

DOCUMENTS OF FREEDOM

*Day 4 - Confederations and
Conventions*

Winners never Quit, Quitters never Win.
But if you never win AND never quit...
you've got issues
Or you're the Detroit Lions

OBJECTIVES

- Discuss why a Constitution was needed for the new United States
- Identify Strengths and Weaknesses of the AOC
- Understand the two key areas of disagreement during the Constitutional Convention, and their solutions.

○ **Terms:**

- Articles of Confederation
- Shay's Rebellion
- Constitutional Convention
- Great Compromise
- Three-Fifths Compromise
- Preamble



So we won
that silly
little war...



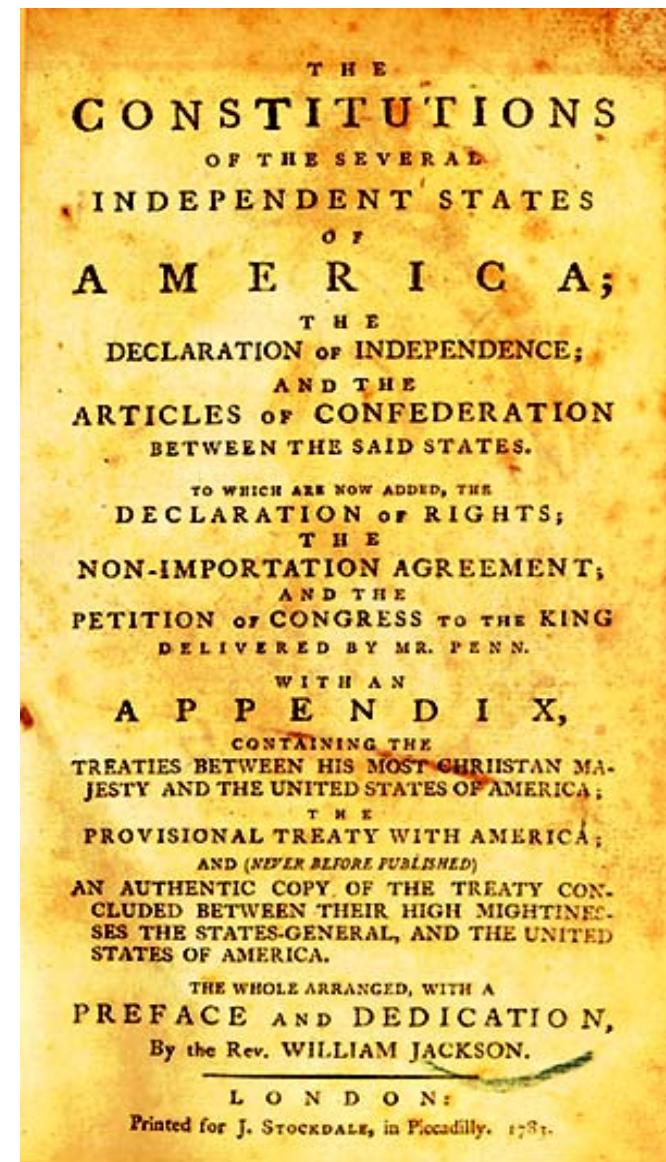
Now What... .

- We sent Great Britain a “strongly worded letter” saying “It’s too late to apologize”
 - *What was that letter?*
- In September 1783, Great Britain finally agrees, “ok, you can be free.”
 - Mostly because we broke the rules of war to pwn them.
- If we ARE “Independent” and our own country, what do we need?
 - Government
 - Principles, Laws, Organization, and Processes...
 - i.e. a *Constitution*
 - The problem is, HOW do we actually combine together, and how do we get everyone to agree? Also, how do we decide... how to decide?

