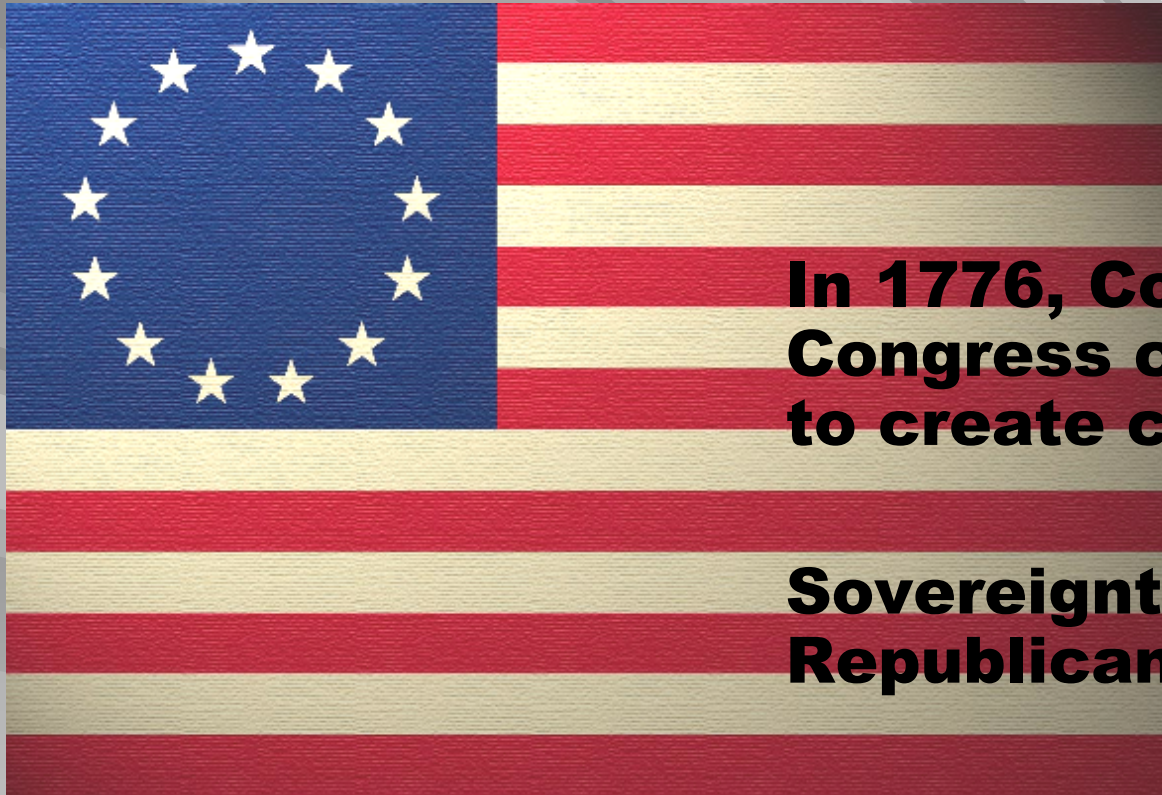




# **From Confederation to Constitution**

**1776-1790**

# **State constitutions:**



**In 1776, Continental Congress called on States to create constitutions**

**Sovereignty was tied to Republican ideals**

**Revolutionary ideas:**  
**written (transcendent)**  
**bill of rights**  
**mandatory elections**

# Articles of Confederation

## Creation:

**First constitution of the United States**

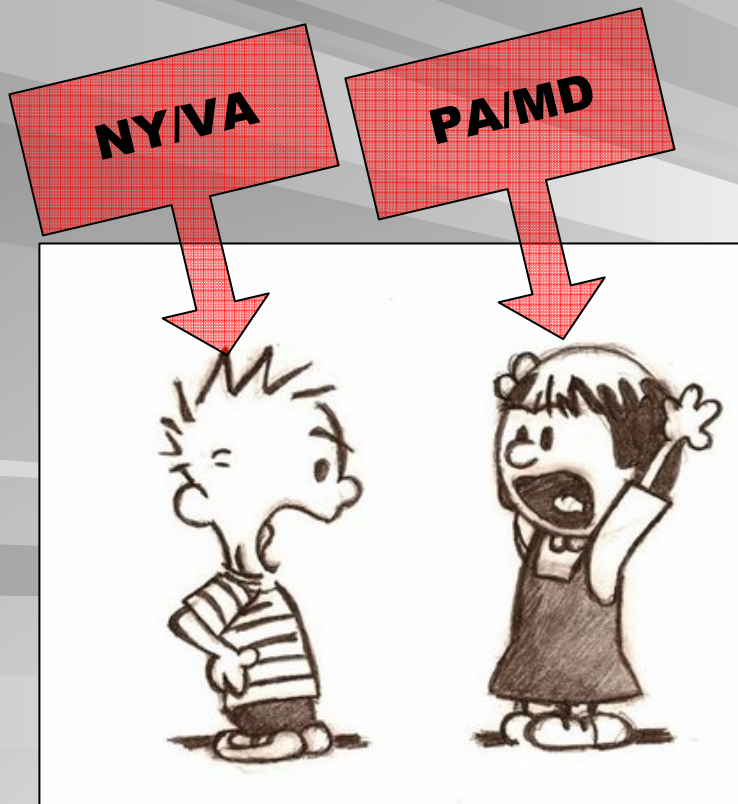
**Commissioned by 2<sup>nd</sup> CC**

**Ratified in 1781 by all 13 States:**

**Land Disputes**

**(western lands sold to pay debt/Federal control)**

**Maryland (1781)**



# Articles of Confederation Structure:

**Each state had a  
single vote:  
Disproportionate  
power for small  
states**



**Bills required 2/3  
vote**

**Amendments to the  
Articles required  
