

AP American History

The Constitution 1787 to Today

- 1. Commission of the Articles by the Continental Congress** created a government strong enough to govern but give independence, yet not become tyrannical and abusive. (Articles, executive branch, legislative, and independent judiciary) power is separate exec, legislative, army, and protection of property: executive these powers directly to the people but indirectly through the state.
- 2. "Bonds of Compromise":** the constitution was a bundle of compromises -- state (state representation in national legislature, state population, north, preliminary terms and advice)
- 3. New Jersey Plan:** each state would have equal representation in the national legislature. (Virginia Plan: population would determine representation in the national legislature. Large/Lowpopulations/Lowpopulations/Plan) two house legislature -- House (house of representatives) and Senate (equal number for each state).
U.S. Congress: the state were to be treated as free free persons by proposals of both representatives (if wanted them treated as part of the population and direct taxation) or state's wanted them treated as part of the population.
- 4. Elastic Clause:** Congress had the power to make laws necessary for the execution of foregoing powers, making Congress as opposed to delegated powers, these powers are not specifically granted to the Constitution but are implied from it (implied powers).
- 5. Federalism:** federalism -- a dual system of government whereby powers are divided between the state governments and the central government.
Enumerated Powers: executive branch (president) -- executive and laws (legislative branch/Congress) -- make laws; judicial branch (court system) -- interpret (and has the power regarding the meaning) laws.
Separation of Powers: power is divided by executive-legislatives-justice represented through the Executive (judge with a fixed four-year term, 3 judges members (executive, legislative, judicial) that we also have to Congress, the president and the cabinet may be of a separate party than Congress, "Separation of Powers" branch were constitutional.
- 6. Electoral College:** each state may have the same number of electors as the total number of Representatives in both houses of Congress, the President and VP candidates with a winning vote majority is elected. In each state receive all of the state's electoral votes, except for all principals, a candidate must receive an electoral college majority, 270 votes.
- 7. Bill of Rights:** the first ten amendments drafted by James Madison that were added to the Constitution to protect the people against excess by the central government, and individual liberties the Constitution for its failure to provide guarantees of individual rights, many states only ratified the Constitution with the understanding it would be amended to include these rights.
- 8. Judiciary:** Judiciary: In response to Madison's critique on an judiciary collecting, finally passed on the various branches, passed by various branches in 1788 put up with resistance against federal authority, Madison argued it didn't want to check the other branches with things. Madison under the Articles, the demand the power of the new government.
- 9. Constitutional Amendments:**