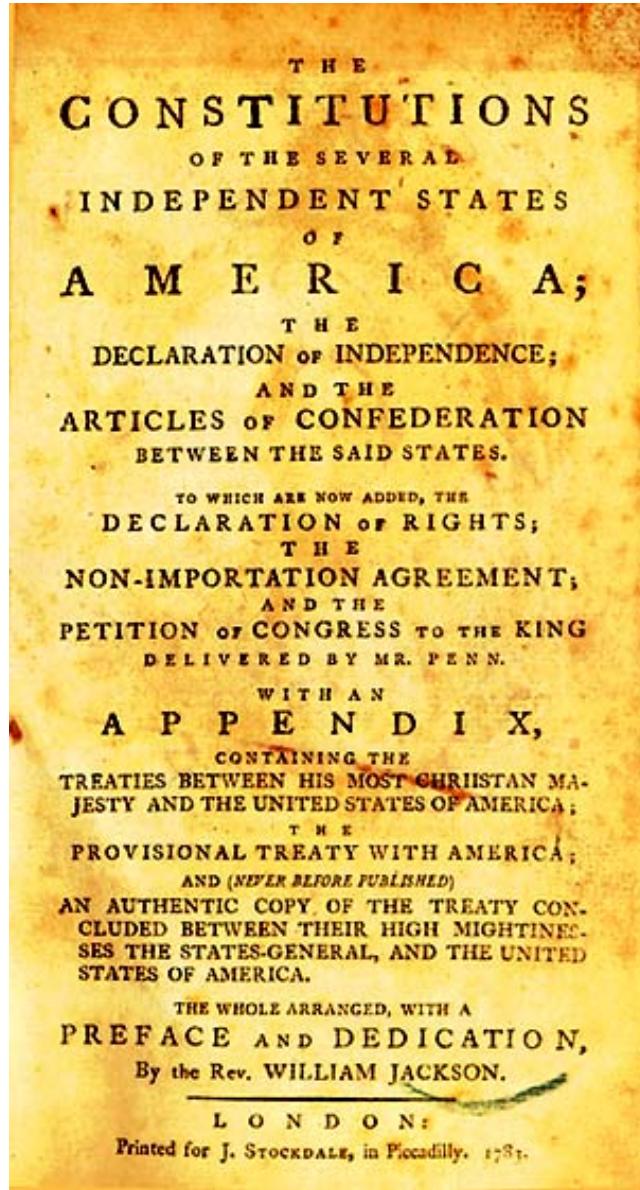
- The Founding Fathers had some serious issues to discuss
 - WHO will pay for the war we just fought?
 - HOW will we pay for that?
 - WHO and HOW can we enforce that?
- Yes, we need a Constitution, but it might be complicated, and we need SOMETHING now...
- Call it a First Draft

The Articles Of Confederation

- 1776 the Continental Congress begins plans for a national government
 - *What ELSE did they do in that year?*
- Approved the “Articles of Confederation”
 - The first version of OUR Constitution
- And while it was a decent “first draft” it had a LOT of problems!



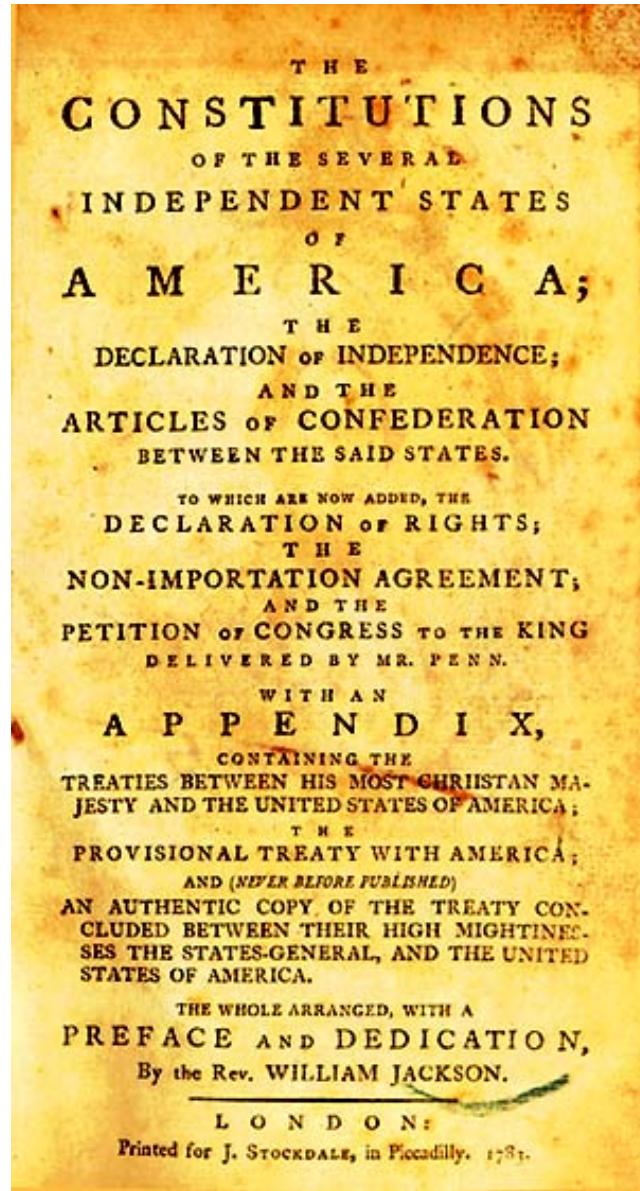
The Articles Of Confederation



What it DID do...