unanimous consent**

# Articles of Confederation

## Separation of Power:

### Federal

- Could make war or peace
- Send and receive ambassadors
- Make treaties
- Borrow money
- Set up a money system
- Establish post offices
- Build a navy
- Raise an army by asking the states for troops
- Settle disputes among the states
- Fix uniform standards of weights and measures

### States

- Allow open trade and travel
- Treat citizens of other states equally
- Provide funds and troops requested by Congress
- Surrender fugitives to one another
- Give credit to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state
- Submit their disputes to Congress for settlement

# Articles of Confederation

## Separation of Power:

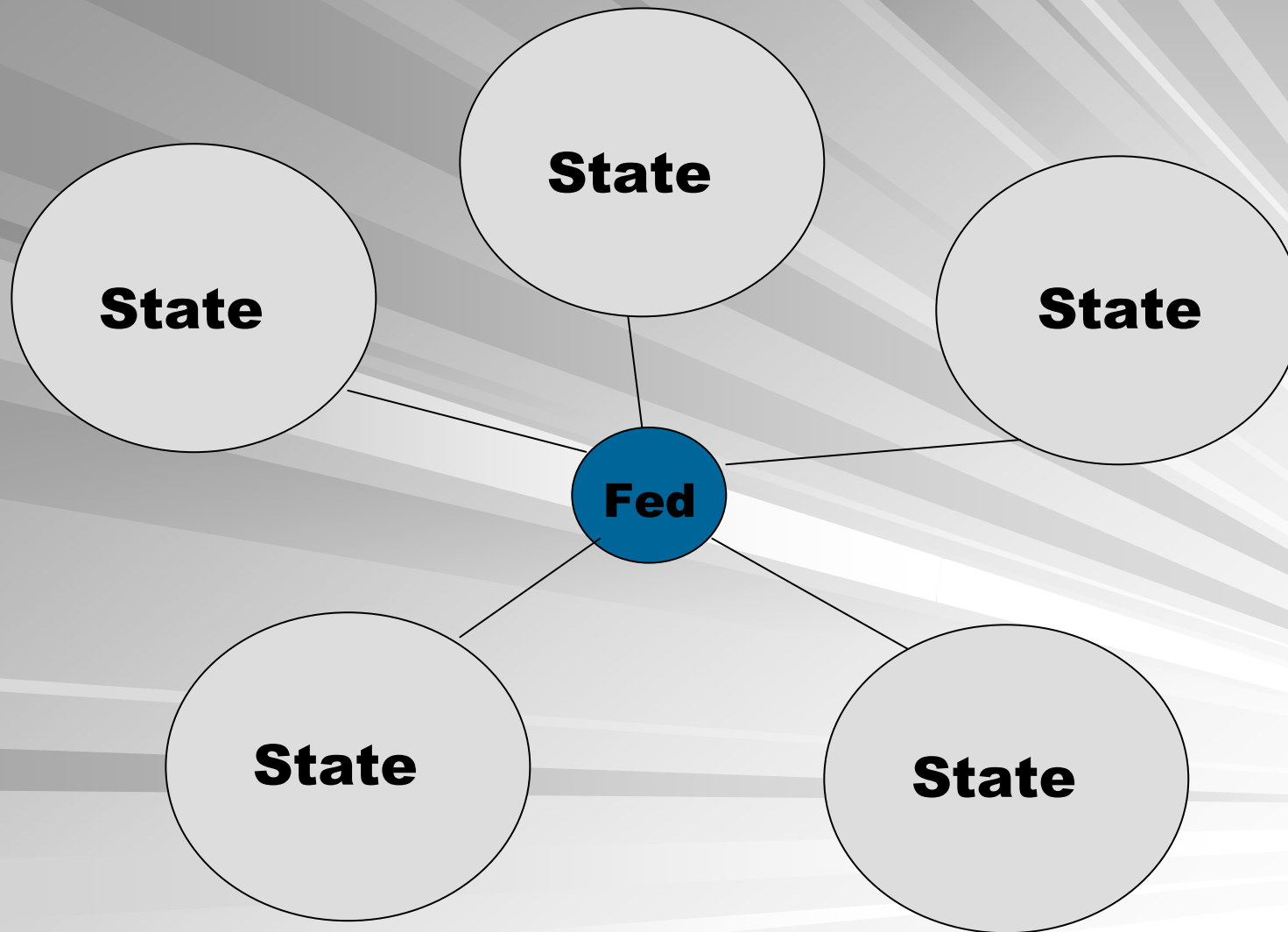
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# Articles of Confederation:



