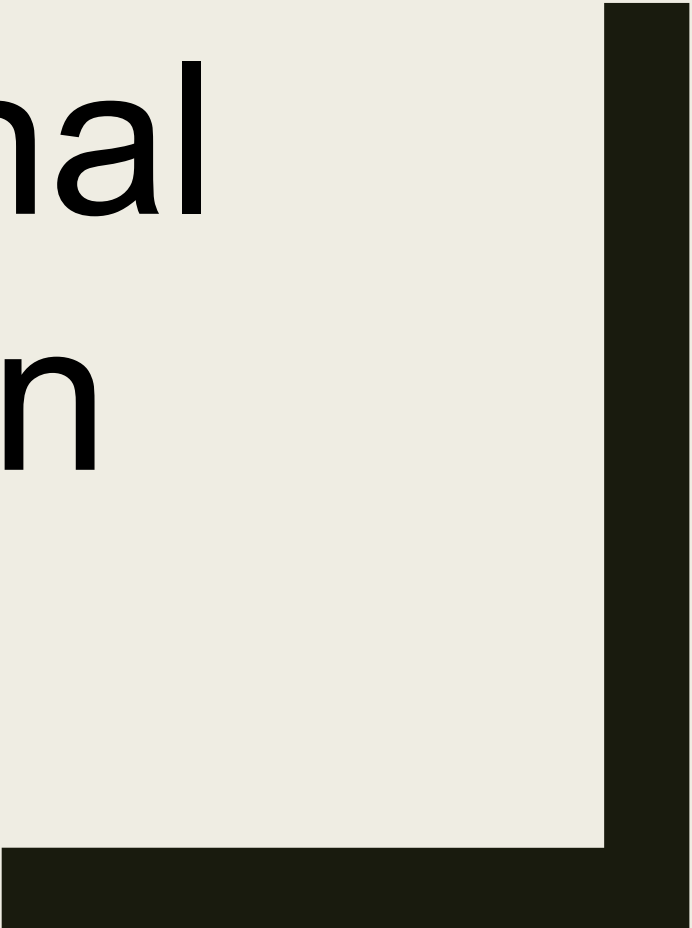




# Constitutional Convention

*May 1787*



# Annapolis Convention

- September 11 to September 14, 1786
- Annapolis, Maryland
- Purpose - How to “fix” the articles of confederation
- Alexander Hamilton (New York) – MUST resolve issues with the articles.
- No one showed up (13 states needed to vote on changes)
  - *12 delegates attended from 5 states (NJ, NY, Penn., Delaware, and Virginia)*
- New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and North Carolina did not arrive in time.
- Connecticut, **Maryland**, South Carolina and Georgia did NOT send anyone.

# Annapolis Convention

- Set the Date
  - *May 1787*
  - *Philadelphia*
  - *Bring in big names (George Washington)*
  
- Several Rebellions like Shays' Rebellion occur from August to February
- Delegates realize it isn't just Massachusetts
- Meeting in May becomes urgent
- Washington asked to come out of retirement

# Philadelphia – May 1787

- Most did not show up on time.
- **Quorum** – *the minimum number of members of an assembly that must be present to make the proceedings of valid.*
- Started on May 25 (two weeks late)
- 55 Delegates / 70 invited
- Only Rhode Island did not attend
- TOP SECRET!

# Leaders

- Washington serves as the convention's president
- James Madison takes notes (Father of Constitution)
- Thomas Jefferson & John Adams are not there (in EUROPE)
- Delegates are wealthy, white, males
- Key Figures
  - Benjamin Franklin
  - Alexander Hamilton
  - Missing
    - Patrick Henry
    - (I smell a rat!)

# Issues that Divided the Nation's leaders

**POWER** – State vs. Federal Government

**REPRESENTATION** – Population? Equal vote power?

**SLAVERY** – Will slave trade continue? How will we count slaves for taxes and representation?

# Compromise

An agreement or a settlement of a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions.

An agreement between two sides who have different opinions, in which each side gives up something it had wanted

# Key Compromises of the Constitutional Convention

- Virginia Plan
- New Jersey Plan
- Connecticut Compromise (called The Great Compromise)
- Three-fifths Compromise
- Commerce and Slave Trade Compromise



# Virginia Plan

3 Branches – Executive, Legislative, Judicial

- 2 house legislature
  - *Representation based on population*
- Executive to be chosen by legislature
- Judges to be appointed by legislature

# New Jersey Plan

- 1 house legislature
- Executive branch with more than 1 person elected by Congress (3 presidents?)
- Judges appointed by executive
- Each state gets one vote in Congress
- Wanted to keep major features of Articles of Confederation but with power to tax & trade

# Connecticut Compromise (Great Compromise)

- Bi-cameral legislature (2 houses)
  - *House of Representatives (2 yrs)*
    - members based on population
    - voted in by the people
  - *Senate (6 yrs)*
    - 2 members from each state
    - Appointed by the State's legislature

# Executive Branch

## One President

- *Elected by the people via the electoral college (senators + representatives)*
- *Every 4 years elections*
- *Checks and balances to make sure President isn't too powerful (Congress has to approve many actions)*

# Commerce & Slave Trade Compromise

Southern states refuse to approve Constitution if slavery ends.

