Roots of Democracy

Democracy is . .

• A system of government in which citizens:
  • Vote for their leaders
  • Have specific rights and responsibilities

Greece: Democracy
(dēmokratía)
"rule of the people"
• (dēmos) "people"
• (krátos) "power"

Democracy came from many sources:
The ancient Greeks:

In Athens, citizens voting for their leaders became common
“Civic virtue” became important to many philosophers.

The ancient Romans:

Developed the “rule of law” common to all citizens throughout the empire
Developed advanced forms of representative government, before evolving into a dictatorship.
The Bible:
- Hebrew prophets developed the idea of all people being equal, created in the image of God.
- The idea of caring for the weaker members of society.

The Magna Carta (chap 2 vocab)
- British Document
- King John forced to recognize his power was limited by the Barons
- First step toward limited government

English Bill of Rights (chap 2 vocab)
- Made Parliament stronger than King or Queen
- Protected rights to trial by jury
- Outlawed cruel and unusual punishment

Individual Rights

Mayflower Compact (chap 2 vocab)
- Pilgrims signed it
- Agreed to follow all laws made by elected leaders

Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (chap 2 vocab)
- Limited powers of colony government
- Powers not given to colony given to towns
- Similar to federalism

House of Burgesses (chap 2 vocab)
- Founded at Jamestown in 1619
- First representative body in the English colonies
- Served as a model for other colonies
SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY

John Locke was an English philosopher during the late 1680s.
He wrote several books on how people should be governed.
His ideas influenced Thomas Jefferson.

The power of government comes from the people....We give the government certain powers to force people to do things for the common good of the community.......If the government does not reflect the will of the people, than the people can change it.......
The Declaration of Independence

Thomas Jefferson, "Father of DOI," part of the 2nd Continental Congress—part of a committee.

**Ultimate goal:**
- To generate support for American cause
- Propaganda
- Audiences:
  - Loyalists and other Americans who didn’t care
  - British people
  - King George and Parliament
  - Other European countries

Jefferson introduces a new theory of government:
- **Social Contract theory**
- Power of govt. comes from the people
  - Govt. must protect certain rights
  - People can alter or change the govt.
- **Democracy**—people rule

Statement of intent—why Americans wanted to separate from England:
- Lists grievances against King George
- Lists rights and freedoms violated by England

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- **Democracy**—people rule

King George would view the DOI as an illegal document.

Approved July 4th, officially signed Aug. 2nd, 1776.

56 signers of the DOI were considered traitors to England and a bounty was placed on their heads.

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King George’s statue is torn down by Patriots in New York City after the Declaration of Independence is signed by the 2nd Continental Congress.

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“We all created equal”
- Mason Dixon Line set the precedent over dividing the country over slavery.
- Ohio River would be the dividing boundary between North and South.

“Ann 21 yrs. old, educated and property owner.”

Several states would drop property qualifications and education.

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Abigail Adams—1790’s to early 1800’s
• Also supported the abolition of slavery
• Republican motherhood
• Despite their contributions, women’s rights did not progress and would remain 2nd class citizens

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony—1830’s to 1900’s
• Women’s rights reformers
• Citizenship
• Right to vote
• Education
• Supported the abolition of slavery
• Republican motherhood
• Despite their contributions, women’s rights did not progress and would remain 2nd class citizens

Republican motherhood
• Concept that a woman’s role was to stay at home and raise the next generation of PATRIOTS.
• This was a role to be proud of because a woman’s responsibility was to teach and raise their children in REPUBLICANISM.

Republicanism
• Government authority comes from the people who elect officials that represent their interests
• Promoted the end of slavery, encouraged education and sacrifice for the public good

Representative Democracy
• 13 colonies had a tradition of governing themselves.....
• Elected their own representative law making bodies.
• Passed laws to keep peace within their communities.
• Colonies had a tradition of representative democracy.
• That’s why they fought the Revolution.

