Problems like Shays’ Rebellion revealed the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation. This event convinced many U.S. citizens that our 1st written plan of government needed to be revised/rewritten.
25 May 1787, Philadelphia at Independence Hall

Original purpose was to revise the Articles of Confederation and prevent “mobocracy”

12 of 13 states present
(Rhode Island absent because they opposed a stronger central govt)

55 delegates
8 signed DOI, 7 governors, 44 were members of the Continental Congress, 29 had served in the Revolutionary War, Gen. Washington, Madison (2 future U.S. presidents,) Ben Franklin
Votes on decisions made: equal representation (one vote per state)

Rule: keep discussions from the convention secret – WHY?
To avoid public pressure and allow delegates to speak freely

How would the revised document be ratified?
“Majority rules” – 9 out of 13 would have to sign new document to ratify (pass)
*Technically it should have been unanimously agreed upon when there was a change in the AoC*

No people ever had a fairer opportunity to be what they anxiously wished to be - none ever neglected their interest more.
Tristram Dalton, in a letter to John Adams, July 1786
**Representation Plans Proposed**

**Virginia Plan** proposed by James Madison

- 3 branches (L, E, J)
- *Bicameral* Congress (2 houses) with the amount of representatives given based on population of state

Appealed to MA, NY, PA, VA

Large states would have more lawmaking votes than smaller states

**New Jersey Plan** proposed by William Paterson; similar to the AoC’s current plan

- *Unicameral* Congress with equal votes per state; not based on pop.
- “Group” executive branch

Appealed to MD, DE, NJ

Promoted states’ rights and kept the power concentrated at that level
Compromise Reached

Roger Sherman proposed the “Great Compromise” - Bicameral legislature with one house based on population & the other house given equal representatives.

House of Representatives: number of delegates a state received would be based on the number of people in that state; tax/appropriation bills would need to start here.

Senate: equal representation; 2 Senators per state, regardless of size.
The Issue of Slavery

At the time: 550,000 slaves in the U.S.

What would Southern states want?

3/5ths Compromise: 3/5ths of a state’s enslaved population would count towards a state’s population in the HoR.

One argument of Northern delegates was that since slaves weren’t allowed to vote or participate in govt why should they count at all?

Slave Trade Compromise: Southern delegates agreed that Congress could regulate trade between the states IF Northern delegates agreed not to interfere with the transatlantic slave trade and revisit the issue in 1808.

*Northern delegates wanted imports taxed, but to avoid upsetting the Southerners, it was agreed not to tax exported goods.
Issues up for Debate

1. Representation in Congress:
- Larger states argued they had more people so more representatives from that state (more voice in legislation)
- Smaller states argued that having a small population shouldn’t mean they don’t get as many representatives

2. Slavery:
   Should a state’s slaves be counted in the population for representation? Should we ban it altogether?

3. Economic issues:
   - Congress given the power to tax, maintain and regulate trade, print and coin $, tariffs, etc.
1. Much stronger central/federal/national govt
2. National govt had the power to tax citizens to earn revenue
3. National govt regulates trade between states (interstate commerce)
4. Executive branch with a president (elected by the Electoral College) who would also be Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces
5. Needed 9 of 13 to ratify
6. Scratched the “Confederation” idea in favor of more of a true Republic
Ratifying the U.S.C.

Federalists formed in support of the passage of the U.S.C.

-Favored stronger national govt ("NATIONAL"ists); many landowners who wanted property protection that a strong govt could provide

Federalist Papers: essays printed in newspapers to support the U.S.C.’s ratification; Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay authored under the pen name "Publius"
Anti-Federalists opposed the U.S.C. (they were against a strong national govt that the new constitution had created)

- Thought a strong national govt would take away the rights they fought for in the Revolution

- Feared new govt would favor the wealthy instead of the common people because it did not list out rights guaranteed to citizens

Compromise?

Federalist promised a **Bill of Rights** in exchange for ratification
...17 Weeks Later

17 September, 42 members were left at the Convention, 3 refused to sign the Constitution; special elections were held in the states for members of the ratifying conventions.

PA → MA → and the total 9 needed by 21 June 1788

VA and NY finally ratified, NC held a convention but never voted and RI never even held a convention.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Federalists</th>
<th>(Anti-Federalists) later become the Democratic-Republicans</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaders</td>
<td>Hamilton and Adams</td>
<td>Jefferson and *Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographics</td>
<td>Manufacturers, merchants, wealthy, Northerners, educated, urban, usually</td>
<td>Farmers, Southerners, rural, western territories</td>
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<td>eastern seaboard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ideal Government</td>
<td>National authority over the states, “loose interpretation” of the USC</td>
<td>State sovereignty over national supremacy, “strict</td>
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<td>(implied powers), educated “elite” lead country, large &amp; powerful govt</td>
<td>interpretation” of the USC (expressed powers), nation</td>
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<td>necessary to protect land and international interests</td>
<td>of “small, yeoman farmers”, individual rights are</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>paramount, “small govt”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Policy</td>
<td>National Bank</td>
<td>Anti BUS</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Excise tax</td>
<td>Anti-excise tax</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Favored a national debt through assumption</td>
<td>Anti-debt, states pay their own</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tariffs</td>
<td>Low/No tariffs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Policy</td>
<td>Opposed French Revolution</td>
<td>Supported F.R.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Angered by French actions</td>
<td>Disliked GB</td>
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