- 1) Grant POWERS to Federal (*National*) Government :
 - Wage War,
 - Make Peace,
 - Sign Treaties, and
 - Print Money
- 2) Handle VOTING - Each state gets one vote
- 3) Leave most power to the States
 - *WHY would they want that?*

The Articles Of Confederation



What it DIDN'T do...

- 1) Give any other Powers

- And forbid any not listed*

- 2) Have a way of collecting Taxes

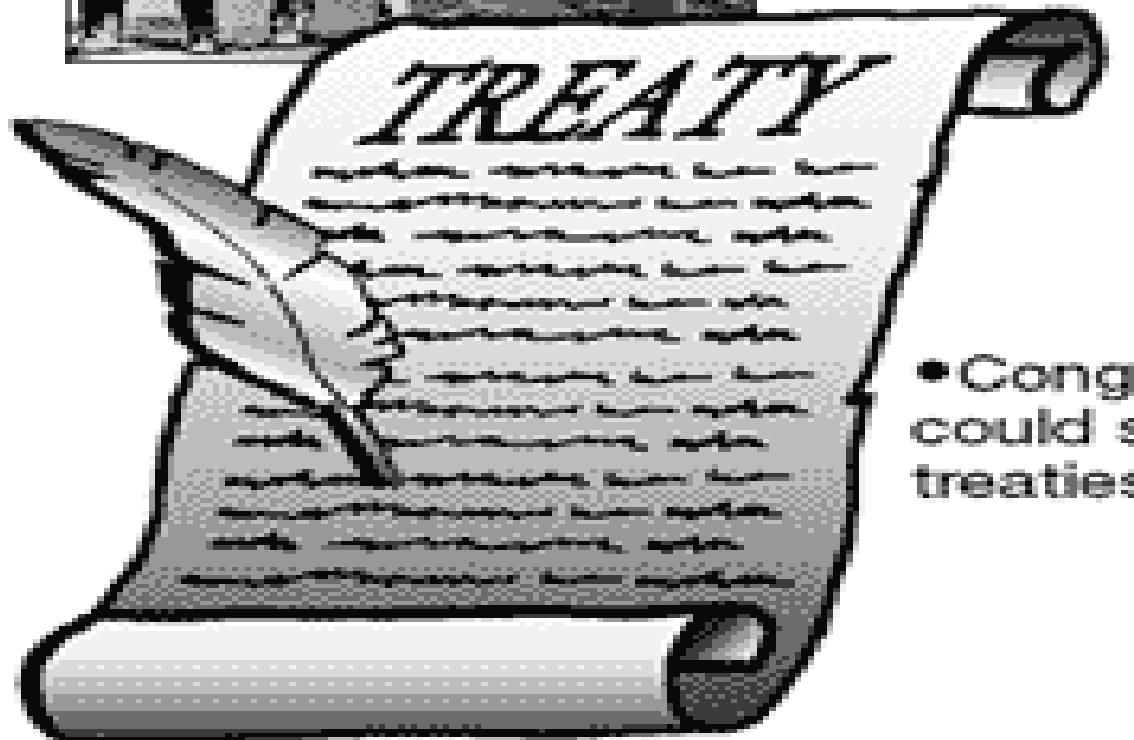
- Each state could decide how much they contributed nationally, or if at all.*

- Why is THAT a problem?*

POWERS GRANTED BY THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION



- Congress could raise armies
- Congress could declare war



- Congress could sign treaties

POWERS WITHHELD BY THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

- Congress could not raise revenue through taxes



- Congress could not regulate trade and collect tariffs



SO WE TAX...

- And so, each State decides how to tax, BUT some of the States have a LOT of debt from the War
- *If no other State helps them, what are they forced to do?*
- **Shay's Rebellion**
 - Daniel Shay, a Revolutionary War vet leads armed protest against “unfair taxes”
 - Stopped courts in Massachusetts from jailing those in debt or taking possessions
 - Many people side with the farmers
 - *How should the Government react?*
 - Government chose not to prosecute, but said, “Hey, we need a stronger national government”





Constitution 2.0

◎ Let's meet again!

- Constitutional Convention
 - Meets because “We need a stronger National Government”
 - *The Articles of Confederation are crappy*
- **May 25, 1787 begins, End Sept. 17, 1787**
- **55 Delegates came, from 13 States**
 - Thomas Jefferson is NOT there...
- **First item of business... who to be President for the Convention?**



Coming Soon: Mock Congress

How should we “vote”?

SHOULD we vote?

Do larger islands get more say?

What are the +'s and -'s to different ways of voting?

Were all our islands run the same before?

Does a Class Leader have more of a say?
Ideas?

