

Introduction to American Politics

Week 2: Constitutional Framework I

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Outline

- Articles of Confederation
- Constitution
- *The Federalist Papers*
- Sagal episode (if time)
- Wrap-up

Section 1

Discussion

Articles of Confederation

- Adopted by the Continental Congress in 1777
- Fully ratified by all 13 states in 1781
- Problems? Differences from the Constitution?

The Constitution

- Philosophical inspirations
- Ratification debate and friction
- Structure of the government
- Early amendments and the Bill of Rights

The Federalist Papers

- Alexander Hamilton
 - No. 1 → democratic fragility
 - No. 70 → the “energetic executive”
 - No. 71 → executive terms of office
- James Madison
 - No. 10 → factionalism
 - No. 51 → 3 key structures that check government power

“A More Perfect Union” (Sagal)

- Thoughts and impressions?

Section 2

Outro

Outro

- Please fill out the entry survey if you haven't already
- Remember the quiz this week!
- If you email Forrest, please be sure to CC your TA (*me!*)

Attendance

