

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

## Background to the Constitution, Part I: The Enlightenment & the Social Contract

### The Enlightenment (the "Age of Reason")

- ★ Scientific & Philosophical Movement across Europe during the "\_\_\_\_\_" (1685–1815)
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_ Traditional Authority – and thinking, and religion, and traditional *everything*
- ★ Humanity Can Be Improved Via \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ Essays, Books, Inventions, Ideologies, Legal Codes, Etc.
- ★ The \_\_\_\_\_ Revolution / The \_\_\_\_\_ Revolution

### Deism

- ★ God \_\_\_\_\_ the universe, humanity, natural laws, etc.
- ★ God \_\_\_\_\_ according to the rules (science, ethics, etc.) he'd established.
- ★ He \_\_\_\_\_ to see what happened.
- ★ Questions? Problems? \_\_\_\_\_

### The Social Contract

- ★ Man in a "\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_" is 100% free (but 0% secure)
- ★ Individuals begin to form \_\_\_\_\_ for mutual benefit.
- ★ When enough people agree to work together, we have \_\_\_\_\_ - a society. (This usually requires the development of agriculture, but that's not as important for our purposes.)
- ★ Settled societies (w/ agriculture) lead to...
  - Surplus - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Specialization - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Government - \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ Without the social contract, man reverts to a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ - primitive, violent, and selfish. (Man is much more FREE, but much less SECURE - and there's very little PROGRESS.)

### Challenges of the Social Contract

- ★ Sometimes it's no fun to accept \_\_\_\_\_.
- ★ Balance between the \_\_\_\_\_ & and the \_\_\_\_\_.
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_ often develops within communities, leading to even more tension
- ★ Government a '\_\_\_\_\_ ' to maintain social contract

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## Background to the Constitution, Part II: The Articles of Confederation

### Recap of Part I

- ★ \_\_\_\_\_ ⇒ Everything can be figured out logically & improved with reason and effort
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_ ⇒ God expects us to use the natural laws he's laid out and the reason he's given us to figure it all out & fix whatever problems occur
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_ ⇒ Every citizen gives up SOME individual liberty for the good of the whole; this makes civilization possible & allows for progress and collective security

### Declaring Independence

- On \_\_\_\_\_, the American Colonies declared their independence from Great Britain...  
*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain \_\_\_\_\_, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, \_\_\_\_\_ are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to \_\_\_\_\_ or to \_\_\_\_\_ it, and to institute new Government..."*
- The Declaration of Independence included a list of 25+ complaints \_\_\_\_\_ and his oppressive, unfair behavior.
- It didn't proclaim the formation of a new nation so much as it did a \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ new, independent \_\_\_\_\_.
- In other words, "The King is a \_\_\_\_\_! His government has \_\_\_\_\_ - it's too oppressive and unresponsive to citizens in the colonies. So, we as individual states are going it alone (although we agree to help each other out in times of war and stuff)."

### Ideals vs. Rules

The Declaration of Independence presents a set of \_\_\_\_\_.

A Constitution is a set of \_\_\_\_\_

### The Articles of Confederation (our first effort at a constitution for the new nation)

- ❖ Like any constitution, the Articles of Confederation tried to answer at least TWO QUESTIONS...
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ The Articles of Confederation accomplished several things...
  - 1) The NAME of the new nation: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) Each state retained its \_\_\_\_\_ (the power to make its own decisions about the stuff happening within its borders)

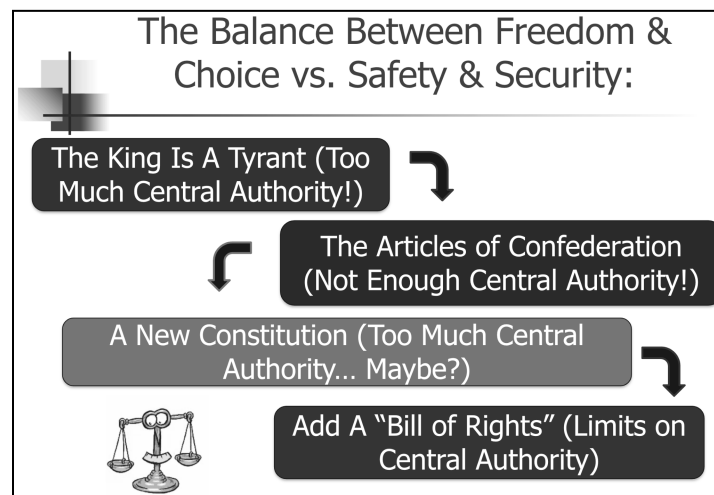
- 3) The states agreed to form a "\_\_\_\_\_ " - meaning they'd support one another in wartime and look out for each other generally the rest of the time.
- 4) It allowed (indirect) \_\_\_\_\_ of the people of each state in nation government.
- 5) It established the idea that the states should work together if they wanted this new nation to succeed.

