

4.3

The Enduring Constitution



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Summarize the arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution.**
- **Describe how the Constitution was ratified.**
- **Explain the principles of the Constitution.**

Debate Over Ratification

Ratification- Official approval, this was needed for the new constitution

Vote used to have to be unanimous, rules changed for a majority vote

Specially created conventions would determine decision rather than the state legislature

First two groups of a “political party” emerged...

Federalist & Anti-Federalist

Federalist- Those who favored ratification of the Constitution (Washington, Madison, Hamilton)

Believed the articles were flawed and needed a brand new constitution

Anti-Federalist- Those who were against the new constitution

Believed the new constitution required a Bill of Rights and the central government too powerful

The Federalist Papers

**Farmers were very concerned by the Constitution
& held a funeral for Liberty**

**George Washington & Ben Franklin would
support the Constitution though &
reassure rural voters**

The Federalist Papers- A series of 85 essays that laid out
the Federalist party's case for ratification

**Written by Madison, Hamilton, & John Jay, arguing for
a separation of powers**

Ratifying Conventions

The Federalists created 5 conventions to generate momentum, only the remaining states had Antifederalist support

John Hancock was promised a bill of rights after the ratification & a possible vice presidency so Massachusetts ratified

Hamilton threatened to have New York City leave the state if the state wouldn't sign

New York City was chosen as the temporary capital as the new nation organized

Bill of Rights

These are the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution

**These are guarantees to rights of the individual
“All Men are Created Equal”**

The Ninth Amendment was created to leave the Constitution open for additional rights

Passed in 1789

Constitutional Principles

Based on three basic principles...

Popular Sovereignty- All Government power comes from the people

Limited Government- The constitution states only the powers the government has, not what it doesn't

Separation of Powers- Constitution split between 3 branches, The Legislative, Executive, & Judicial

Federalism & Checks

Federalism- Power split between states and nation. Federal government overpowers state in most cases

Checks & Balances- No branch is more powerful than the others.

Representative Govern

Power comes from the people & elect representatives to run government

Electoral College- Group of people based on population and its voting power for the state

The Constitution is the law of the land

People argue over a broad or narrow exploration of it today