

Chapter 2: Origins of American Government

Section 5

Lecture Notes



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

PEARSON

► Objectives

1. Identify the opposing sides in the fight for ratification and describe the major arguments for and against the proposed Constitution.
2. Describe the inauguration of the new government of the United States of America.

▶ Key Terms

- **Federalist:** a person *favoring* ratification of the proposed U.S. Constitution
- **Anti-Federalist:** a person *opposing* ratification of the proposed U.S. Constitution

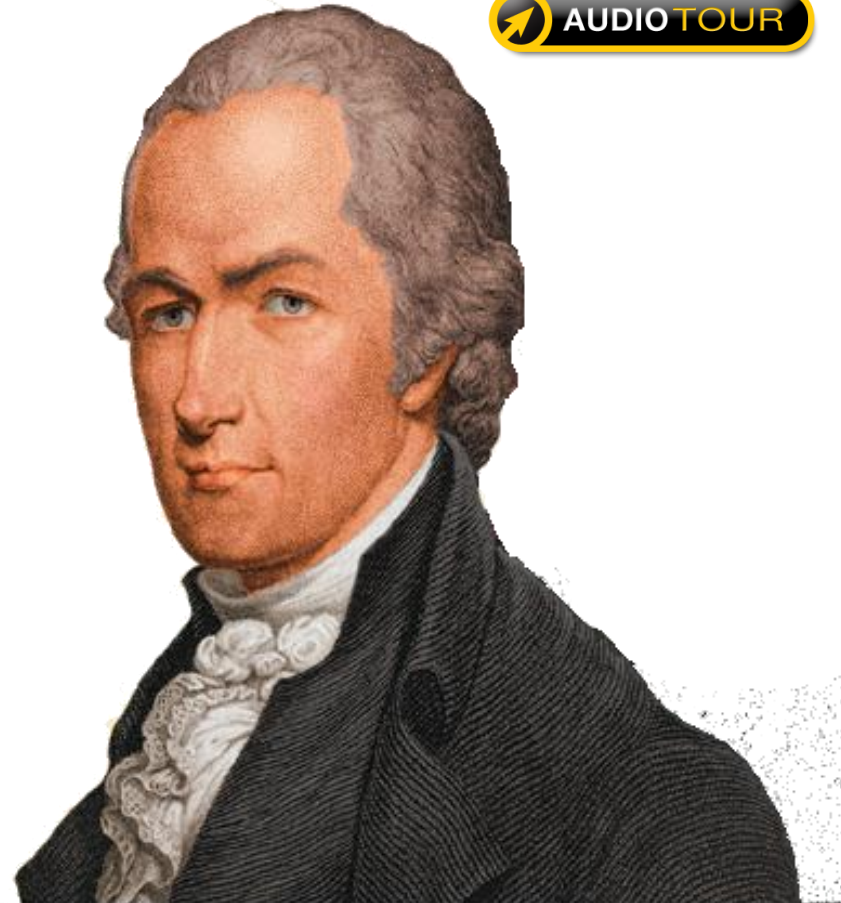
- What issues aroused the vigorous debate over the ratification of the Constitution?
 - The key issues debated included:
 - How strong should the new central government be to avoid the problems faced under the Articles of Confederation?
 - Why didn't the Constitution have a Bill of Rights, and was one really necessary?
 - Did Congress and the presidency have too much power?

▶ A New Government

- The Articles of Confederation could only be amended by a unanimous vote of all 13 states.
- But the delegates at the Constitutional Convention decided to require only 9 of 13 states to ratify the Constitution.
 - They felt that a unanimous vote would be too difficult to achieve, and that the Articles were being replaced rather than amended.
- Copies of the new Constitution were sent to the states on September 18, 1787.