Articles of Confederation
• Our first constitution (law of the land) and attempt to create a democratic government based on the ideas of DOI.
• Written by 2nd Continental Congress during War and took effect in March 1781... Becomes the Confederation Congress
• Founding Fathers were determined not to have a king.....

The Articles of Confederation
America’s First Constitution

Join, or Die
The Articles of Confederation

First plan of government

WEAK

Treay of Paris (1783)

“His Brittanic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz., New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be free sovereign and independent states…”

Source: ourdocuments.gov

From Article II

Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.

SOVEREIGNTY

Where Ultimate Power Resides

Source: http://www.constitution.org/cons/usa-conf.htm
Federalism
Two Levels of Government:

Federal Government

State Governments

Federalism
According to the Articles

Delegated
Foreign Relations

State Governments

State Constitutions & State Governments

- **Common aspects**
  - Each state listed the basic rights and freedoms that belonged to all citizens
    - “unalienable rights”
    - i.e. jury trial and freedom of religion
  - Separation of powers
    - Legislative powers to an elected two-house legislature
    - Executive powers to an elected governor
    - Judicial powers to a system of courts
  - All white males with property could vote
    - Based on the assumption that property-owners had a larger stake in government than did the poor and property-less
    - Elected officials higher qualifications than the voters

State Constitutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Popular Sovereignty</th>
<th>1. Popular sovereignty was the basis for every new State constitution.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Government can exist and function only with the consent of the governed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. People hold power and are sovereign.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limited Government</th>
<th>1. Limited government was a major feature of each State constitution.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Powers delegated to government were granted reluctantly and hedged with many restrictions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civil Rights and Liberties</th>
<th>1. In every State it was made clear that the sovereign people held certain rights that the government must respect at all times.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Seven of the new constitutions contained a bill of rights, setting out the “unalienable rights”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances</th>
<th>1. State governments were purposely divided among three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Each branch was given powers with a system of checks and balances.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONFEDERATION**

A Military Alliance

**Articles of Confederation**

- govt. of loosely organized states
- Each state independent and conducted their own affairs
- Created a weak national govt. which had little powers to solve US problems
- States held more power than US govt.
- Would unite in times of crisis.
- “Treaty of Cooperation between the states”

**Confederation Government**

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- “Treaty of Cooperation between the states”
From Article III
The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against… attacks made upon them…

The Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation established “a firm league of friendship” among the States.

Confederation Congress
• Congress was given the power to declare war.
• Deal with national finance issues.
• Settle disputes among the States.
• Request funds (taxes from states) to pay off debt

Obligations
• The States promised to obey Congress.
• Respect the laws of the other States.
• Most other powers were retained by each State.

To Legislate
9 / 13

To Amend
13 / 13

A firm league of friendship
There was no presidency or federal court system under the Articles.

**Articles of Confederation**

- **Government Structure**
  - Congress: 1 branch
  - Confederation Congress
  - No executive branch or president...
  - No judicial system...
  - One vote per state regardless of size

- **Powers of Congress**
  - Make war and peace
  - Make treaties
  - Build navy and army
  - Settle disputes among states
  - Set up monetary system

- **State Responsibilities**
  - Obey Articles and acts of Congress
  - Provide funds and troops when "requested" by Congress
  - States regulated own trade and taxed each other
  - States had their own currency

**Major Problem**: Created a weak national govt that could not tax, regulate trade or enforce its laws because the states held more power than the National Government.

**Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation**

- One vote for each state, regardless of size.
- Congress powerless to levy and collect taxes or duties.
- Congress powerless to regulate foreign and interstate commerce.
- No executive to enforce acts of Congress.
- No national court system.
- Amendment only with consent of all states.
- A 9/13 majority required to pass laws.
- Articles only a "firm league of friendship."

**Constitution**

- Federalism: A Firm League of Friendship
- Sovereignty: States
- Representation of States: EQUAL
- Taxation: States ONLY
- Powers of Congress: Foreign Relations, Army and Navy, Declare War, Ambassadors, Treaties
- Legislation: 2/3 Congress + 3/4 States
- Amendments: UNANIMOUS

**Major Problem**: Could not tax, regulate trade or enforce its laws because the states held more power than the National Government.

