

Article 10.

The solemn Ratifications of the present Treaty, deposited in good and true Form, shall be exchanged between the contracting Parties in the space of six Months or sooner, if possible, to be computed from the Day of the Signature of the Original Treaty. In all Cases whereof We the undersigned their Ministers Plenipotentiary have in their Names and in Virtue of our full Powers, signed with our Hands the present Declaration & Treaty, and caused the Seals of our Arms to be affixed thereto.

Done at Paris, this third Day of September, In the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty three.

J. Hartley

John Adams

B. Franklin

John Jay



A More Perfect Union

Thirteen Independent States

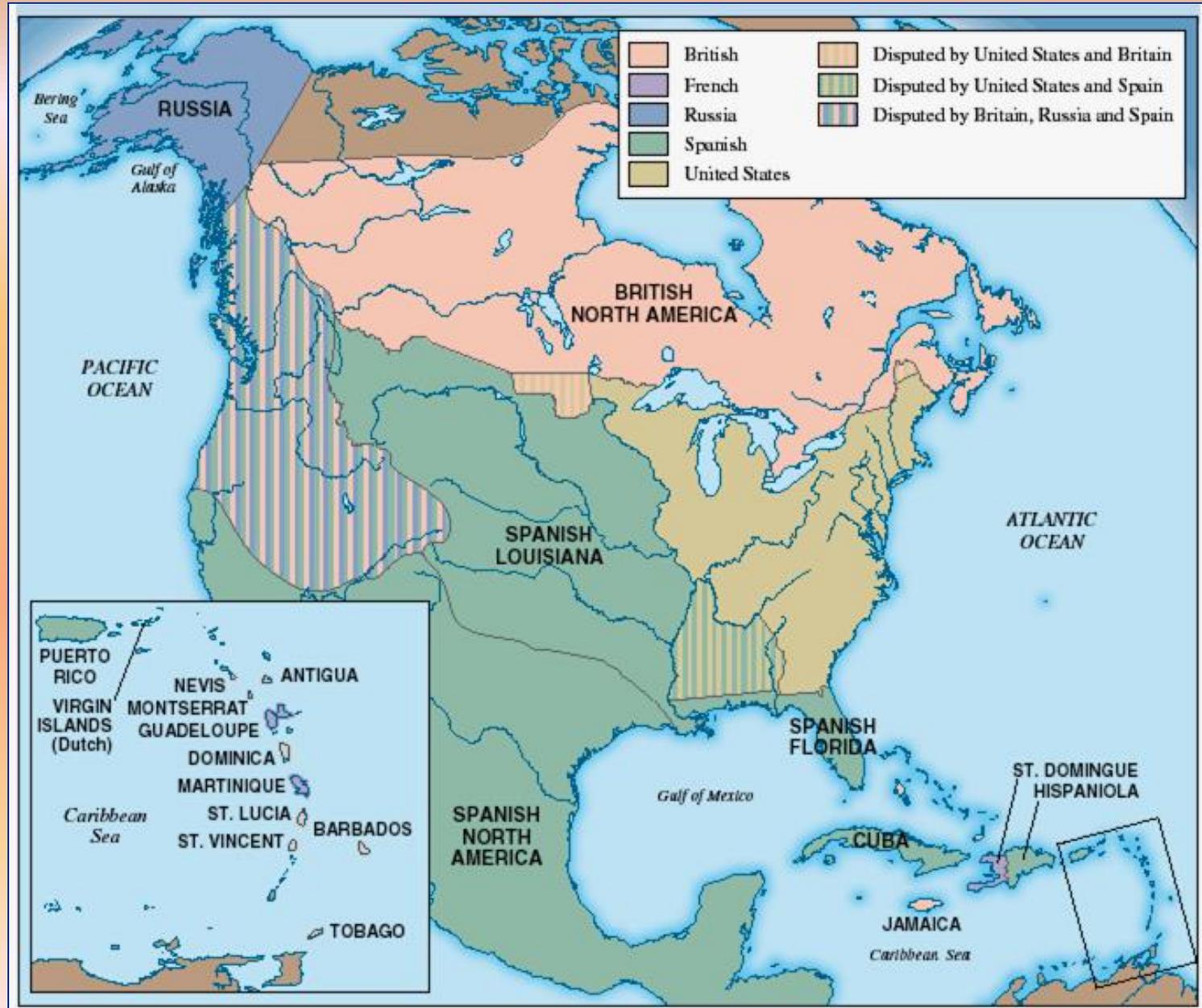
After the Declaration of independence (July 1776), each of the 13 colonies seceded from Great Britain and formed 13 independent States.