► Federalists

- Supporters of ratification were called Federalists.
 - They argued that the **Articles of Confederation were weak** and needed to be replaced.
 - Alexander Hamilton was a leader among the Federalists



Alexander Hamilton

▶ Anti-Federalists

- Opponents of ratification were called Anti-Federalists.
 - They **opposed** the new ratification process.
 - They thought the new central government would be **too strong**.
 - Most of all, they argued that the Constitution **needed a Bill of Rights** to protect the people.

▶ Bill of Rights

- Checkpoint: Why did the Framers not include a bill of rights in the original Constitution?
 - At first, Federalists said a Bill of Rights was not needed because:
 - The state constitutions already protected individual rights and freedoms.
 - The separation of powers among the three branches would keep the new national government from abusing its authority.
 - But Anti-Federalists opposition was so strong that Federalists eventually promised to add a Bill of Rights once the Constitution was ratified.

▶ Federalist Writings

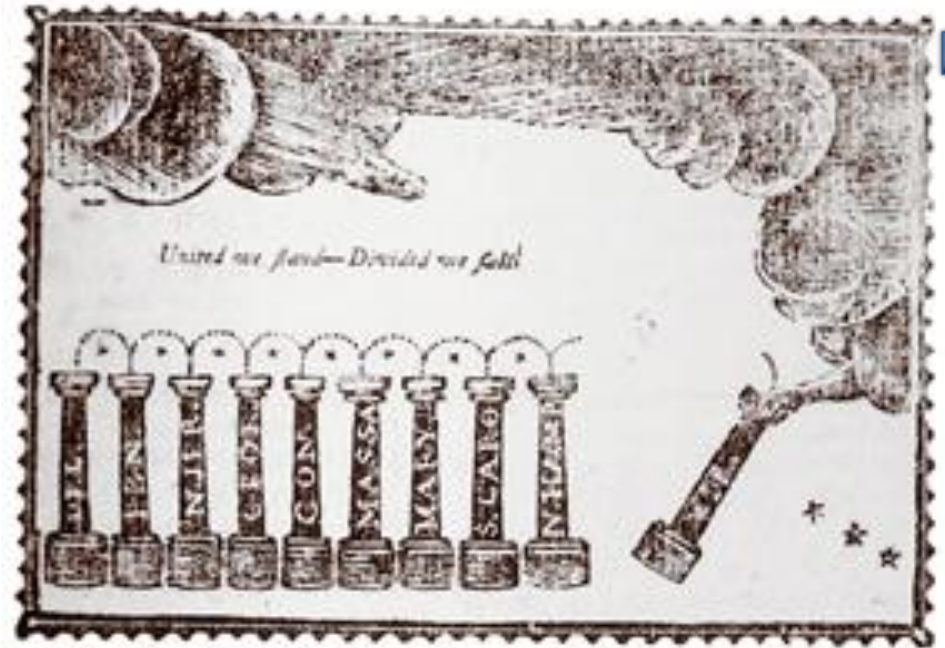
- The ***Federalist Papers*** influenced many Americans to support the Constitution
 - These were written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, all using the pen name, Publius.
 - They consisted of 85 political essays, written between 1787 and 1788, and were soon published across the nation.
 - These essays are still read widely today for their insights into the Constitution, the federal government, and the nature of representative democracy.

▶ Anti-Federalist Writings

- Anti-Federalists also wrote many essays, pamphlets, and letters
 - The essays by “Brutus” were most likely written by Robert Yates. They were first published in New York.
 - Richard Henry Lee of Virginia wrote a number of pamphlets and letters using the name “The Federal Farmer.”
- Around the country, debate over ratification was fed by these various written works expressing strong views on both sides.

► Ratification Debate

- Ratification was swift in some states and bitterly contested in others.
- Approval of the Constitution required ratification by nine states.



- On **June 21, 1788**, New Hampshire became the ninth ratifying state.