# Articles of Confederation Legislation:

## Land Ordinance (1785)

Old Northwest (modern-day OH, IN, IL, MI) should be sold; proceeds to pay national debt

## Northwest Ordinance(1787)

Old Northwest regions would first begin as a territory  
Territories would become a state when it had 60,000 inhabitants; equal status w/ other states



**Solution to  
thorny problem  
of COLONIES**



# Articles of Confederation Weaknesses:



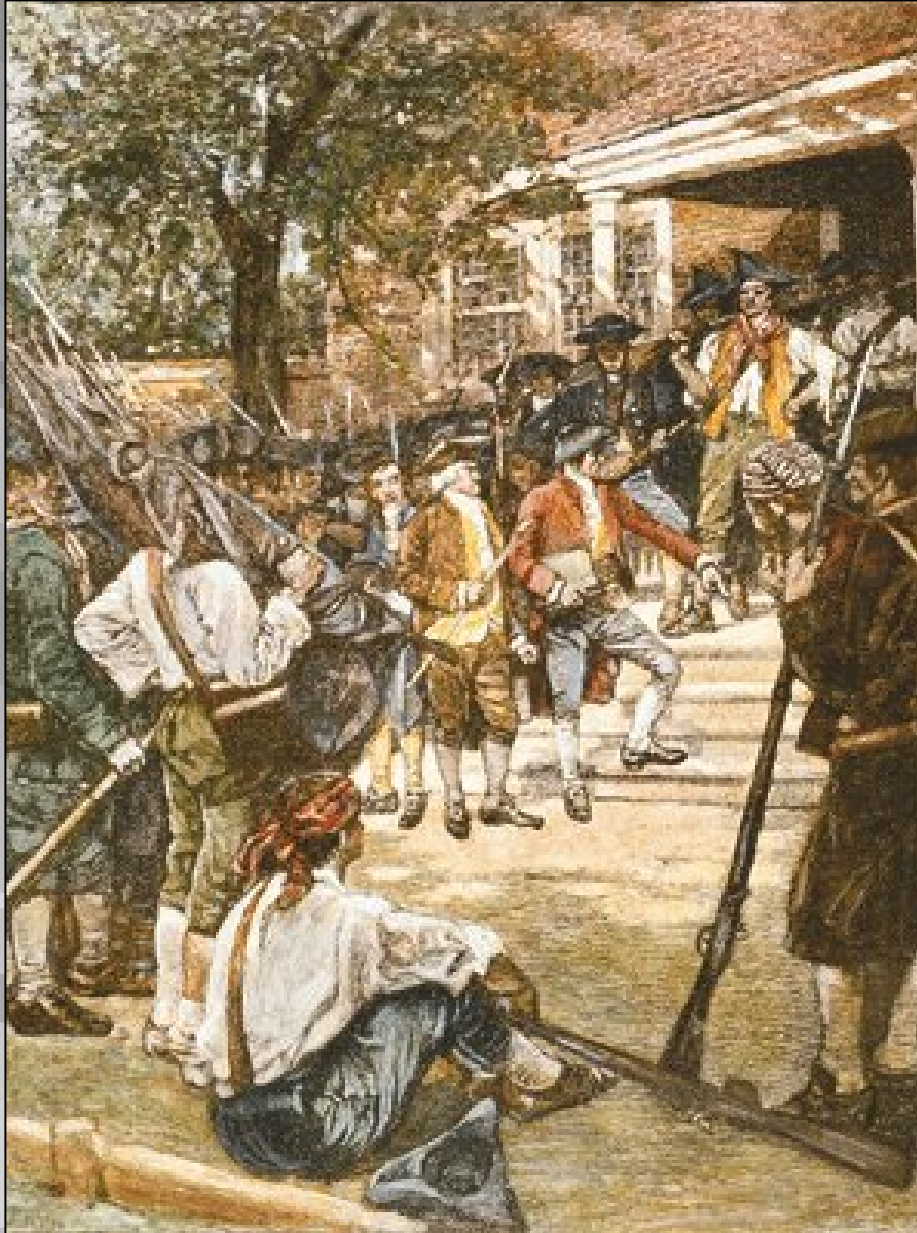
THE UNITED STATES  
UNDER THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION, 1787