All were **United** to fight against British rule. From here, the name **United States of America**.

The new country would be a **Republic**, governed by elected representatives. Creating a central Government was not easy...



North America after the Treaty of Paris 1783



ARTICLES
OF
CONFEDERATION

AND
PERPETUAL UNION

BETWEEN THE

STATES

OF

NEW-HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS BAY, RHODE-ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, CONNECTICUT, NEW-YORK, NEW-JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, NORTH-CAROLINA, SOUTH-CAROLINA, AND GEORGIA.



EXETER, New-Hampshire,
PRINTED BY ZECHARIAH FOWLE.

M,DCC,LXXVII.

The articles of Confederation

(March 1, 1781)

It was the first central Government of United States.

The Congress was a unicameral legislature with delegates or representatives from each State.

The federal Government had the authority to:

- Lead external relations or foreign affairs.
- Keep its armed forces.
- Borrow money and issue money.

It could not:

- Regulate trade.
- Force citizens to enlist in the army.
- Tax.

The Articles of Confederation

Gave Congress very limited authority:

The thirteen States had to approve the amendments.

Nine States were needed to pass a federal law.

The States had more power than the federal Government.

Problems:

The currency

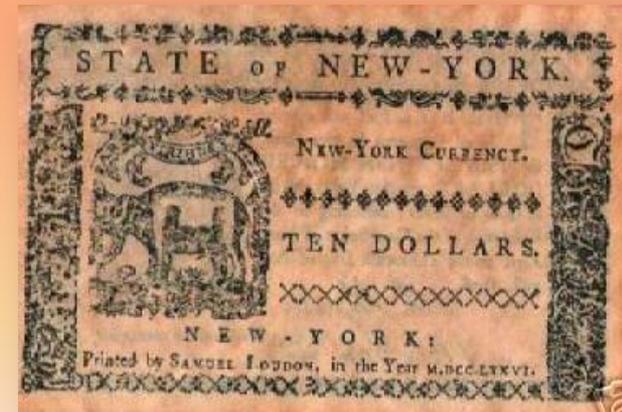
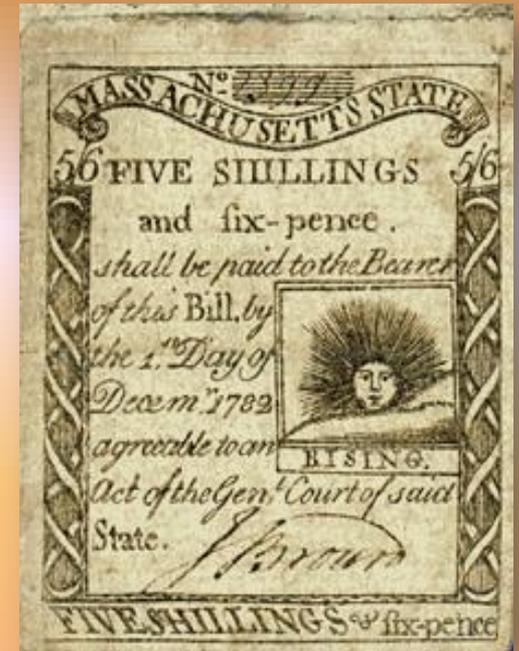
Each state used different coins. There were no federal currencies.

Without a common currency, trade and payment of debts was affected.

National Debt

The United States owed money to France, Spain, Holland and his own soldiers.

Without collecting taxes from the States, it could not raise enough funds to pay the national debt.

