AP American Review

The Constitution 1787 to Today

1. **Constitution of the Articles by the Constitution:** created a government strong enough to govern and gain respectability, yet not become tyrannical and threaten liberties, executive level, legislature, and independent judiciary, power to regulate taxes, commerce, army, and protection of property, exercise these powers directly on the people not indirectly through the states
2. **"Bundle of Compromises":** the constitution was a bundle of compromises – major issues: representation in national legislature, slave population, tariffs, presidency terms and electors
3. **New Jersey Plan:** each state would have equal representation in the national legislature
   Virginia Plan: population would determine representation in the national legislature
   Great Compromise (Connecticut Plan): two house legislature – House (based on population) and Senate (equal number for each state)
   3/5 Compromise: (for slaves were to be counted as three fifths persons for purposes of both representation (if counted them counted as part of the population) and direct taxation (if didn't counted them counted as part of the population)
4. **Elastic Clause:** Congress had the power to make laws necessary for the execution of foregoing powers, enabling Congress to expand its delegated powers, these powers are not specifically granted in the Constitution but are inferred from a delegated power(s)
5. **Federal Concept:** federalism – a dual system of government whereby powers are divided between the state governments and the central government.
   Checks and Balances: executive branch (president) – carries out laws; legislative branch (Congress) – make laws; judicial branch (court system) – interprets (settles disputes regarding the meaning) laws
   Separation of Powers: president is chosen by nationwide vote organized through the Electoral College with a fixed four-year term; Cabinet members (cabinet members have to have more not also serve in Congress, the president and his cabinet may be of a separate party than Congress); Supreme Court may declare laws unconstitutional
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 state (majority or plurality) in each state receive all of the state's electoral votes (winner take all principle); 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 tyranny by the central government; anti-federalists criticized 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. **Whiskey Rebellion:** In response to Hamilton's excise tax on whiskey (affecting family farmers on the western frontier), farmers in western Pennsylvania in 1794 put up armed resistance against federal officials. Hamilton mustered 15,000 troops to crush the rebels, in contrast with Shays' Rebellion (under the Articles), this showed the power of the new government
9. **Constitutional Amendments:**