**Congress had no power to regulate commerce**

**Congress could not enforce its tax-collection program**

**States retained power to tax / raise an army**

# Shays' Rebellion



**Farmers in Massachusetts were being heavily taxed to pay off war debt**

**Many lost farms through mortgage foreclosures and tax delinquencies**

**Farmers joined Daniel Shays in rebellion. They closed courthouses to prevent the courts from seizing any more farms**

**Jan. 1787, Shays and 1,200 farmers marched on the arsenal**

**Rebellion was put down violently**

**This showed the AofC was not a good government**

**Americans felt the Social Contract was broken**

# Constitutional Convention (1787)



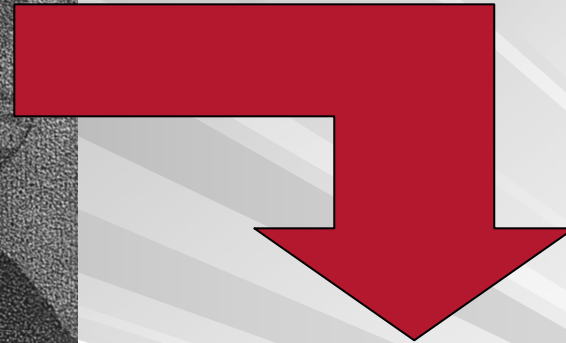
**Delegates from 12 states convened to “fix” the AofC**

