

Foundations of Government

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Types of governments:

- Govern means rule
- A government is any organization set up to make and enforce laws
- Every country in the world has their own form and system of government

Monarchies

- Monarchy-controlled by monarchs (kings and queens)
 - Held all the power in their countries government
 - Absolute monarchy is when one monarch controls everything
 - Today, most monarchies limit the power given to the monarch.

Dictatorships

- Dictatorship- one person or a small group of people hold all the power
- Authoritarian- leaders answer only to themselves
- Totalitarian- ruler controls every aspect of peoples lives including religious, political, cultural, and personal activities

Theocracy

- Theocracy- rulers are church officials
 - Claim power was given to them by god or gods worshiped in that country

Democracy

- Direct democracy- all voters of a community meet in one place to make laws and decide actions to take
- Representative democracy- people elect representatives to carry out the work of the government
 - A representative democracy is also called a republic

Purpose of government:

- Helping people cooperate to further society and reach a common goal
- Providing services
- Providing rules
- Enforcing rules

Constitution:

- Constitution- a written plan for government
 - A constitution sets forth the purpose of the government and describes the way it will be organized

The first US government

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Before we were America

- The land that is now the United States was originally settled and owned by Great Britain
- People who lived here (colonists) were upset by the way King George III was ruling them
- They decided to leave the rule of Britain and start their own country

Declaration of Independence

- Mostly written by Thomas Jefferson
- Approved by the continental congress on July 4th 1776
- The declaration of Independence:
 - Explained the reason the 13 colonies decided to separate from Britain
 - Is a statement of American ideals
 - States the purpose of government is to protect human rights
- Although written more than 225 years ago, this document is a lasting symbol of American freedom

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that **all men are created equal**, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain **unalienable Rights**, that among **these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness**. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, **deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed**, — That whenever any **Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends**, it is the **Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government**, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Articles of Confederation

- **The articles of Confederation-** Americas first attempt at establishing a government
- **Confederation-** loose association rather than a firm union
- **Sovereignty-** absolute power
 - The writers of the articles wanted to ensure sovereignty for the states (not the federal government)

Weakness of the Articles

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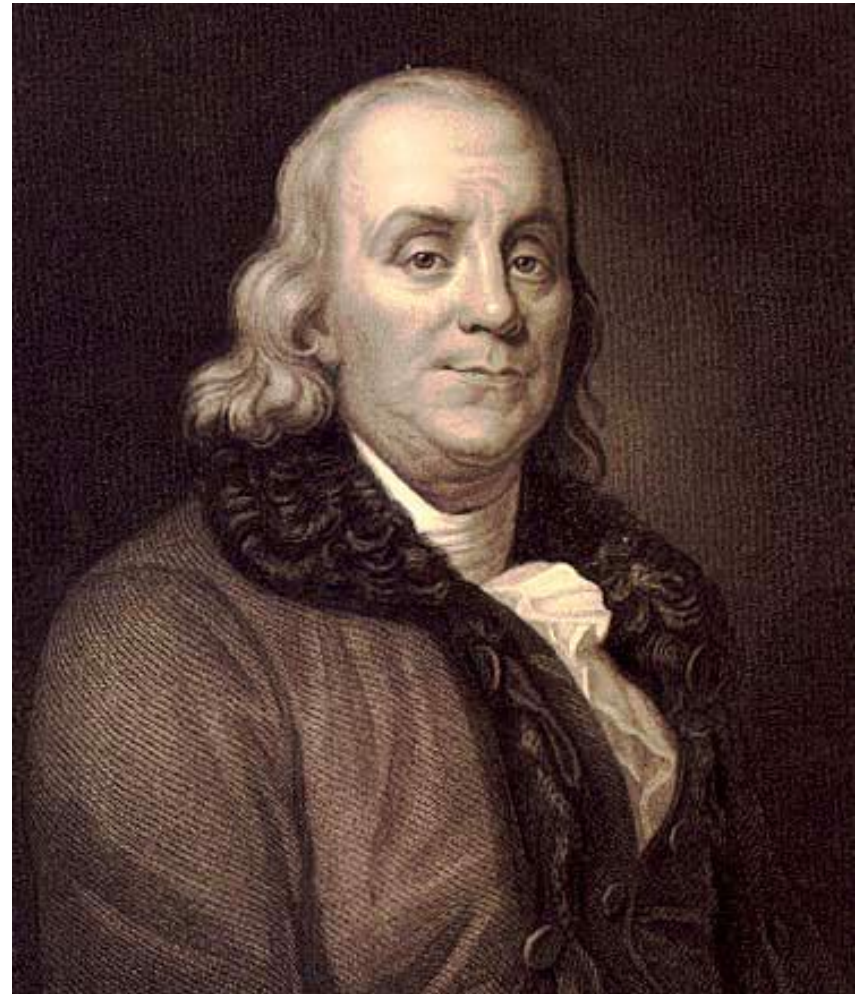
A New Constitution

Chapter 2 Section 3

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The Delegates

- In 1778 representatives from all the states except Rhode Island met to discuss forming a new government
- Delegate-representative
- The oldest delegate there was Ben Franklin



