellion.** Massachusetts farmers rebelled against courts foreclosing their farms.
  - Showed the weakness of the Articles of Confederation in putting down rebellions.

## The Bundle of Compromises

- ★ **"Great Compromise."** Dealt with the issue of representation in Congress:
  - Large states wanted representation based on population. Small states wanted states to be equal in Congress.
  - Compromise established two houses: states were equal in the Senate; the House of Representatives was based on population.
- ★ **Three-fifths Compromise.**
  - Issue of how slaves should be counted for purposes of representation.
  - Five slaves would count as three persons for both representation and taxation.

## Principles of the U.S. Constitution

- ★ **Limited Government**
- ★ **Republicanism**
- ★ **Popular Sovereignty**
- ★ **Federalism**
- ★ **Separation of Powers**
  - Legislative Power
  - Executive Power
  - Judicial Power
- ★ **Checks and Balances**
- ★ **Amending Process**

## Constitutional Convention (1787)

- ★ Convention met in 1787 in Philadelphia.
  - Scrapped Articles of Confederation and agreed to draft a new constitution.
  - **James Madison** kept notes and is known as the "Father of US Constitution."
- ★ Delegates agree to create three government branches.
  - **Executive Branch:** President, chosen by the Electoral College.
  - **Legislature Branch:** two-House Congress.
  - **Judicial Branch:** Supreme Court.
- ★ New national government can raise an army, collect taxes, coin money, regulate commerce between states, and declare war or peace.

## Ratification of the Constitution

- ★ **Anti-Federalists.** Were opposed to approval of the new Constitution.
  - George Mason, Patrick Henry
  - Feared central government would be too powerful and threaten individual liberties.
- ★ **Federalists.** Supported approval.
  - Favored a strong central government.
  - James Madison, John Jay, Alexander Hamilton wrote the *Federalist Papers*.
  - They argued that the Constitution had protections to prevent the rise of tyranny. These included the division of powers between the federal government and the states, and the separation of powers between the branches.

## U.S. Constitution (1787)

**U.S. Constitution.** Was a written plan of government that spelled out the powers and organization of the new national government.

It is important because it:

- ★ Established the institutions of the national government (separation of powers).
- ★ Defined the powers of the national government (federalism).
- ★ Provided a legal basis for the protection of the rights of its citizens.