**Strong anti-nationalists like Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, and Samuel Adams did not attend**

**Washington elected chairman; presided over the convention**

**Delegates scrapped the AofC in favor of a new constitution**

# VA Plan (Madison)



**Bicameral Congress**

**Representation = POPULATION**

**Larger states would have a political advantage**

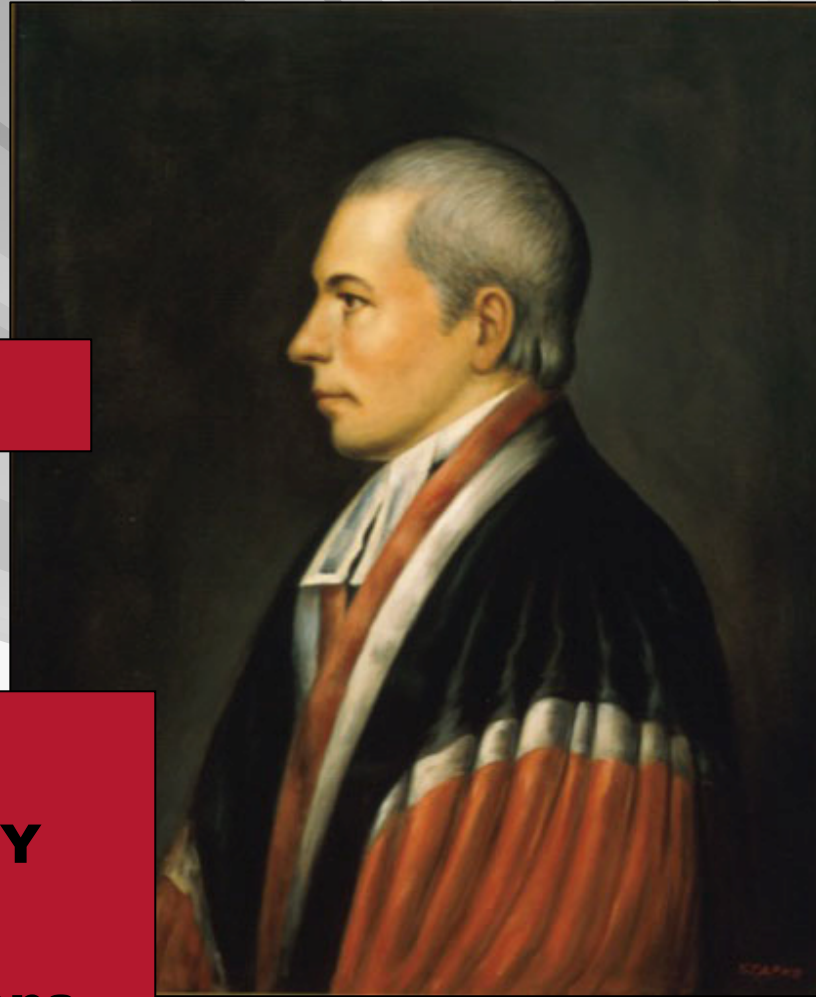
# NJ Plan (Paterson)



