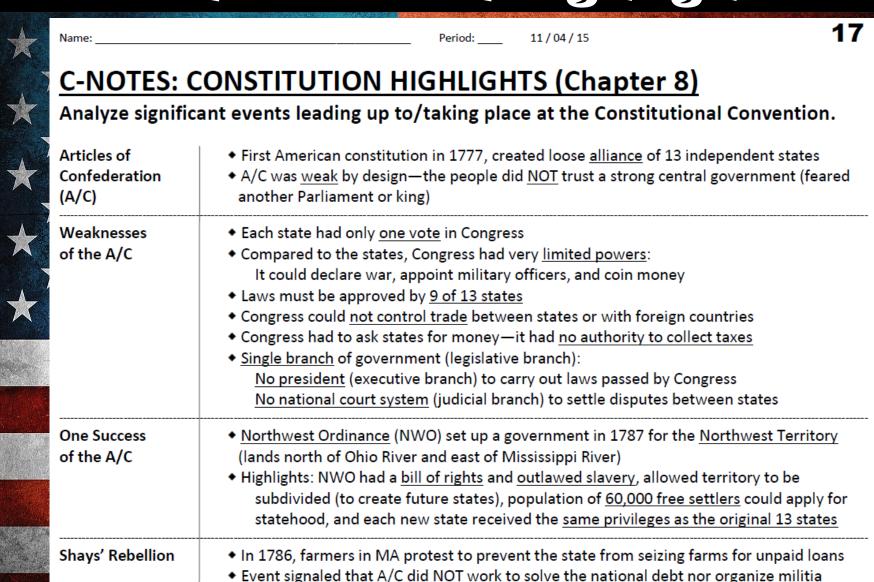
#### **C-NOTES**

## Constitution Constitution HIGHLIGHTS (Chapter 8)

Analyze significant events leading up to/taking place at the Constitutional Convention.

#### C-notes: Constitution Highlights



#### **Constitutional Convention**

- May to September 1787 in
   Philadelphia, PA (all states sent delegates except RI)
- Original goal: Revise the A/C
   (Articles of Confederation)

## **Leading Delegates**

Benjamin Franklin (oldest at 81), George Washington (elected president of the convention), Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison ("Father of the Constitution") (Absent: Thomas Jefferson was in France at the time)

## Virginia Plan (Proposed Plan 1)

- Supported by large states
- Called for strong national government
   with three branches: legislative (pass
   laws), executive (carry out laws), and
   judicial (interpret laws)
- Legislative branch has two houses—seats in both awarded on the basis of population
- Larger states have more representatives
   (and more power) than smaller states

### New Jersey Plan (Proposed Plan 2)

- Supported by small states
- \* Also proposed three branches of government
- Legislative branch has only one house—
   each state has only one vote, regardless
   of size (similar to A/C)
- Power would be <u>equal</u> among all states
- National government has power to <u>collect</u> taxes & <u>regulate trade</u> (<u>NOT</u> part of A/C)

#### Great Compromise (1 + 2 = Solution!)

- Two houses of Congress
- Senate: Each state has two
   members (supported by small states)
- House (of Representatives):

   Based on state's population
   (supported by large states)

## **Three-Fifths Compromise**

- Another disagreement over representation in Congress
- Southern states wanted slaves included in their population count (if slaves not counted, northern states would have more members in the House)
- Delegates agreed to let the South count three-fifths (3 out of every 5) of the slaves
- Slave trade could <u>NOT</u> be outlawed for at <u>least 20 years</u>

#### Ratification

◆ Nine out of 13 states had to ratify (approve) the Constitution for it to go into effect (First to ratify: Delaware [DE]) (Last to ratify: Rhode Island [RI])

#### **Federalists**

- Supporters of the Constitution
   who favored a strong federal
   (national) government
- Believed the Constitution still
   protected the rights and
   powers of the individual states

## The Federalist Papers

• Essays written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay to explain and defend the Constitution

#### **Antifederalists**

- Opposed the Constitution because it had no bill of rights—needed to protect basic liberties (such as freedoms of speech and religion)
- ◆ Three <u>problems</u>: It made the national government too strong, left the states too weak, and gave the President too much power

#### **Antifederalists**

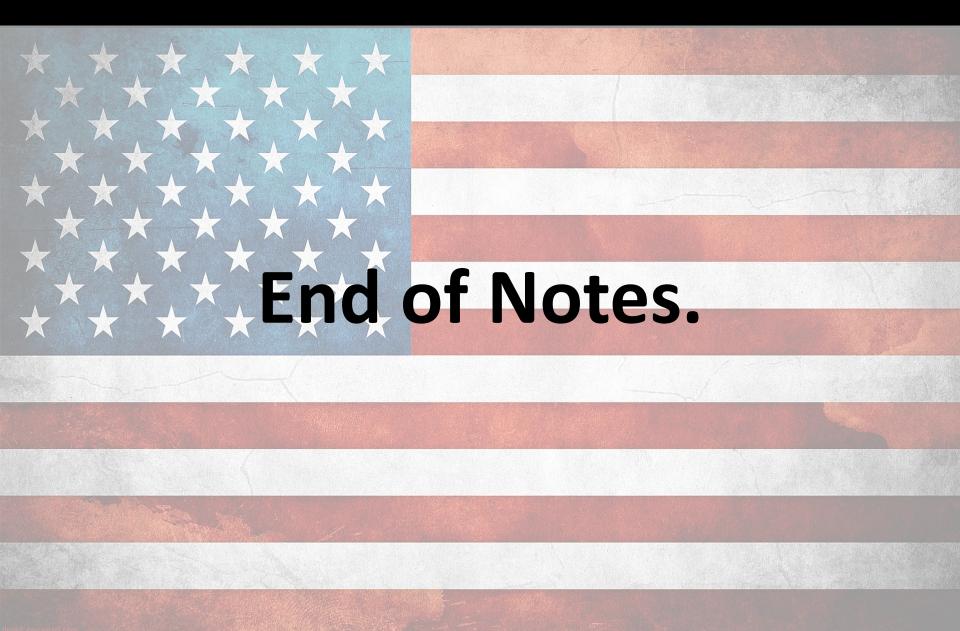


## Bill of Rights

- Written by James Madison
- Added by the <u>amendment</u> process
   (12 proposed/10 added)
- First ten amendments to <u>prevent</u>

   the kind of abuses Americans
   suffered under British rule and to
   protect individual freedoms (such as religion, speech, and press)

#### **End of Notes**



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