

# *The Constitution of the United States:*

## **Development and Ratification 1786-1789**



### **Historical Outline**

1. An Introduction:  
The Constitution Today



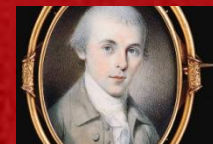
2. Background:  
The Roots of the Convention



3. The Convention:  
1787 in Philadelphia



4. Ratification Debate:  
Federalist v. Anti-Federalist



5. Conclusion:  
Meaning of the Constituion

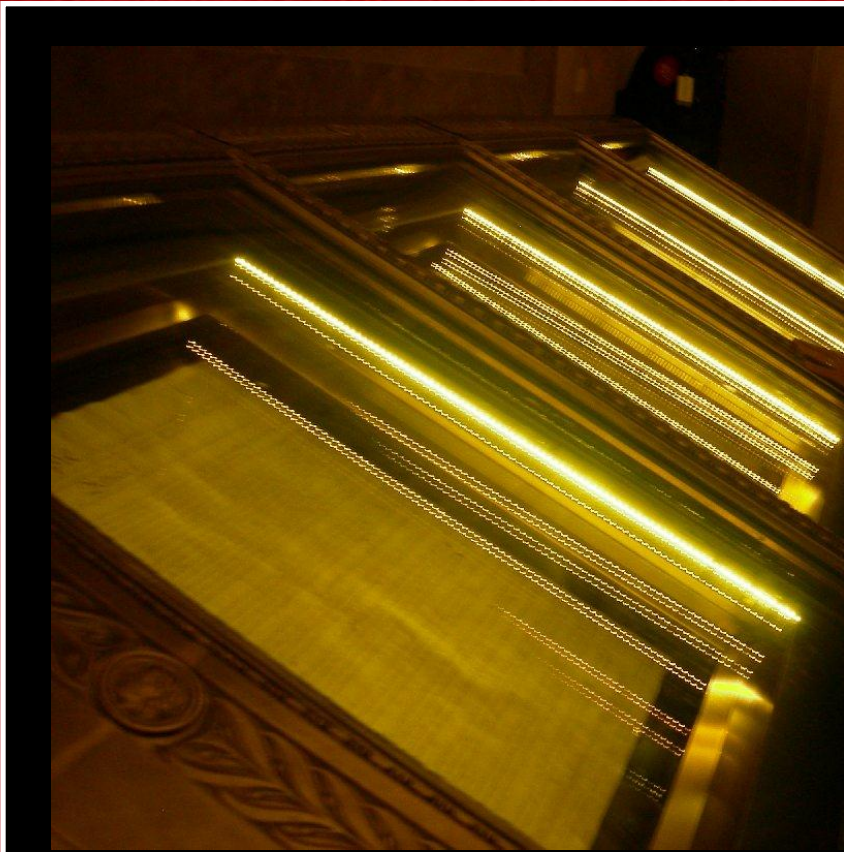


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## 1. An Introduction: The Constitution Today

Today, the **Constitution of the United States** is a semi-sacred text -- one that inspires universal awe and reverence. The original document rests in a special wing of the National Archives in Washington D.C., half way between the U.S. Capitol and the White House. In a dimly lit sanctuary, under a sixty-foot rotunda, sits what some critics have called the *altar* to the Constitution.

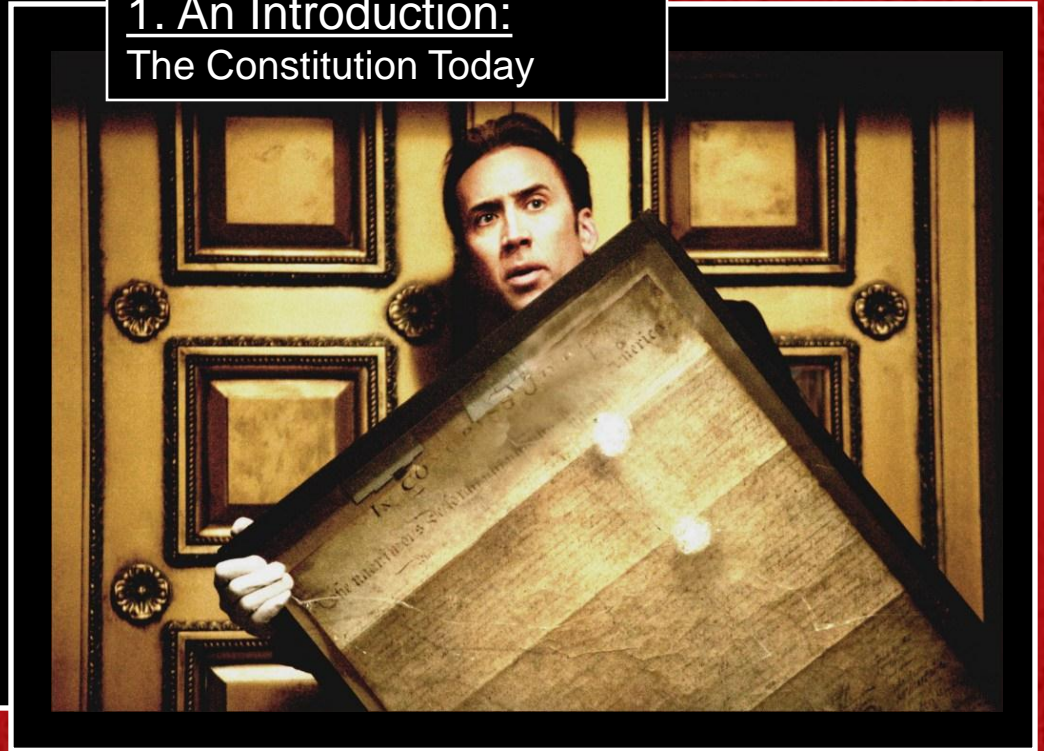


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## 1. An Introduction: The Constitution Today



