

The **Articles of Confederation** (our first government) was bad, it only lasted 10 years. It did accomplish one thing: The **Northwest Ordinance of 1787**, which set up 5 new states between the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. It outlawed slavery in all 5 of the new states. The Articles were thrown out, and new charter for government was written.

The Constitution was written in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1787 by rich, smart, white men. It creates a strong government with Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches and created a Republic (with representatives) rather than a pure democracy. It also created an **Electoral College**, which elects the president.

There were many **conflicts at the Constitutional Convention**:

The the conflict of representation by state:

Virginia Plan

Creates 2 houses of Legislature
Has proportional representation
(larger states have more representatives)
Supported by large states

New Jersey Plan

Creates 1 house of Legislature
Has equal representation
(all states have the same number of reps)
Supported by small states

The Great Compromise

Created two houses of Legislature: The **House of Representatives** has proportional representation

The **Senate has equal representation**, 2 Senators per state

Created a strong republican government with 3 branches, and was supported by all states

The conflict over who should be counted towards the population of each state:

The **3/5ths compromise** counted 3 out of every 5 slaves towards the population of a state, giving slave states inflated population, but giving no rights to black people.

The **Fugitive Slave Clause** also required states to return escaped slaves to their masters, making some state laws more powerful than others, and creating conflict between the states.

Key principles of the Constitution:

Separation of Powers/
Checks and Balances

Federalism

The idea that governmental power is shared between the national government and the state governments.

Federalists

Included Madison, Jay, Hamilton who wrote the Federalist Papers
Supported a strong central government
Wanted the constitution to be accepted without change

Antifederalists

Regular people
Afraid of strong government, wanted strong states
Wanted a bill of Rights to protect individual freedoms