▶ Trouble with Ratification

- Even though 9 states had ratified the Constitution, without the support of the key states of **New York** and **Virginia**, the Constitution would fail.
 - In Virginia, James Madison, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson supported the Federalists against Anti-Federalists led by Patrick Henry, James Monroe, and George Mason.
 - New York was deadlocked until Alexander Hamilton helped turn the tide for the Federalists.

► Success

- When Virginia and New York ratified the Constitution by narrow votes, success was finally ensured.
- Eventually all 13 states ratified the Constitution.

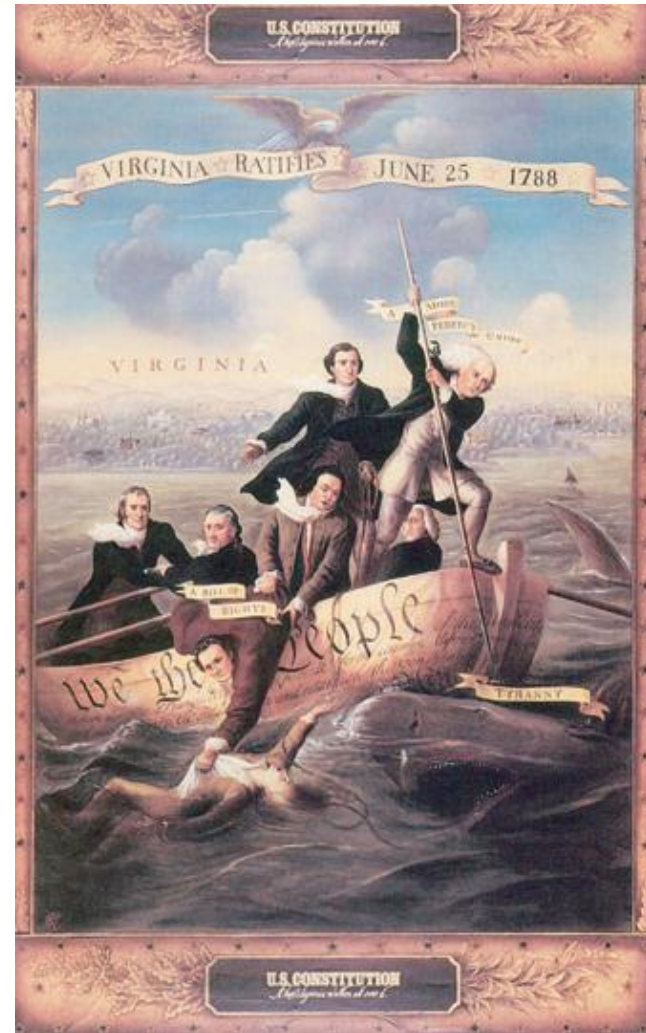
Ratification of the Constitution

State	Date	Vote
Delaware	Dec. 7, 1787	30–0
Pennsylvania	Dec. 12, 1787	46–23
New Jersey	Dec. 18, 1787	38–0
Georgia	Jan. 2, 1788	26–0
Connecticut	Jan. 9, 1788	128–40
Massachusetts	Feb. 6, 1788	187–168
Maryland	April 28, 1788	63–11
South Carolina	May 23, 1788	149–73
New Hampshire	June 21, 1788	57–46
Virginia	June 25, 1788	89–79
New York	July 26, 1788	30–27
North Carolina*	Nov. 21, 1789	195–77
Rhode Island	May 29, 1790	34–32

* Second vote; ratification was originally defeated on August 4, 1788, by a vote of 184–84.

► Inauguration

- The Confederation Congress chose New York City as the temporary capital of the United States.
- The **new U.S. Congress** first met on March 4, 1789, at Federal Hall in New York City.



► Inauguration, cont.

- **George Washington** was chosen as the first President by a unanimous vote of electors.
- He took office on April 30th. John Adams was vice president.

▶ Review

- Now that you have learned about the issues that arose the vigorous debate over the ratification of the Constitution, go back and answer the Chapter Essential Question.
 - How does the Constitution reflect the times in which it was written?