

## AP American History

### The Constitution 1787 to Today

1. **Continuum of the Ideals of the Constitution:** created a government strong enough to govern but give responsibility, yet not become tyrannical and abusive; leaders, executive level legislators, and independent judiciary; power is organized into, executive, 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 others)
3. **Two-Party Plan:** each state would have equal representation in the national legislature  
**Virginia Plan:** population would determine representation in the national legislature  
**Massachusetts/Connecticut Plan:** two house legislature -- House (house of representatives) and Senate (equal number for each state)  
**1787 Compromise:** the state were to be treated as three free persons by proposal of both representatives (if wanted then treated as part of the population and direct taxation if state's wanted then treated as part of the population)
4. **Class: Class:** Congress had the power to make laws necessary for the execution of foreign powers, making Congress as opposed to independent powers, these powers are not specifically granted to the Constitution but are implied from a implied powers
5. **Federal Structure:** federalism -- a dual system of government whereby powers are divided between the state governments and the central government.  
**Structure of Government:** executive branch (president) -- courts and laws (legislative branch/Congress) -- make laws; judicial branch (court system) -- interpret (and then interpret) the meaning of laws  
**Separation of Powers:** powers to check by executive and represent through the Executive (along with a fixed four-year term, 1 cabinet members (executive, minister functions) that are also sworn to Congress, the president and his cabinet may be of a separate party than Congress; "Republican" constitution; federalism; constitutionalism
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 (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 powers 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. **Whiskey Rebellion:** in response to Hamilton's excise tax on whiskey (collecting, distilling, farmers on the western frontier, farmers on western frontiers in 1794 got up arms, resistance against federal authority, Hamilton received 15,000 troops to crush the rebels, to restore with Whigs' Hamilton under the Articles, this showed the power of the new government
9. **Constitutional Amendments:**