

# Chapter Seven Creating a Republic

Please study your Powerpoint slides!

## **A Loose Confederation**

- A constitution sets out the laws, principles, organization and processes of a government.
- A bill of rights is a list the freedoms that the government promises to protect.
- Popular sovereignty is the right of people to choose their own government.
- The Articles of Confederation created a loose alliance between the thirteen colonies.
- A dispute over the western lands arose.
- After the Revolution American owed millions of dollars. America printed up paper money called currency to pay back their debts.
- The land Ordinance of 1785 set up a way to settle the lands of the Northwest Territory.
- The Northwest Ordinance set up a government in the Northwest Territory.
- Farmers revolt in Shay's rebellion against the seizing of their farms.
- Representatives met again at the Constitutional Convention to solve the nation's problems.

## **The Constitutional Convention**

- The goal of the 1787 Constitutional Convention was to revise the Articles of Confederation. .
- The Virginia Plan was proposed that called for a strong national government with three branches; legislative, executive and the judicial branch. The Virginia Plan proposed two houses; one house based on population and the other would have equal numbers of representatives.
- The Jersey Plan proposed the three branches of government. However, it provided each state would have one house and one vote in the legislature regardless of its population.
- The Great Compromise settled the differences between the Virginia and Jersey Plan.
- The Three-Fifths Compromise was proposed. It stated that 3 out of every 5 slaves would be counted as part of the population.
- The Constitution was signed and ratified.

## **Ideas Behind the Constitution**

- A republic is a government ruled by the citizens.
- A dictatorship is a government in which one person or a small group holds complete authority.
- The Magna Carta helped shape American government. It stated the rights of the people.
- John Locke declared that all people had the right to life, liberty and property.
- Montesquieu suggested in a separation of powers between the branches of government.

## **Ratification and the Bill of Rights**

- People in favor of the Constitution were called federalists.
- People who opposed the Constitution were called Antifederalists.
- The Federalist Papers explained and defended the Constitution.
- The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution. The first ten amendments to be approved were called the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights assures that the government does not take away the peoples basic rights.
- A way to amend, or change, the Constitution was adopted.
- Amendment 1 guarantees freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of petition and freedom of assembly.
- Amendment 2-3 prevents Congress from forcing citizens to quarter, or house troops in their homes.
- Amendment 5-8 protects citizens accused of crimes and brought to trial. Every citizen has the right to due process. Due process means the government must follow the same fair rules in all cases brought to trial. Among these rules are the right to trial by jury, the right to being defended by a lawyer, and the right to a speedy trial.