

**AP Government
Mrs. Stafstrom**

**Vocabulary
Chapter 2 – The Constitution**

The purpose of this chapter is to introduce you to the historical context within which the U.S. Constitution was written and in particular to the colonists' quest for liberties they felt had been denied them under British rule. After reading and reviewing the material in this chapter, you should be able to do each of the following:

1. Compare the American and French Revolutions of the same era with respect to the ideals that motivated them.
2. Explain the notion of higher law by which the colonists felt they were entitled to certain natural rights. List these rights.
3. Discuss the Declaration of Independence as a lawyer's brief prepared for court argument of a case.
4. Compare what the colonists believed was a legitimate basis for government with what monarchies--such as that in Great Britain at the time--believed was a legitimate basis for government.
5. List and discuss the shortcomings of government under the Articles of Confederation.
6. Discuss the backgrounds of the writers of the Constitution, and explain why these men tended to be rather mistrustful of the notion of democracy.
7. Compare and contrast the Virginia and New Jersey plans, and show how they led to the Great Compromise.
8. Explain why the separation of powers and federalism became key parts of the Constitution. Hint: The Framers' intention was not to make the system more democratic, nor was it to make it more efficient.
9. Show how James Madison's notions of human nature played an important role in the framing of the Constitution.
10. Explain why the Constitution did not include a bill of rights. Then explain why one was added.
11. Explain why the Founders failed to address the question of slavery in a definitive way.
12. Discuss whether "women were left out of the Constitution."
13. Summarize Charles Beard's analysis of the economic motivations of the Framers and the counter analyses of those who disagree with Beard.
14. List and explain the two major types of constitutional reform advocated today, along with specific reform measures.

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Vocabulary . . . on back!

Amendment
Antifederalists
Articles of Confederation
Bicameralism
Bill of Attainder
Bill of Rights
Charles Beard thesis
Checks and Balances
Coalition
Concurrent Power
Constitutional Convention
Declaration of Independence
Enumerated Powers
Ex post facto law
Faction
Federalism
Federalists
Federalist Papers
Great Compromise/ Connecticut Compromise
Habeas Corpus
Inalienable rights
Interest groups
Judicial review
limited government/ rule of law/ constitutionalism
Line item veto
natural rights
New Jersey Plan
ratification
popular sovereignty
Republic
Reserved Powers
Rule of law/ constitutionalism
Separation of powers
Shay's Rebellion
Sovereignty
state
State power
3/5 Compromise
Unalienable rights
veto
Virginia Plan