**Unicameral Congress**

**Representation = EQUALITY**

**Advocated by those in the  
states w/ smaller populations**



# **The Great Compromise**

**Proposed by Roger Sherman**

**Bicameral Congress**

**Smaller states conceded representation by population in the House of Representatives**

**Larger states conceded equal representation in the Senate**





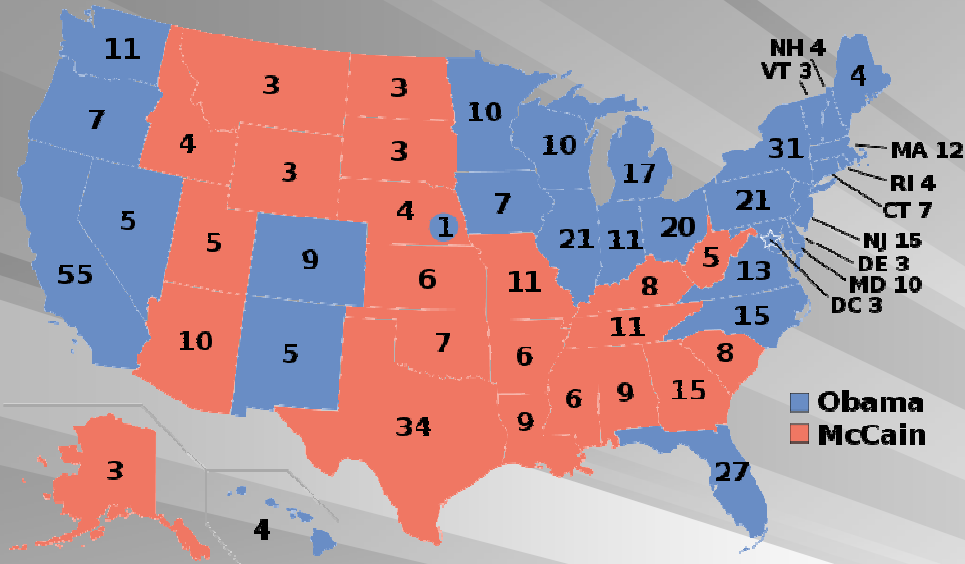
# **3/5 Compromise**

**North argued that slaves should not be counted since they were not citizens**

**South argued their smaller population would lead to northern domination**

**Compromise: Slaves would count as 3/5 of a person for representation purposes in the House**

# Conservative Safeguards



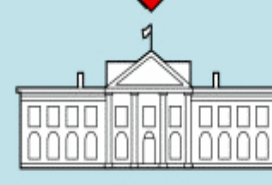
**Separation  
of Powers**

**Electoral  
College**

CONSTITUTION



Legislative Branch



Executive Branch



Judicial Branch



# Conservative Constitution (1789)

**Based on principle that the only legitimate government was one based on the consent of the governed (John Locke)**

**“The Elastic Clause”**

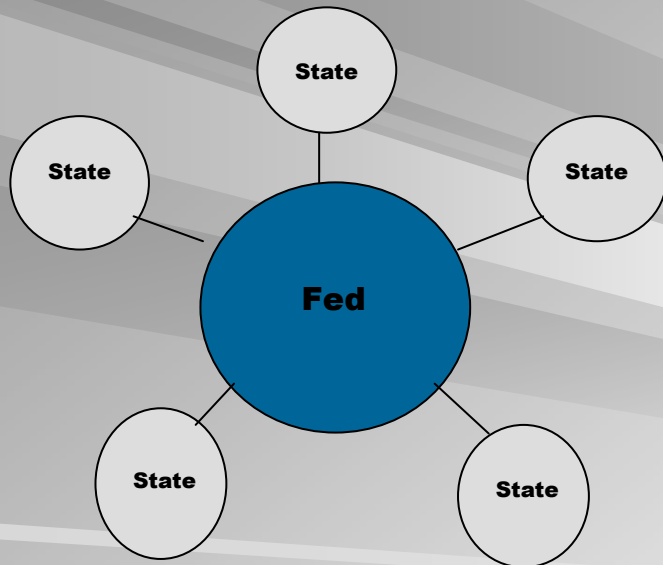
**“Supremacy Clause”**

**Bill of Rights**

**Restored economic & political stability of the colonial era.**

**Separation of Powers:**

- Executive: enforces the law**
- Legislative: makes the law**
- Judicial: interprets the law**

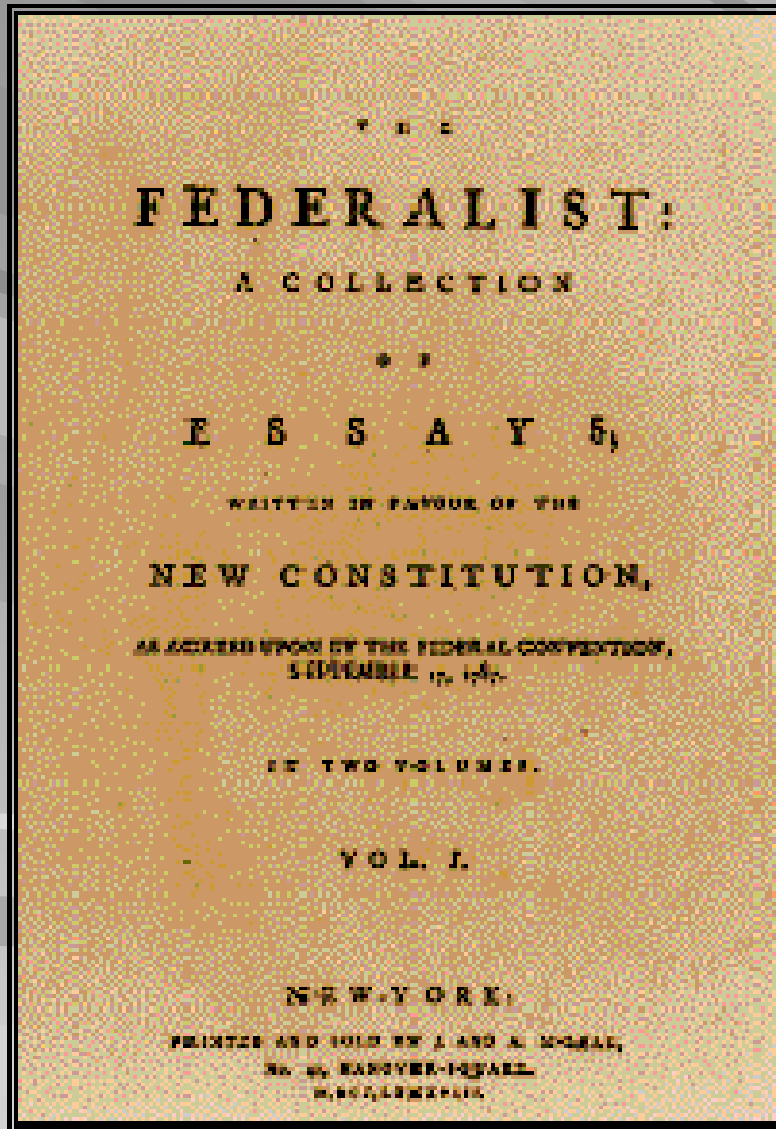


# Ratification

Special elections held in the various states for members of the ratifying conventions