An English Heritage:

- Magna Carta- The English constitution, it gave such rights as a trial by jury
- English Bill of Rights- included things such as the right to petition government to change laws
- Parliament- the law making body of Great Britain
- Parliamentary government- a 2 house legislator with equal power (Bicameral)

Secret Meetings:

- The drafting of the constitution was very controversial
- Delegates had to take a pledge to not speak of it in public
- Meetings to discuss the constitution were held in secret to protect those working on it

Articles input:

- The writers took into account the reasons the articles of confederation failed to ensure it would not happen again



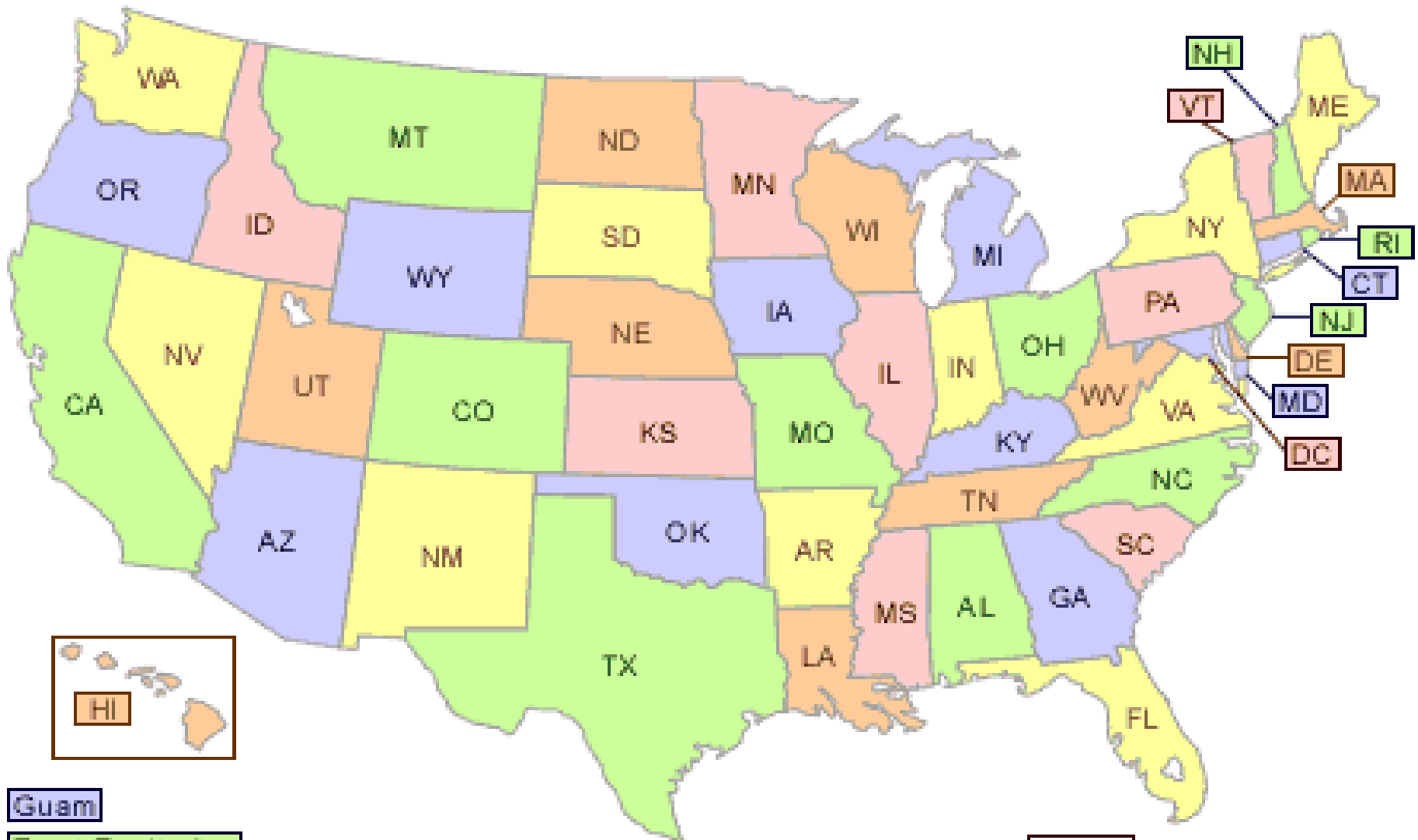
Federalism

- A **federal system** divides the Nations powers between the federal government and the state government
- A **unitary system** gives all power to the federal government



Disagreement

- Many of the most important issues were disagreed upon and the delegates had to **compromise**
- The most serious disagreement was over the election of officials in the legislature (law making branch) due to states population
- Another disagreement was about slavery



- Guam
- Trust Territories
- American Samoa
- Northern Mariana Islands



Approving the Constitution:

- Although the document was finally written, it still needed to be **ratified** (approved by the states)
- Supporters of the constitution and a strong national government were called **federalists**
 - Hamilton, Jay, Madison
- Those opposing this new idea, who were in favor of states rights were **anti-federalists**
 - Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson