

## 4: THE NEW GOVERNMENT

### ESSENTIAL TERMS



#### KEY CONCEPTS

**Republican Motherhood:** An idea that developed after the American Revolution centered on the belief that it was the role of women to uphold the ideals of the Revolution by passing on republican values to the next generation. The term was coined by historians in the 20th Century.

**Separation of Powers:** Principle that legislative, executive and judicial power should be divided between different people/groups in government to avoid tyranny.

**Unicameral:** A legislature with only one group or body of representatives.

**Bicameral:** A legislature with two separate groups or bodies of representatives. Legislation must pass both bodies.

**Legislative Branch:** The group of people in a government responsible for drafting and approving laws.

**Executive Branch:** The person or group in government responsible for carrying out laws.

**Judicial Branch:** The person or group in government responsible for mediating disputes and interpreting the meaning of laws.

**Census:** A count of the entire population every ten years in order to determine representation in the House of Representatives.

**Great Compromise:** Compromised negotiated by James Madison at the Constitutional Convention resulting in a bicameral legislature with the Senate including two representatives from each state and the House with representation based on population.

**Three-Fifths Compromise:** A compromise negotiated at the Constitutional Convention in which slaves were counted as 3/5 of a person in counting population to determine representation in the House of Representatives.

**Federalism:** A belief in strong central government with some powers being reserved to the states.



#### PEOPLE AND GROUPS

**Yeoman Farmer:** An American who owned his own modest farm a primarily with family labor. According to Thomas Jefferson, he was the embodiment of the ideal American: honest, virtuous, hardworking, and independent.

**James Madison:** Father of the Constitution and later 5<sup>th</sup> President.

**Alexander Hamilton:** First Secretary of the Treasury. He was a Federalist, one of the authors of the Federalist Papers during the debate over ratification of the Constitution. His financial plans included assuming state debts, creating a national bank, and promoting manufacturing. He was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr.

**Founding Fathers:** The American leaders who led the nation through the Revolution, establishment of the new government, and in the first years of the Constitution. They include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton.

**Federalists:** One of the first two political parties. They supported the Constitution, strong central government, Hamilton's financial plans, and favored Britain over France. Washington and Adams were the only president's from this party.

**Anti-Federalists:** People opposed to the ratification of the Constitution. They feared tyrannical central government and successfully argued for the inclusion of the Bill of Rights. They later formed the Democratic-



#### EVENTS

**Shay's Rebellion:** Uprising in Western Massachusetts led by Daniel Shays in 1786-87. Farmers were upset about economic conditions and debt laws and closed down courthouses to prevent repossession of lands and debtors prison convictions.

**Constitutional Convention:** Meeting of American leaders in 1787 and chaired by George Washington. Under the guidance of James Madison they discarded the Articles of Confederation and drafted the Constitution.



#### LOCATIONS

**Northwest Territory:** Area that today includes Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.



#### LAWS

**Articles of Confederation:** The plan for government created during the War for Independence. It featured a unicameral legislature, no executive, and favored state power over federal power. It proved ineffective and was replaced by the Constitution.

**Ordinance of 1784, Land Ordinance of 1785 and Northwest Ordinance of 1787:** Laws that outlined the process of settlement of the Northwest Territory. They provided for an orderly, rectangular pattern of land division, set aside land for schools, and banned slavery.

**Constitution:** Document that outlines the form and function of the United States government. Written in 1787, it has been amended less than 30 times.

**Fugitive Clause:** A clause in the Constitution requiring states to recapture runaway slaves.

**Bill of Rights:** The first ten amendments to the Constitution. Ratified in 1791, they outline essential freedoms of all citizens.



#### DOCUMENTS

**The Federalist Papers:** A group of essays published under the penname Publius in New York arguing in favor of ratification of the Constitution. Written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay, they serve as a record of the ideas of the Founding Fathers.