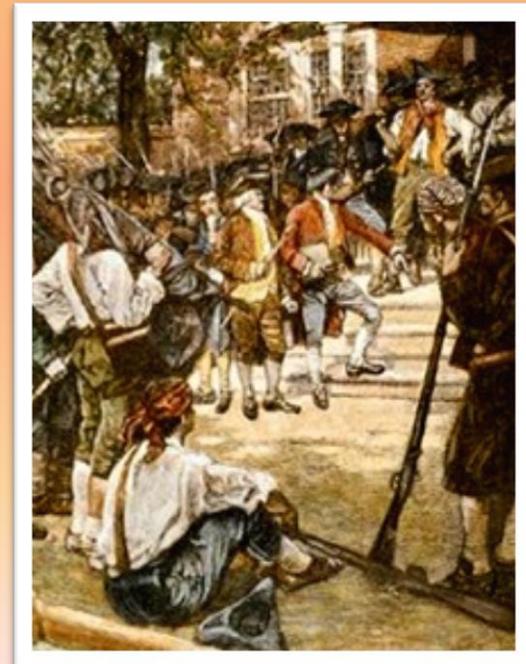


Problems with Great Britain - Great Britain prevented American trade with the islands of the Antilles stating that the agreement to pay the royalists' confiscated properties had not been fulfilled.

Problems with Spain - Spain closed the lower Mississippi American navigation to prevent expansion into the Spanish territories. The colonists of the West depended on the River to trade. Although the Congress reached an agreement with Spain, the southern States rejected it and it could not do anything.

Economic depression

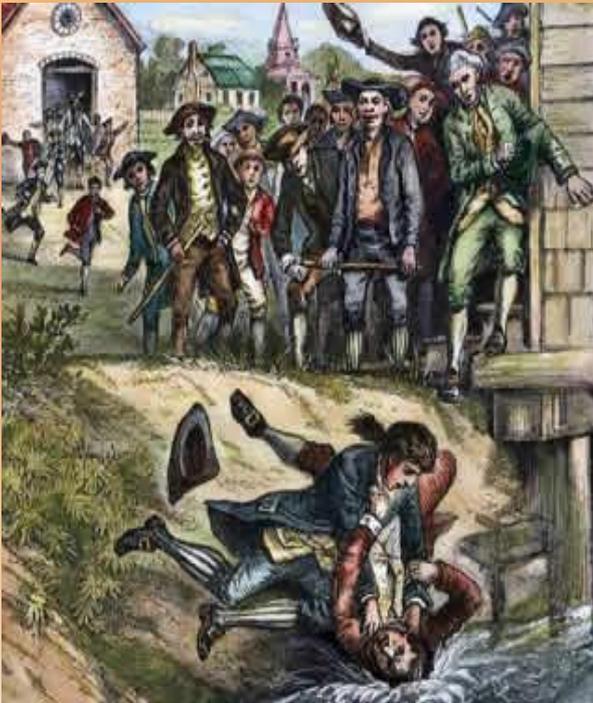
Economic activity fell and increased unemployment. The farms of the South had been damaged in the war. The sale of rice fell without trade with the West Indies. The farmers were left with little money. As a result, States began to confiscate the lands of farmers to pay external debts.



Shays' Rebellion

In 1786 farmers led by Daniel Shays, took by force the Court of Massachusetts to prevent judges from confiscating land from farmers.

In 1787 they attacked the federal arsenal in Springfield in search of weapons and ammunition, being dispersed by the militia of Massachusetts, dying four rebels.



Shays' rebellion convinced many Americans of the need for a new and stronger government and the need to replace the **articles of Confederation**.