## Federalists v Anti-Federalists

**Federalists: Argued in favor of the Constitution (John Jay, James Madison, and Uber-Federalist Alexander Hamilton)**



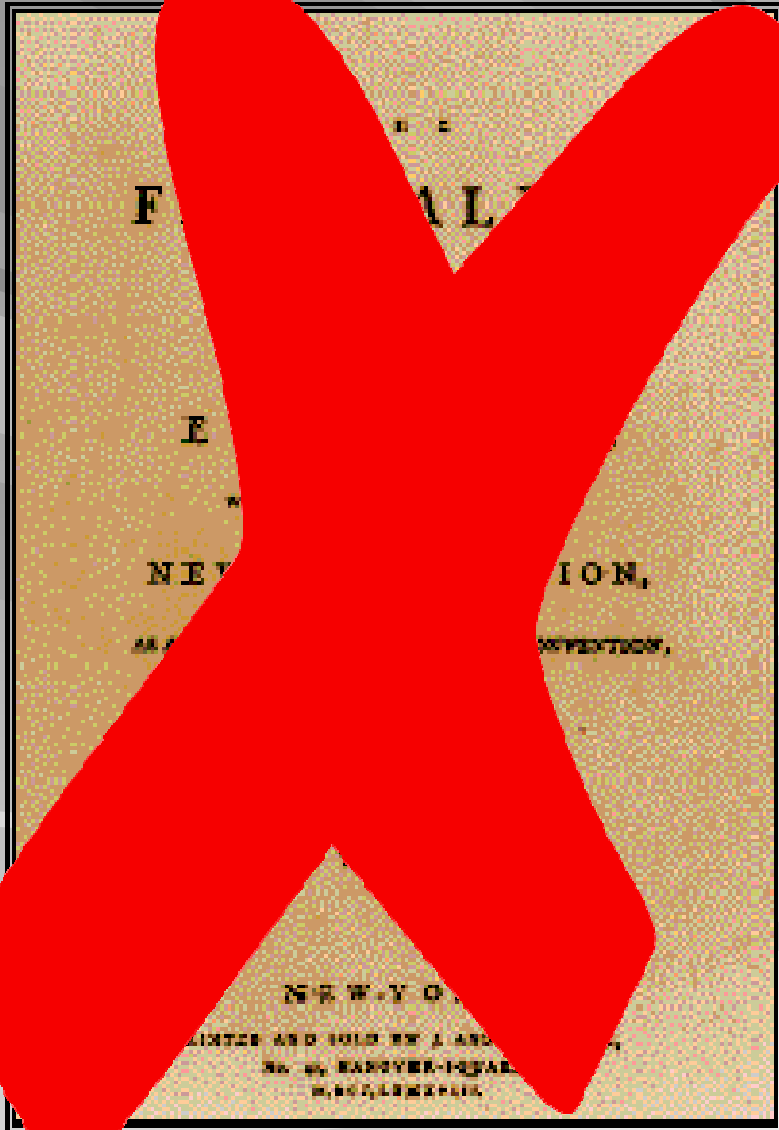
# Ratification

**Special elections held in the various states for members of the ratifying conventions**

## **Federalists v Anti-Federalists**

**Federalists: Argued in favor of the Constitution (John Jay, James Madison, and Uber-Federalist Alexander Hamilton)**

**Anti-Federalists: Wanted a bill of rights attached to Constitution (Patrick Henry, Sam Adams, Richard Henry Lee)**



# Ratification

By 1788, nine states had ratified the Constitution, and Congress adopted it.

The four remaining states (VA, NY, NC, and RI) narrowly agreed, and in 1790, all 13 States were united under the Constitution.