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### 1. An Introduction: The Constitution Today

Charles Beard, *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution* (1913)

Henry Steele Commager, "A Constitution for All the People" (1958)

Gordon Wood, *Creation of the American Republic* (1969)

Jack Rakove, *Original Meanings: Politics & Ideas in the Making of the Constitution* (1997)

Akhil Amar, *The Constitution: A Biography* (2006)

# The Constitution of the United States:

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### 2. Background:

#### The Roots of the Convention

1. What event in Massachusetts during 1786-87 led to the Constitutional Convention, and why?



Daniel Shays, left, and Job Shattuck, shown in this engraving from *Bickerstaff's Boston Almanack* for 1787, led debt-ridden farmers against the Massachusetts state government. (National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian)

#### Inflation and Depreciation of the Continental Currency

YEAR	# OF ISSUES	AMOUNT ISSUED	PAPER TO SPECIE
1775	3	\$6.0 million	90% (December)
1776	4	\$19 million	66% (Dec.) -- 1.5 to 1.0
1777	5	\$13 million	33% (October) -- 3.0 to 1.0
1778	14	\$63.5 million	15% (Dec.) -- 6.8 to 1.0
1779	14	\$140 million	2% (Dec.) -- 42 to 1.0
1780	0	-----	1% (Dec.) -- 99 to 1.0
1781	---	-----	.05% (April) -- 146 to 1.0
<b>TOTAL ▶</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>\$241 million</b>	

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State	1790
<a href="#">Connecticut</a>	237,946
<a href="#">Delaware</a>	59,096
<a href="#">Georgia</a>	82,548
<a href="#">Maryland</a>	319,728
<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>	378,787
<a href="#">New Hampshire</a>	141,885
<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	184,139
<a href="#">New York</a>	340,120
<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	393,751
<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	434,373
<a href="#">Rhode Island</a>	68,825
<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	249,073
<a href="#">Virginia</a>	747,610 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total U.S.</b>	<b>3,929,214</b>

### 3. The Convention: 1787 in Philadelphia

2. How were deputies to the Constitutional Convention chosen?
3. Which state did not send deputies?
4. Where and when did the deputies to the Convention assemble?
5. From what classes of society were the members of the Convention drawn?
6. Who presided over the Convention?







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### 3. The Convention: 1787 in Philadelphia

Who was called the  
Father of the Constitution?

Why did he receive that name?

#### **James Madison**

Father of the Constitution

Author of Bill of Rights

Author of Virginia Resolutions (1798)

Secretary of State (1801-1809)

President of the United States (1809-1817)







*The people made the Constitution and they can unmake it.  
It is the Creature of their will, and lives only by their will.*

Chief Justice John Marshall, 1821



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### 3. The Convention: 1787 in Philadelphia

7. Describe the Virginia Plan.
8. Describe the New Jersey Plan.
9. Describe the Connecticut Compromise.
10. Article I of the Constitution deals with which branch of government?
11. Who elects members of the House?  
How long is their term in office to last?



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### 3. The Convention: 1787 in Philadelphia

12. Who elects US Senators? How long is their term in office to last?
13. "All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the . . . ."
14. In Article I, Section 8, the framers of the Constitution enumerated powers of Congress and then added an elastic clause. What is the elastic clause?
15. Where in Article I did the framers restrict the powers of the states?
16. Article II deals with which branch of government.

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### 3. The Convention: 1787 in Philadelphia

17. "Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of [Presidential] Electors, equal to . . .
18. In Article II, Section II, what powers are bestowed upon the President?
19. "The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for . . . .
20. Article III deals with what branch of government?
21. Describe the Amendment processes discussed in Article V.



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### 3. The Convention: 1787 in Philadelphia

22. How does Article VI make the Constitution and Federal law supreme?
23. Though the framers of the Constitution did not mention the institution of slavery or those suffering under it by name, they did deal with it in three sneaky passages. Where are they, and what do they say?
24. In ratifying the Constitution, did the people vote directly?
25. The vote of how many States was necessary to ratify the Constitution?
26. What party names were given to those who favored ratification and to those who opposed it?

<b>State</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Vote</b>
<b>Delaware</b>	7 December 1787	(Unanimous)
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	12 December 1787	(46-23)
<b>New Jersey</b>	18 December 1787	(Unanimous)
<b>Georgia</b>	2 January 1788	(Unanimous)
<b>Connecticut</b>	9 January 1788	(128-40)
<b>Massachusetts</b>	7 February 1788	(187-168)
<b>Maryland</b>	28 April 1788	(63-11)
<b>South Carolina</b>	23 May 1788	(149-73)
<b>New Hampshire</b>	21 June 1788	(57-47) - 6
<b>Virginia</b>	26 June 1788	(89-79) - 6
<b>New York</b>	24 July 1788	(30-27) - 2
<b>North Carolina</b>	21 November 1789	(194-77)
<b>Rhode Island</b>	29 May 1790	(34-32) - 2