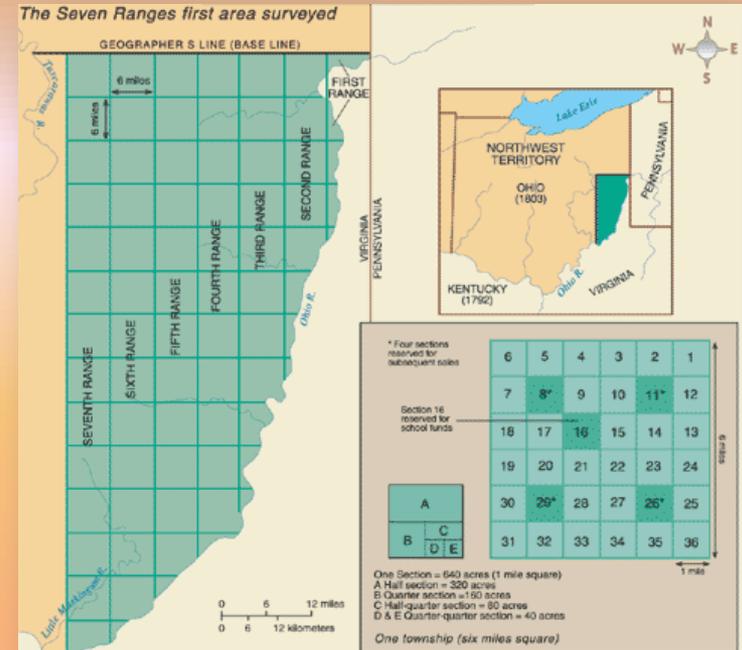
Thomas Jefferson expressed this view from France:
"A small rebellion from time to time, is a good thing."



LAND SURVEY POLICIES

ORDINANCE OF 1785

The territory west of the Appalachians was divided into municipalities of six miles, divided in turn into 36 sections of 640 acres, which were sold at public auction. Unscrupulous people moved to these lands and forced the Government to redefine the rights of property.



The “Northwest Ordinance” 1787

The territory would be divided into three to five small territories. Once it reached 60,000 inhabitants, they could apply to become a State.

It included a bill of rights for the colonists with freedom of religion, trial by jury and it prohibited slavery or involuntary servitude in the whole territory.

The Constitutional Convention, Philadelphia, 1787

- **55 delegates** from all the States attended except **Rhode Island**.
- **George Washington** was elected to preside over the Convention.
- **James Madison** took notes during the discussions. He is called the "**Father of the Constitution**" because he was the author of the basic plan adopted by the Convention.
- The men who wrote the Constitution are known as the "**Founding Fathers**."
- All participants in the Convention were white and wealthy men. I
- ndigenous, African-Americans and women did not attend.



The Constitutional Convention, Philadelphia, 1787

Simple vote by State, at least seven States.

Virginia Plan

- Bicameral Congress
- Representation proportional to the population of the State.
- One Chief Executive
- Court system

Both supported a strong Government with three branches of powers

New Jersey Plan

- Unicameral Congress
- Only one single vote by State
- An executive branch of more people.
- Court system

