We Be Deople The Property of t Hellen I All liquelative Places Serong of V Agbrandshies? Millen I. The Hage of Representations, dail becomposed of the more nearly word space of the Steph of the world States, and the blinks in which the states of the Steph of the world States, and the blinks of the states of the Steph of the world of the blinks of the states of the stat CONSIIIII then vacanis haffen in the Apparents ten from any the depte Counter de therety theory hat for Britis Colores to fill with Processes. Mit Mange of Ageneralisters whole down down sproder and order office and what how the web Three of simple schowerd. Sellien. 3. He & busto of the strutestellates what he compand of water to be strete, have by the Comstate thereof forme grangendered Chamber whall have one Prate. on ortae No Haman John Sheeles to Ach ort, when childred, to Het Breek Kasaane of me anoun wer The short what there there office, and store Brewent on try we in the attender of the trie President or when he shall come the office of Desident of the duted theles. These knot short how the well there to be got by parting to The miling for that Softwe they don't in But or of maline. When the Short and the second of the conservation of the black of the brombers of the second of the s of the Undel show that I dry justice shot proud. freigness in Come of the partiment what State or Hightmute de Hendricht Robert de So an ordered to Just in the second of Value 1. The Come Places and Procuse therefeld the Congress onegod on y lows by law The Congress whale ofwerthe at least over in appoint a different Lag Section S. Court Howeverhall be the judge of the distance Represent Sections of the one thouse agend a Magnety of achieved constitution

After the war for independence The most important disagreement was how to govern the new country.

## How united should the new states be?

- Some people wanted the nation to be a loose organization of states. They believed that citizens in each state should govern themselves.
- Others wanted a powerful national government to solve the problems of the new country. Each state had to give up some of its power so that the nation could be stronger.

## Articles of Confederation (1781-1788).

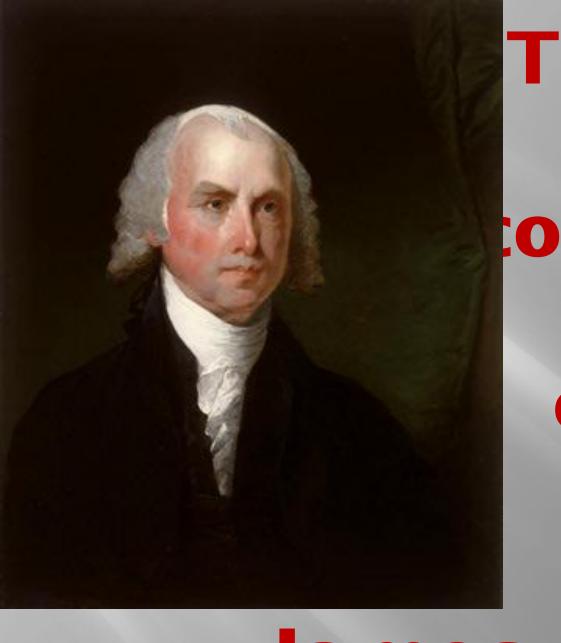
- There was no president.
- National Congress (a lawmaking body) consisted of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- Congress was given authority to declare war, to establish an army and navy, to issue and borrow money.
- The Articles gave most power to the states. Each one could cast one vote in Congress. A law could be passed only if nine of the thirteen states voted for it.

### did not work well in

- The states had too much power: They often acted like separate nations. Each state could coin its own money, arm its own soldiers and build its own navy. Each could, and sometimes did, make laws to hurt neighboring states.
- There was confusion about currency: Some used coins minted by the states, others used foreign coins, still others traded with goods like salt or pork.
- One of the biggest problems concerned foreign policy: Like any nation, the US needed to make treaties with foreign countries, but in 1785 most European nations did not respect American power.

# Constitutio nal Convention

- In spring 1787 the states sent their 55 representatives to Philadelphia in order to take part in the Constitutional Convention and to write a new plan of government.
- This group included: George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison.



The project of the constitution was composed by

James Madison.

- The project included Locke's idea that the purpose of government is to protect natural rights of people to life, liberty and property. If a government fails to do so, the people have the right to rebel against it.
- Locke also rejected the belief that the power of kings came directly from God. He was convinced that political power came from the people.
  - The idea that a government could only exist with the consent of the governed was also used by Madison.
  - The latter included Rousseau's statement that all citizens must take part in their government all the time.
  - The principle from the Magna Carta that those who govern are subject to the law of the land as well as those who are governed, too.
- James Madison added the idea that private property should be the backbone of liberty.

The United States Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787, by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

## The Constitution consists of:

- The preamble
- Seven original articles
- Twenty-seven amendments
- A paragraph certifying its enactment by the constitutional convention.

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.

## On July 16, 1787 the plan of the new American government was completed.

- It created the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- Divided the political power among the three branches of government:
  - The legislative branch
  - The executive branch
  - The judicial branch

- Not all Americans approved of the constitution. It took almost a year before nine out of thirteen states ratified it as there was a strong opposition to the project.
- People feared that under the constitution the president would become as powerful as a king. They thought that states were the best defenders of the people's liberties because state constitutions guaranteed personal freedoms, while the US constitution did not have a bill of rights.

#### Ratification of the Constitution

reaction of the Constitution				
	Date	State	Votes	
			Yes	No
1 ]	December 7, 1787	<u>Delaware</u>	30	
2 ]	December 12, 1787	Pennsylvania	46	
3 ]	December 18, 1787	New Jersey	38	
4.	January 2, 1788	Georgia	26	
5.	January 9, 1788	Connecticut	128	
6]	February 6, 1788	Massachusetts	187	

**Maryland** 

Virginia

New York

South Carolina

New Hampshire

North Carolina

**Rhode Island** 

7 April 28, 1788

8 May 23, 1788

9 June 21, 1788

10 June 25, 1788

11 July 26, 1788

13 May 29, 1790

12 November 21, 1789

23

40

168

11

73

47

79

27

77

32

63

149

57

89

30

194

34



"A bill of rights, s what the people are entitled to ... and what no just government should refuse".

Wrote Thomas Jefferson in 1787, when found out that the constitution had no bill of rights

Cong chis miled States,

"Abill of rights"

- Madison helped to write 12 amendments, concerning the rights of the people.
- In December 1791, 10 of them became part of the constitution.

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- Under the new constitution the American nation would grow strong and united.
- George Washington was easily elected as the first US president.
- Cabinet of advisers consisted of 4 members:
  - Thomas Jefferson
  - Alexander Hamilton
  - Henry Knox
  - Edmund Randolph





- Washington retired in 1796, after two terms of service. This decision set an example for future presidents.
   In his farewell address Washington asked that people forgive his mistakes and remember
- the good he had tried to do.
   Washington wanted Americans to support the union.
- He was against the growth of political parties which would divide the nation, against permanent alliances with foreign powers which could keep the nation from acting in its own best interests.
  - Many Americans still consider that their first president was the best one.