

Lecture 5: *The Federalist Era*

Articles of Confederation

- First government of United States
- No president, no judiciary, required nine states to pass any laws. National government impossible
- Problems:
 - Debt, trade restrictions, inflation, no coordinated economic policy, security concerns

Summary

Articles of Confederation bears no resemblance to our constitution

- It was weak, could not levy taxes, etc....
 - Only a “request”
 - VERY WEAKKKKK
- Loose way of tying together the 13 states
- Against a strong central government seen today
 - Which meant states were not forced to pay taxes, because there was no central government to enforce the collection of those taxes
 - Today the saying “the more you make, the more they take” was not a thing under the Articles of Confederation
- We wanted to address our debt to show other countries we were worthy of being lent money
- Western border was being attacked into what culminates into the War of 1812
- Eastern border attacked by the angry Britain who lost the war against the Americans

1787 Constitutional Convention

- Federalists
 - Madison and Hamilton
- Strong central authority, suspicion of masses, stabilize national economy
- Madison
 - Separation of powers, division of powers
- Checks that secure and maintain liberty

Summary

Two representatives from the 13 states came to try and revise the Articles of Confederation

Two groups at Constitutional Convention

Federalists – those who advocated for a federal government (Madison and Hamilton)

- Federal government to fix some of the problems that plagued the early republic
- Continuation of republicanism (freedom comes from those who come together)
 - Argued for strong central authority to make liberty and freedom possible
- Afraid of the simpletons and common people making decisions about taxes and laws
- Comfortable with elite rule, indirect democracy
- Dividing federal government into three branches of government
 - Meant to separate powers
 - Diffusion of power so no one person got too big or powerful
 - “Locus of power”

Alexander Hamilton

- Central authority
- Fear of masses
- “rich and well-born”
- Freedom through government
- Interests of elite
 - Economic advancement
- Taxes, tariffs, banks

Summary

Has great influence even though he never became president

Predicted and anticipated Industrial Revolution (factories) from Agrarian (farming) society in the late 1700's

- The “Economic Revolution”

Anti-Federalists

- Worried about tyranny. Power of a small aristocracy
- Idea of liberty based in limited government
- Would not ratify constitution without explicit guarantees for individual rights
 - Would be known as the Bill of Rights

Summary

Agreed the Articles of Confederation was bad, but disagreed on how to deal with a new government

- Afraid to put the power in a strong central government
- Continuation of liberalism (individual liberty. Freedom comes from being a human being)
 - Strong central government could threaten once again the individual freedoms of Americans
- Led by Thomas Jefferson
- Enough Ant-Federalists to stop Ratification of Constitution

Bill of Rights

- Specific rights for all citizens
- Revolution influence
- Also, transcendent rights, Lockean, “unalienable”
- Immediate and future impact

Summary

Influenced by actions taken by England (Intolerable Acts, unlawful search, and seizure of property)

Government cannot give you rights but only take them away

- They were always there, therefore they cannot give them, only take them away

Story of the struggle for democracy

- Built on vocabulary seen in the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights

Anti-Federalist's fears were amended and now a federal government soon followed

1788 – Constitution Ratified

- Compromise
- Federalist believed Bill of Rights was redundant
- Ant-Federalists melt away, Federalist take reins of government

Summary

The Great Compromise

Anti-Federalists fade away and is not a political party

Federalists do not fade away and become a political party in early American History

1788 – 1800 Federalist Era

- One party rule
- Hamilton's plans into action
 - Debt, tariffs, Bank of U.S., promote industrialization
- Path toward industrialization and international trade
- Opposed by South, create D.C.
- Popularity pf President Washington

Summary

Period of one-party rule

Washington was president unanimously as a Federalist

Washington – President of United States

Hamilton – Secretary of Treasury

Passed laws to levy taxes and tariffs to pay off debt

Tariffs

- Goods imported are taxed
 - Thus, U.S. goods are promoted as opposed to more expensive foreign goods
 - Way to protect American industry, rather than help foreign industry

American South did not like Industrialization because

- It threatened slave-based agriculture in the south

North = Industrialized Economy

South = Agrarian Slave Based Economy

John Adams

- 1796 – John Adams is elected
- Close, disputed election
- Increasing opposition to Federalist Policies
- Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798
- “Revolution of 1800”

Summary

Colin Morris-Moncada

HIST 200

Hated by fellow Federalists

Was not popular among Federalists nor Anti-Federalists (North and South)

Signed Alien Act

- Designed to silence opposition

Signed Sedition Act

- Designed to put people in jail who went to criticize the government
 - Intended for Southerners, who voice their discontent of the government

Election of 1800 – First Election in U.S. history where two parties oppose one another

Our Constitutional Rights have been taken away multiple times

The line between **Freedom and Protection** is first brought to attention

EXAMPLE

Patriot Act – Signed by Bush as a response to 9/11 that is meant to strengthen national security by taking away some of our freedoms and privacy