The Great Compromise



1. A bicameral Congress:

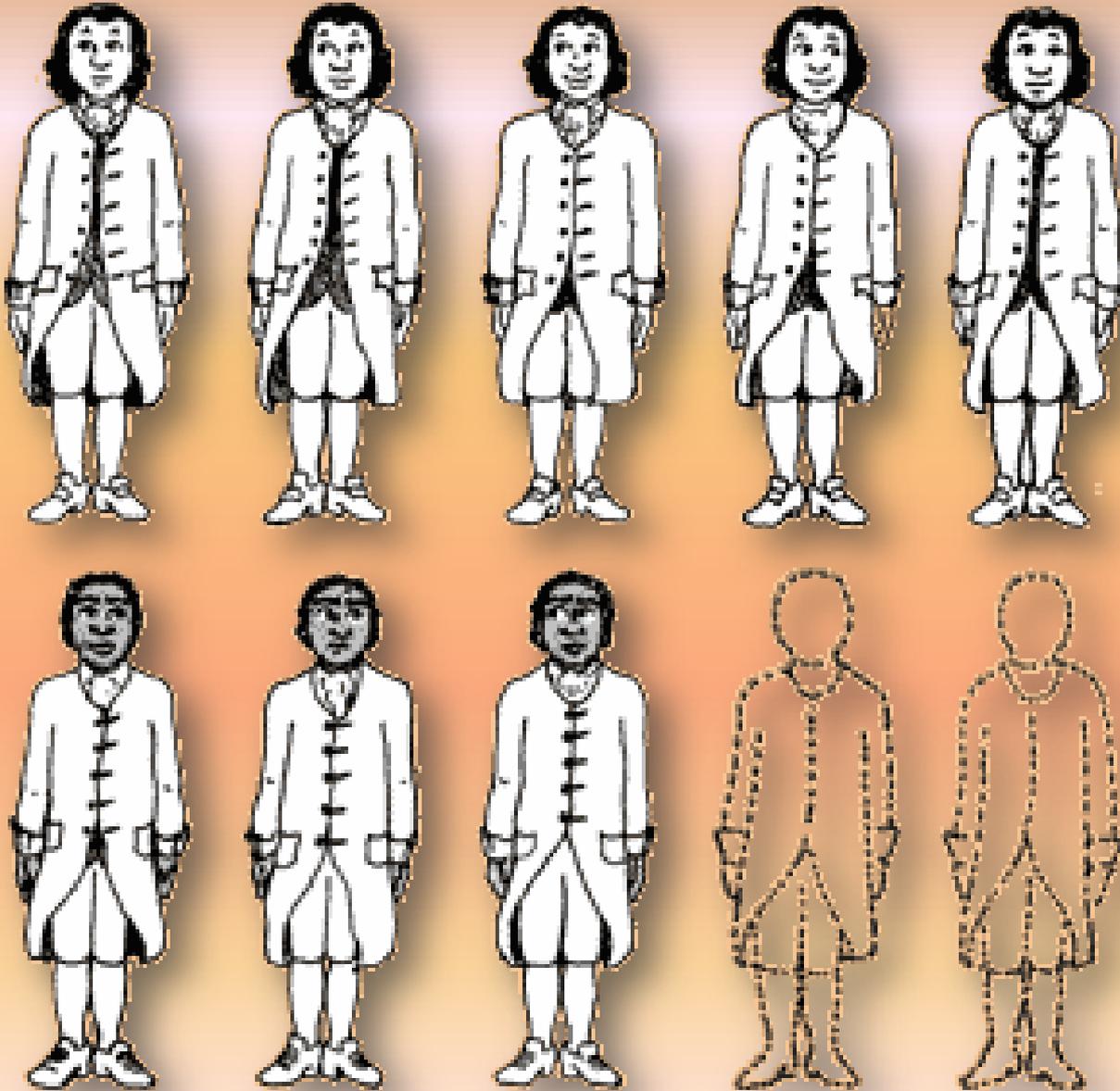
A lower Chamber, or **House of representatives** - each State would be represented according to its population. (satisfying the Virginia plan)

An upper Chamber or **Senate** - each State would have two members. (it was satisfied the plan of New Jersey)

2. Both chambers had to approve the laws of the Nation.

3. Slave owners would be able to maintain slave trade until the 1808.

The Three-Fifths Compromise

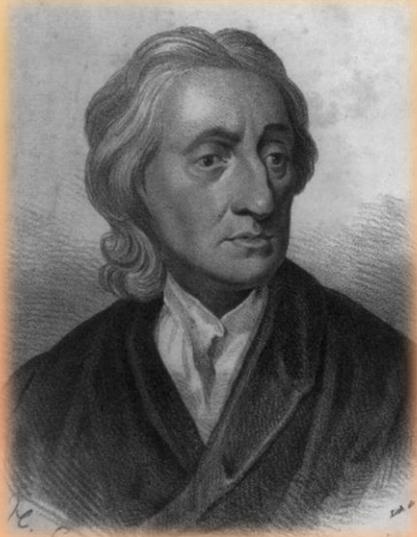


To determine the population of a State, and for purposes of representation, every five slaves would be equal to three free individuals.

Roots of the Constitution

The Magna Carta: Established limits to the power of the British monarchy.

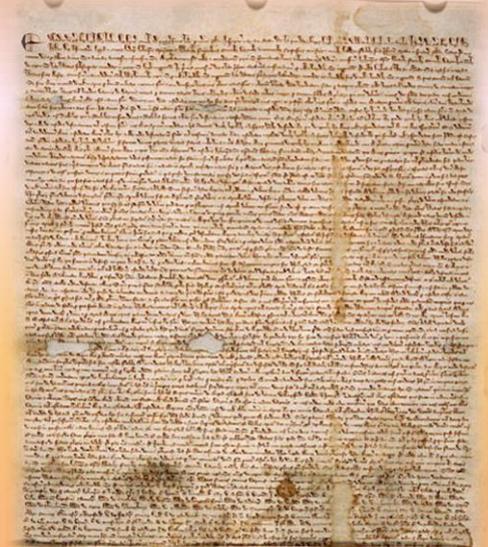
England's Bill of rights 1689



Enlightenment: Movement that promoted knowledge, reason and the sciences to improve society.

