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Colonial Era to Independence

Major Reasons why Europeans first came to the New World

1. Religious Freedom

2. Economic Reasons

Native Americans

**Two things killed
thousands of Native
Americans**

1. Disease

2. Wars

**French and Indians wars
helped lead to
Americans desiring
independence...why?**

**1. Without the
threat of the French
we needed Great
Britain less**

**2. Great Britain raised
the taxes to help pay
for the war... leading
to Americans
complaining about...**

**“No taxation without
representation!”**

**American colonists
wanted a say in government -
they did not like the idea of
paying taxes without a fair say
in how they were spent.**

Declaration of Independence

Written by?

**Thomas
Jefferson**

Purpose?

**To declare to the
World our reasons
for independence -
legitimacy.**

John Locke of France

**strongly influenced
Jefferson in writing this.**

Three Key ideas in the

Declaration of

Independence were...

1. All people have natural rights

**2 Power to govern comes from
the people (democracy)**

**3 People have the right to rebel
against a cruel government**

Remember:

the Declaration of

**Independence was NOT a
form of government, but it
influenced the Articles of
Confederation and the
Constitution**

**What was America's first
form of government?**

**Articles of
Confederation**

This was a democratic document

**Several factors in our past led to the
development of democracy here...**

**1. Representative form of
government in Great Britain**

2. Mayflower Compact

**3. New England Town
meetings**

**Problem with the
Articles of
Confederation... too**

WEAK

Problems

1. No power to **tax**
2. No power to regulate...

Interstate trade

3. No **executive** **branch**

More Problems

9 of 13 states needed to ratify each law.

Federal government dependent upon the states for supplying the army.

**Articles of
Confederation was a**

DECENTRALIZED

form of government??

**What did the
Northwest Ordinance
do????**

**Plan for new states
to enter the Union!**

Why did they call the Constitutional Convention of 1787? .

**Articles of Confederation too
weak, needed to fix but ended
up scrapping and starting
over (Constitution)**

**Issues that caused
problems at the
Constitutional
Convention?**

(next)

1. Representation in Congress

What was the problem?

1. Representation in Congress

Big states wanted representation to be based on population, while the small states wanted each state to have a equal number of reps.

**The issue of
representation in
Congress was settled
by the Great
Compromise**

**The Great Compromise
established two houses of
Congress.**

**The House of Representatives
was based on population and
made the large states
happy.**

The **Senate**

provided for an equal number of representatives from each state. This made the **small** states happy.

Issue of slavery at the Constitutional Convention

**What did the Southern
states want??**

**The Southern states wanted the slaves to count in the population count (which is the census which is taken every ten years). This would increase their representatives in which part of Congress?
House of Representatives**

The Northern states
opposed this. The **3/5's** issue was
settled by the _____
Compromise, that allowed
3/5's _____ of the slaves
to be counted as population.

**Following the writing of the
Constitution, it had to be
ratified (means
accepted) by the states.**

**Many people were concerned
because they believed the new
government would have
too much power**

**The people who opposed the
Constitution were known as
Anti-federalists**

**while those who supported the
new stronger federal
government were called
Federalists**

Alexander Hamilton was
an important leader of the
Federalists. He helped write
the Federalist
Papers that
encouraged people into
supporting the Constitution.

Thomas Jefferson

was an important leader of the

Anti-federalists. The Anti-

federalists called for a

Bill of Rights

to be added to the Constitution to

protect their rights

What did the Bill of Rights do?

guaranteed personal freedoms

First Amendment protected...

**freedoms of speech,
press, religion, petition
and assembly**

The 5th Amendment provides for due process when arrested.

Following the Civil War, what amendment was added that guarantees due process regardless

of race?

14th

**What is the introduction to
the Constitution called?**

Preamble

**The term means the state
and national governments**

share power

Federalism

**The national government has
powers that are stated or
delegated powers**

**The states have
reserved powers, those
not specifically mentioned**

*“Congress shall have the
power to make all laws
necessary and proper...”*

**This phrase is commonly
referred to as the
Elastic Clause**

This term means the federal government is divided into three branches to prevent the government from having too much power.

Separation of Powers

**What are the
three branches of
our government?**

**Executive, Judicial
and Legislative**

Legislative branch at the Federal level is the Congress

Executive branch at the federal level President

Judicial Branch at the Federal level Supreme Court

**What is the function of
the legislative branch?**

**To make or pass the
laws**

**The function of the
executive branch is to**

enforce the laws

**The function of the judicial
branch (Supreme Court) is to**

**see that laws are
carried out fairly**

the end