Constitution 2.0

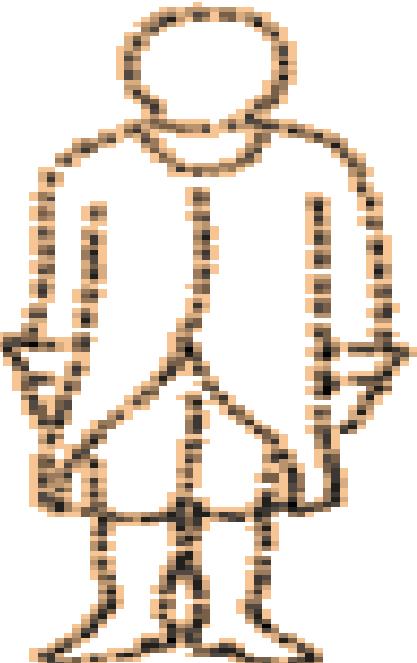
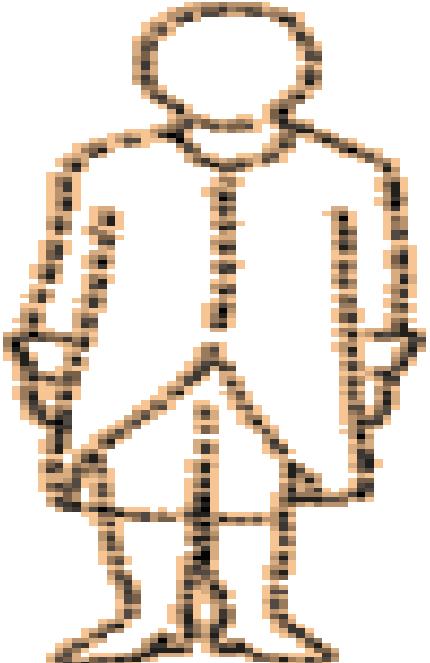
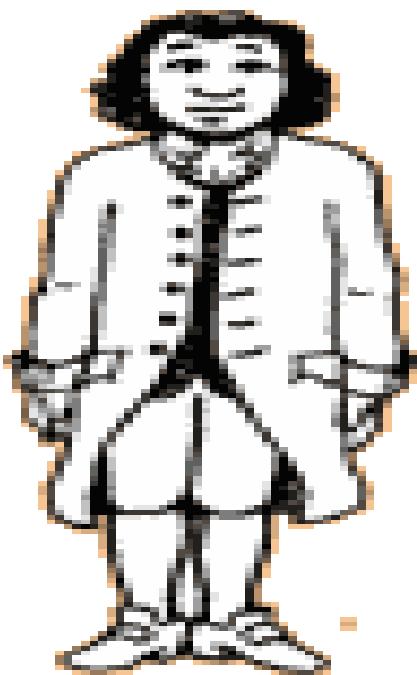
- ⦿ Turns out, the Founding Fathers had a lot of the same disagreements
 - HOW to vote?
 - WHO gets to vote?
 - Are all “states” created equal?
- ⦿ In addition, WHO will be the leader of this group?
 - ⦿ That’s right, they pick George Washington
 - On THAT they were in total agreement, but it was the only unanimous decision
 - ⦿ Other than when to break for lunch...

2 Major Disagreements

- BOTH the major disagreements have to do with representation
- 1) How will we decide how many votes a state gets?
 - If we go with 1 State = 1 Vote, why is that bad?
 - If we go by population, why is that bad?
- Great Compromise
 - Two Groups or “houses” in the Legislature (Congress)
 - ONE will go by Population (House of Representatives)
 - ONE will be equal votes (2 per state) (Senate)

2 Major Disagreements

- The other issue was also representation but had to do with slavery.
 - Can you think of why slavery would create a problem with the Great Compromise?
- 2) How do we count slaves as part of the population?
- Three-Fifths Compromise
 - Three-fifths of the slave population would be counted for purposes of representatives and taxes.
 - *Is this fair?*
 - *Is this racist?*



Now What . . .

- We have the basic rules, and we are ready to write this thing...
- The final thing we will do is write “WHY” we are writing this thing. What is its purpose, why is it needed, and what will it be “about”...

○ The Preamble

- The Introduction and purpose of a Constitution (*or Bill*)

The Preamble

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

And So . . .

- We hopefully see many of the influences, ideas, and past examples that lead to OUR modern Constitution
- We will actually end there, and the rest of this week be preparing for a test on all these “Documents of Freedom”
- That way in our Final Unit we can focus on what’s actually IN the Constitution. Or...
 - The Principles, Laws, Organization, and Processes ☺

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