John Locke: He believed that every individual had natural rights, including the right to life, liberty and property.

Baron of Montesquieu: French writer who said in his "the spirit of laws" that the powers of Government should be separated and balanced with each other, to avoid too much power in a single person and prevent totalitarian abuses.

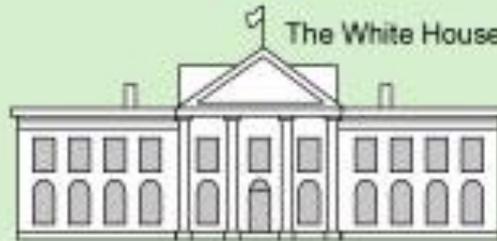


Government Structure

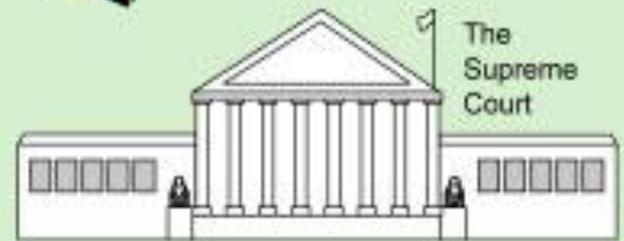
CONSTITUTION



The U.S. Capitol



The White House



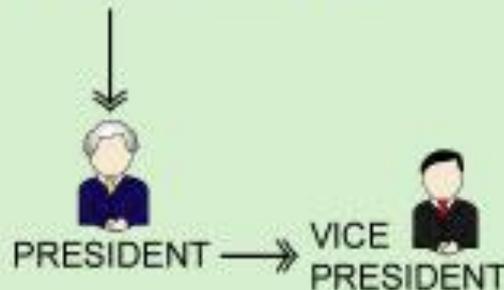
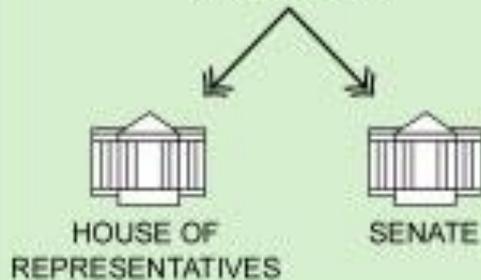
The Supreme Court

LEGISLATIVE

EXECUTIVE

JUDICIAL

Congreso



Constitution

Legislative Branch

Congress divided into the House of representatives and the Senate.

Responsible for:

The laws of the Government

Raising taxes

Emission of trade regulation and money

Organize and finance the armies

Declaring war

Executive Branch

Headed by the President and vice President.

It administers the laws and policies of the nation.

President is Commander of the armed forces.

Conducts relations with foreign countries.

They are elected by an electoral college to serve four years.

Judicial Branch

It is the system of courts headed by the Supreme Court and the lower federal courts.

They judge cases involving the Constitution, Federal and state laws passed by Congress.

Judges problems between States.

“Checks and Balances” System



Both Chambers have to approve bills I order to become laws.



Congress has to approve the nominations made by the President.

The President can veto or reject a Bill

The President nominates the members of the Supreme Court.



Congress can override the veto of the President.

Constitutional Debate

Before the Constitution was adopted by the new Republic, nine of the thirteen States had to ratify it or approve it.

Federalists

They supported the Constitution.

They feared that the lack of a strong central government capable of maintaining order would lead to disorder.

They had the support of the most respected people in the United States, **George Washington** and **Benjamin Franklin**.

Anti Federalists

They did not support the Constitution.

They feared that the Constitution made the central Government too powerful and that it would ignore the will of the States and the people.

They understood that a bill of rights was needed that would protect individual freedoms of citizens.

Adopting the Constitution

- 1787 **Delaware** became the **first State** to approve the Constitution.
- 1788 **New Hampshire** becomes the **ninth state** to ratify the Constitution.
- 1790 **Rhode Island**, is the last of the thirteen States to ratify the Constitution.
- 1791 The **Declaration of Rights** is added to the Constitution.