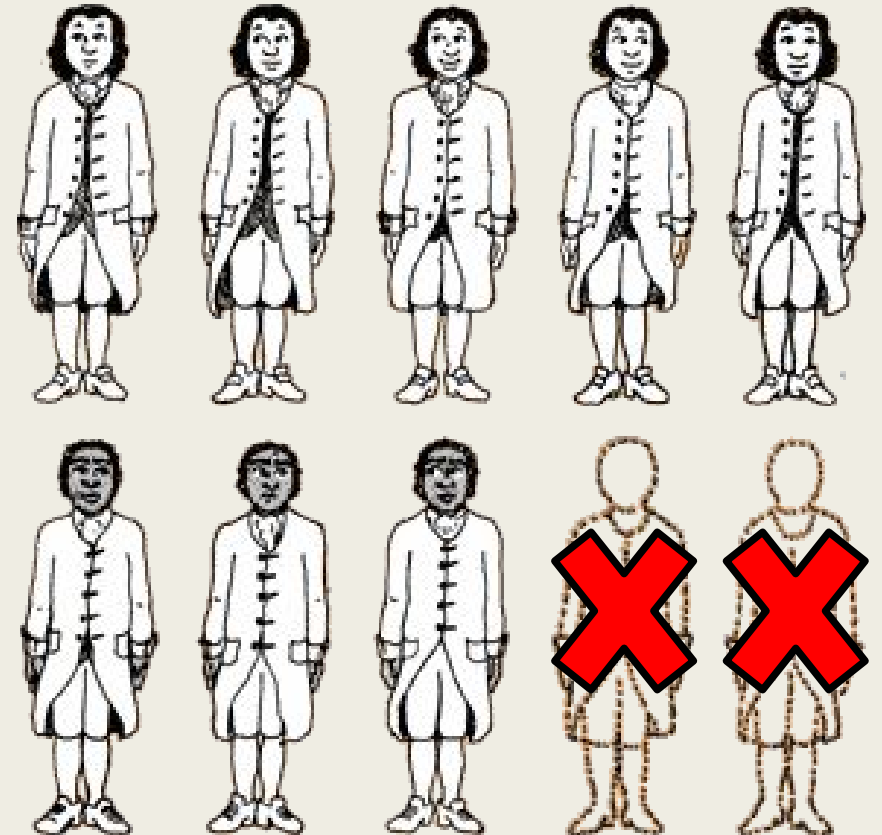
- ***Congress could NOT ban slave trade until 1808***
- *Congress given power to regulate trade between the states and other countries.*
- *Congress could NOT tax exports*

# Three-fifths Compromise

Many Northern states have banned slavery. Have to make a terrible deal

- *South wanted slaves counted for representation*
- *North wanted slaves counted for taxes*

**COMPROMISE** - 3/5's of slaves to be counted for tax purposes & representation.



Changed by the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment (which abolished slavery in 1865)

# Ratification of Constitution

39 of 55 agree to sign the Constitution

**State Conventions** - Since the Convention met in secret and dissolved the Articles they need the State governments to approve [ratify] the Constitution.

Each state will hold a convention - then vote for approval

**9 states must approve for the Constitution to go into effect**

# Ratification of Constitution

## Anti-Federalists

- *opposed the Constitution*
- *drew support from those who feared a strong national government*
- *wanted a Bill of Rights!*

## Federalists

- *supported the Constitution / Need a strong central gov't*

## Bill of Rights

- *Federalists promised to add it after ratification to gain support of the Anti-Federalists*
- *Felt they needed to protect individual rights from strong central government*



*On the glorious sixth of February, 1788.*

Hail the DAY, and MARK it well,  
Then Old ANARCH's Kingdom fell—  
Then our *dawning* GLORY shone,  
Mark it, FREEMEN, 'tis our OWN.



*Ratification of the FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, by Massachusetts!*

# *The Ninth PILLAR erected !*

“The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution, between the States so ratifying the same.” *Art. vi.*

*INCIPIENT MAGNI PROCEDERE MENSES.*