❖ The Articles of Confederation had several major weaknesses, however...

- 1) It was almost impossible to get 9 of 13 states to \_\_\_\_\_ on anything important.
- 2) Even when they passed something, Congress had no \_\_\_\_\_ to enforce it.
- 3) Congress The national government couldn't impose or collect \_\_\_\_\_ effectively.
- 4) This meant they couldn't pay to support an \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_ or pay debts from the Revolutionary War.

### Shays' Rebellion

- After the Revolutionary War, many of those who fought returned to their \_\_\_\_\_.
- Now that England wasn't buying stuff from them, farms were suddenly \_\_\_\_\_.
- At the same time, states were raising \_\_\_\_\_ to pay off debts accumulated during the war.
- When farmers couldn't pay, their \_\_\_\_\_ was seized and they were \_\_\_\_\_.
- Daniel Shays led an armed \_\_\_\_\_ against this. He was \_\_\_\_\_ and "order" restored.
- This worried many officials and other leaders who decided they needed a \_\_\_\_\_ to prevent this sort of thing.
- They called a convention in Philadelphia to \_\_\_\_\_ (edit) the Articles of Confederation.
- The convention ended up tossing the Articles entirely and writing a \_\_\_\_\_ instead.



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## Key Compromises of the Convention & Overview of the U.S. Constitution

### Compromise #1: "The Great Compromise" (aka "The Connecticut Compromise")

\_\_\_\_\_ - Large states should have more representation in Congress (more people)

\_\_\_\_\_ - Every state should have the same representation (equal value of each state)

The new Constitution created a \_\_\_\_\_ legislature (meaning "two houses")...

- In the \_\_\_\_\_, every state is represented by two senators, regardless of size.
- In the \_\_\_\_\_, representation is based on population

### Compromise #2: Federalism

- Some powers belong to the \_\_\_\_\_ (coining money, making immigration law, foreign policy, etc.)
- Some powers belong to \_\_\_\_\_ (regulating business within the state, public education, certifications, etc.)
- Some powers are \_\_\_\_\_ (law enforcement, taxes, courts, etc.)

### Compromise #3: The Electoral College (indirect election of the President)

- Some thought the president should be elected by \_\_\_\_\_.
- Others feared "\_\_\_\_\_ " and the ignorance of the masses. Let \_\_\_\_\_ or others more "qualified" choose the president.
- Electoral College: Voters in each state won't vote *directly* for president, but for "\_\_\_\_\_ " who then meet and vote for a president every four years.

### Compromises 4, 5, and 6: What To Do About Slavery?

- How many times does the Constitution mention "slaves" or "slavery" directly? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - Southern states wanted their slaves counted as "population" for determining representation in the House. Northern states thought this made no sense at all. The compromise? Count every FIVE slaves as THREE for representation AND taxation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ - Congress couldn't regulate or eliminate the importation of new slaves for at least 20 years after the ratification of the new Constitution.
- \_\_\_\_\_ - "Free" states were required to cooperate with the return of escaped slaves back to wherever they'd escaped from

## Overview of the U.S. Constitution

The federal government has THREE branches...

- \_\_\_\_\_ - MAKES the laws (Article I). Both houses have to agree on a bill before it's sent to the President to (hopefully) sign.
  - Powers & responsibilities are described in \_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ - 2 year terms - based on population of each state - anything involving taxes or money has to start here.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ - 6 year terms - 2 senators per state - ratify presidential appointments, treaties with other nations, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ - ENFORCES the laws (Article II).
  - Powers & responsibilities are described in \_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ - 4 year terms - may sign or "veto" legislation
  - Chooses a "\_\_\_\_\_" of officials to head departments and act as advisors
  - Appoints \_\_\_\_\_ (including the Supreme Court)
  - Powers have grown dramatically over time - it's not always clear what the limits are
- \_\_\_\_\_ - INTERPRET the laws (Article III).
  - Powers & responsibilities are described in \_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution.
  - Supreme Court has the power to declare laws \_\_\_\_\_
  - Federal Courts deal with federal issues and anything involving \_\_\_\_\_.
  - State Courts deal with \_\_\_\_\_ and local matters.
- Article IV: Relations between the \_\_\_\_\_ - this section addresses one of the major weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation - making the states \_\_\_\_\_ together.
- Article V: \_\_\_\_\_ the Constitution (making changes)
- \_\_\_\_\_: Three Important "Leftovers" ...
  - The U.S. will take on any \_\_\_\_\_ left over from the years under the Articles.
  - The "\_\_\_\_\_": If there's a conflict between state law & the Constitution, THE CONSTITUTION WINS.
  - There are \_\_\_\_\_ for holding political office.
- Article VII: \_\_\_\_\_ - what it would take to approve the new Constitution as the supreme law of the land