Why? Feared a government like King George

**Effects**: Could not deal effectively with US problems.

The **Confederation Congress** created a National Government based on **representative democracy**.
Powers Granted to Government under the Articles of Confederation

- Declare war and make peace
- Make treaties with foreign countries
- Establish an army and navy
- Appoint high-ranking military officials
- Requisition, print, and borrow money
- Establish weights and measures
- Hear disputes among the states related to trade or boundaries

Powers Denied to Government

- No power to raise funds for an army or navy
- No power to tax, impose tariffs, or collect duties
- No executive branch to enforce laws
- No power to control trade among the states
- No power to force states to honor obligations
- No power to regulate the value of currency

Problems with Trade

- U.S. no longer the favorite trading partner of Great Britain
  - U.S. exports to British ports had to be on British ships
  - Many U.S.-produced goods were barred from British ports
  - Britain sent vast amounts of cheap goods to U.S.
- Potential Remedy
  - Establish a tariff on British goods
- Weakness in Articles of Confederation preventing this solution

Disputed Territorial Claims Between Spain & the US: 1783-1796

SUCCESSES of the Articles

British were to remove their troops from US soil. The National Government under the AOC was powerless to force Great Britain to honor the Treaty of Paris, 1783
We Won the War

Northwest Territory
What we call "Midwest" today used to be the "Northwest Territory" of the United States.

Northwest Ordinance 1787
States cede “Northwestern” land claims
Goal: Create New States

State Claims to Western Lands
The United States in 1787

- Grid system was created by Thomas Jefferson...
- Structured and organized land policy
- Allowed for a peaceful purchase of land.
- Promoted an orderly expansion westward.
- Confederation Congress convinced states who claimed land out west to cede their land to the US Govt.
- US Govt. was to come up with a fair and reasonable land policy. ... Unlike the Proclamation of 1763....

Northwest Ordinance

- An addition to the Land Ordinance of 1785
- Congress sold land in large blocks, 40, 80, 160, 320 and 640 acres.
- $1 to 2$ an acre to help pay debt.
- Encouraged settlers to form townships.
- New states formed would be = to original 13
- Influx of settlers causes violence with Indians
- Guaranteed settlers “unalienable rights”

Northwest Ordinance

1ST STEP
WHEN PEOPLE FIRST SETTLE IN THE AREA:
Congress appoints a governor and three judges to govern the territory

2ND STEP
5,000 FREE ADULT MALES:
Landowners elect a congress to make laws and raise taxes with approval of governor. 1 representative is elected to the US Congress who can debate but not vote.

3RD STEP
60,000 SETTLERS:
Becomes a state, with its own government and constitution. New states admitted with same rights as the original states. No more than 5 states can be carved out of this area.

The Northwest Ordinance encouraged ideals of the DOI and republicanism (representative democracy, religious freedom, protection of liberty and property, encouraged education, admitted new states and no slavery)
SUCCESS
The Northwest Ordinance is widely regarded as the most successful piece of legislation passed by the Confederation Congress.

PROBLEMS
with the Articles

Bad Economy

Shays’ Rebellion
Aug., 1786 - Feb., 1787

Daniel Shays
1785 to 1787, unfair taxes, debt and foreclosure Farmer’s rebellion to overthrow Mass. Govt.
Shay’s Rebellion, 1787

**Outcomes**
- Rebellion put down by a private militia
- US Govt. too weak to put down rebellion
- Americans feared govt. too weak = anarchy

Call for a Constitutional Convention to change AOC and create a stronger national government.

**US Debt After the War**

- **Foreign Debt** $11,710,000
  - We owed France, Spain and other countries who helped us with the Revolutionary War.

- **State Debt** $21,500,000
  - Individual states owed citizens who loaned money to their state.

- **Federal Domestic Debt** $42,414,000
  - US Govt. owed soldier’s for fighting in the war, debts to British and Loyalists.

