

Origins of the Constitution

- The Enlightenment
 - Influence of John Locke
 - Influence of Baron de Montesquieu
- Colonial Experience
 - Long accustomed to expressions of written law
 - Experience with self-government
- The Revolution
 - Reaction to England's depriving of “natural rights”
 - Objections to:
 - Colonies drafted new “state” constitutions
- Articles of Confederation
 - Adopted Nov 1777; effective March, 1781
 - States = independent
 - National govt = forum for states
 - No president; no judiciary

- Congress = body of "ambassadors" representing states

- Crises of 1780s
 - Economy = disarray

 - "Patriotism" replaced by greed & self-indulgence

 - National govt unable to impose order

 - Shay's Rebellion

- Constitutional Convention
 - Philadelphia - May to Sept 1787

 - 55 out 74 delegates showed; 42 participated

 - Leaders such as Washington, Franklin, Hamilton, Madison, & Wilson

 - Many Revolutionary heroes = no shows

 - The Virginia Plan

 - New Jersey Plan

 - Connecticut (Great) Compromise

 - North-South Compromises

- Slave Trade Compromise

- Other Issues

- Ratification?
 - Constitution = violation of law

 - Federalists

 - Antifederalists

 - Feds consent to BoR after ratification

 - Who won argument?