



Ratifying the Constitution

Ratification Process

- Each state held a convention to discuss and approve new Constitution.
 - Ratification = approve
 - Once 9 states approved the constitution it would go into effect.
 - No waiting for 13
- **MUCH DEBATE**
 - Federalist vs. Antifederalist

Federalist

- Supporters of new Constitution
- Favored a STRONG federal/national government
- **Alexander Hamilton, James Madison & John Jay**
 - **Federalists Papers** – 85 newspaper essays (1787-88)
 - Pen name = “*Publius*” (Roman name / 1818)
 - Supported (& explained) Constitution
 - Pointed out how it was better than Articles of Confederation
 - Explained how this would make the United States last/survive.


Anti-Federalist

- Opposed the new Constitution
- George Mason, Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee
 - Agreed - Articles of Confederation – weak
 - Felt Constitutional Convention went too far
- Weaken the States Power/Authority
- No Bill of Rights to protect citizens' freedoms
- President – Ability to be re elected could easily make president a KING

State Conventions

- NINE states had to ratify
- **MUCH HEATED DEBATE**
- Delaware first to ratify – Unanimous
- Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia & Connecticut **(+5)**
- Massachusetts – A lot of opposition
- Constitution supporters go to Massachusetts' State Convention to answer questions **(+6)**
- Maryland, South Carolina- Ratified **(+8)**

State Conventions

- Virginia – Large & influential.
 - Patrick Henry – Attacked constitution
 - James Madison – Supported & debated Henry
 - Virginia approved Constitution 89-79 **(+10)**
 - **New Hampshire was the 9th State to approve**
 - July 4th, 1788 Philadelphia had a HUGE celebration to celebrate 9th state approving Constitution
 - New York & North Carolina eventually approve **(+12)**
 - Rhode Island is LAST to ratify in 1790 **(+13)**
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New Government

- Started to prepare new government once New Hampshire approved constitution
- George Washington – First President
- John Adams – Vice President
- Congress elected and/or appointed
- March 1789 – As promised, started working on Bill of Rights



The Bill of Rights

Amendments

- Framers of Constitution planned for amendments to adjust or alter Constitution when needed
- Flexible but changes cannot be made easily
- Process put in place

- First 10 amendments were ratified by Dec. 1791
- Protect the rights of the citizens
- Known as the Bill of Rights