- **$80 Million**

**Debtors vs. Creditors**

- **Western Mass. Farmers**
- **Boston Merchants**

**Debtors Want**
- Debt Relief
- Paper Money
- Foreclosures
Creditors Want Their Money Payable in Hard Currency

Legislature dominated by Creditors

Creditors Crack Down

Rebellion

Photo Credit: Corey Templeton

Photo Credit: taberandrew

Photo Credit: Mr. T in DC

Photo Credit: hockadilly
**SHAY’S REBELLION**

- In early 1787 a group of small farmers protested against the Massachusetts govt.
- Why? They were in debt, their homes being repossessed and unfair taxation.
- They were led by Daniel Shays, a former army captain in the Revolutionary War.
- The purpose of the rebellion was to prevent foreclosures by keeping the courts from sitting until the next election.
- Shays’ Rebellion was put down by private army paid for by wealthy merchants from Boston.
- The AOC was unable to put down the rebellion with a national guard or army.

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**ANARCHY**

- total chaos, mob rule, survival of the fittest, no respect for law and order or attempting to overthrow the authority of govt. = unstable govt. = no govt.

**“MOBOCRACY”**

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**ELITE CONSENSUS**

**WE NEED MORE GOVERNMENT**

---

**Why A New Constitution**

- The AOC was unable to act decisively in a time of crisis (*could not protect life, liberty and property*).
- Provided all the evidence needed to finally convene and revise the constitution.
- Why was *Shay’s Rebellion* such a concern to our founding fathers?

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**The Elites Response to Shay’s Rebellion:**

“Respectable” Americans were shocked by the violence. Feared “mobocracy”.

Let us have (*a Constitution*) by which our lives, liberties and properties will be secured....

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*“Our situation is becoming every day more and more critical. No money comes into the Federal Treasury; no respect is paid to the Federal authority... the existing confederacy is tottering to its foundation...”*  
— James Madison to Edmund Pendleton, February 25, 1787, Madison Papers.
“The moment is, indeed, important! - If government shrinks, or is unable to enforce its laws; fresh maneuvers will be displayed by the insurgents - anarchy & confusion must prevail - and every thing will be turned topsy turvey.”

George Washington to Henry Knox, February 1, 1787

“God forbid we should ever be twenty years without such a rebellion... We have had thirteen States independent for eleven years. There has been one rebellion. That comes to one rebellion in a century and a half, for each State. What country before ever existed a century and a half without a rebellion?”

-- Jefferson to William S. Smith, 1787

11 x 13 = 143

Approx 150 years per state

This is not a big deal!
“Malo periculosam libertatem quam quietam servitutem.”
— Jefferson to Madison, January 30, 1787

“I prefer the tumult of liberty to the quiet of servitude.”
— Jefferson to Madison, January 30, 1787

The Elites Response to Shay’s Rebellion

The Annapolis Convention (1786)
- George Washington hosted a conference at his home in Mt. Vernon, VA (1785)
- Representatives agreed that the problems were serious enough to hold further discussions at a later meeting at Annapolis, MD, at which all the states might be represented
- Only 5 states sent delegates
- Alexander Hamilton and James Madison persuaded the others to call for a Constitutional Convention, to be held in Philadelphia for the purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation

THE SOLUTION
A New Constitution is Necessary

The Federalist (aka, The Federalist Papers)

A More Perfect UNION

A Firm League of Friendship

Articles

Constitution

Federalism

A Firm League of Friendship

A More Perfect UNION

Sovereignty

States

Shared

Representation of States

EQUAL

Proportional (House) Equal (Senate)

Taxation

States ONLY

State & Federal

Powers of Congress

Foreign Relations

Army and Navy Declare War Ambassadors Treaties

In Addition:

Taxation

Interstate Commerce

Currency

Crush Rebellions

Legislation

2/3 Senate + House + President

Amendments

UNANIMOUS

2/3 Congress + 3/4 States