

# The Constitutional Convention



# The Constitutional Convention

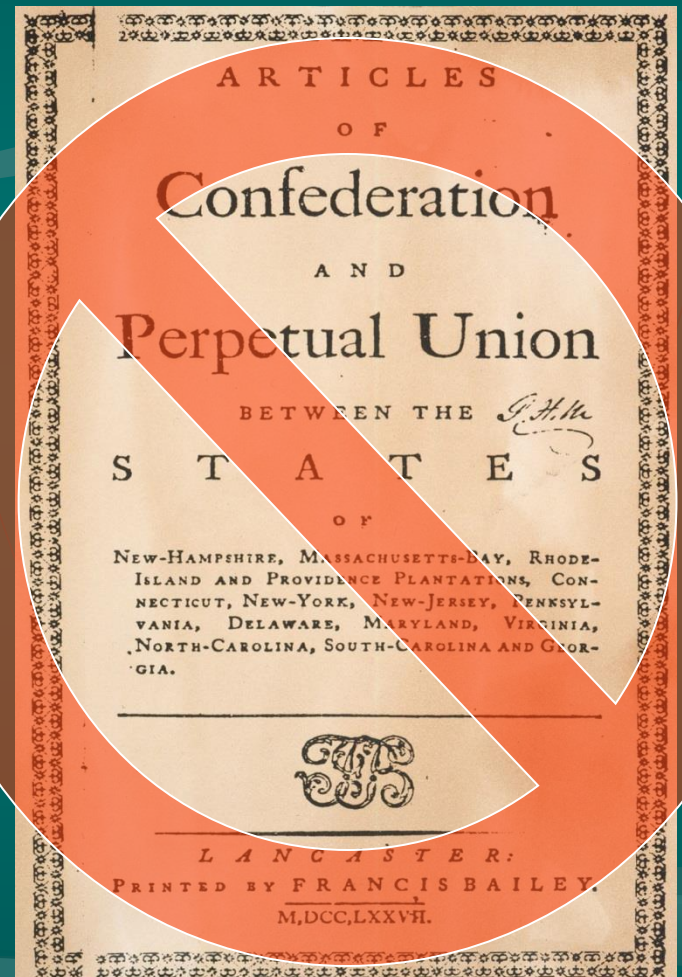
- *Began May 25, 1787*
- *Independence Hall, Philadelphia*
- *55 delegates from 12 states*
- *Rhode Island did not attend*
- *George Washington was chosen as the chairman*





# Purpose of the Meeting

- *Original Mission: To revise the Articles of Confederation*
- *Instead, the delegates decided to write a new constitution*



# The Delegates

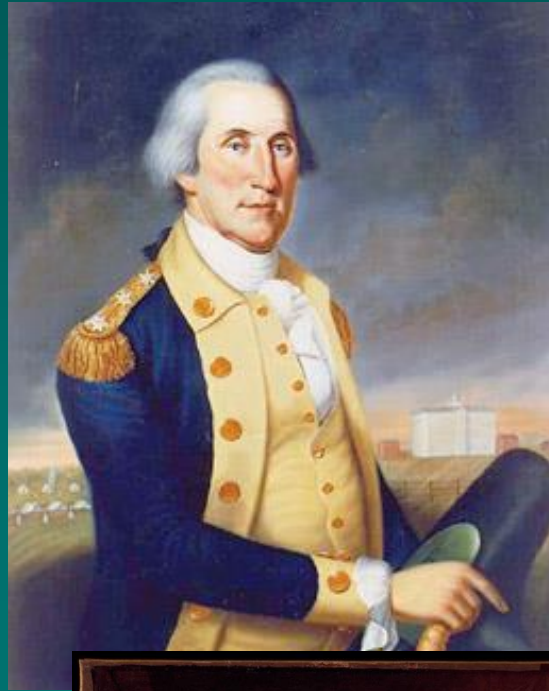
- *All were professionals /businessmen*
- *All were highly educated and had extensive political experience*
- *They were the most important men in America*



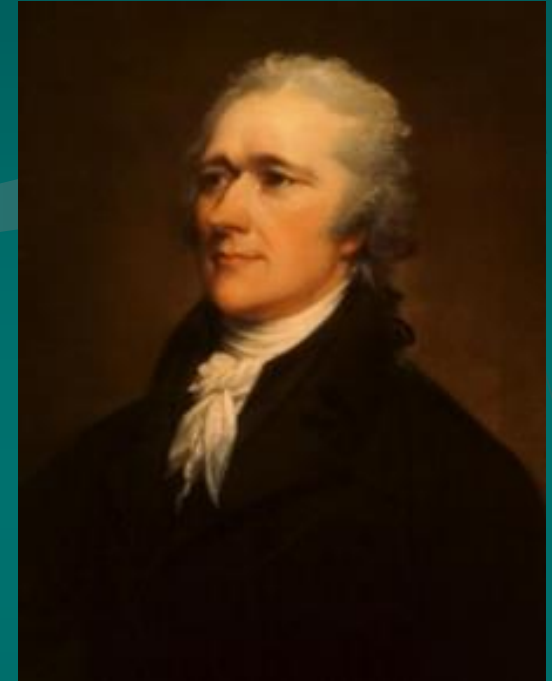
# *The Delegates*



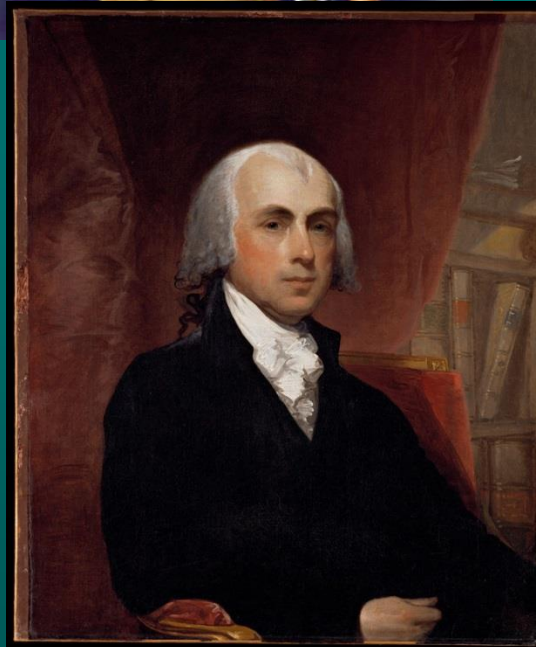
*Benjamin Franklin-PA*



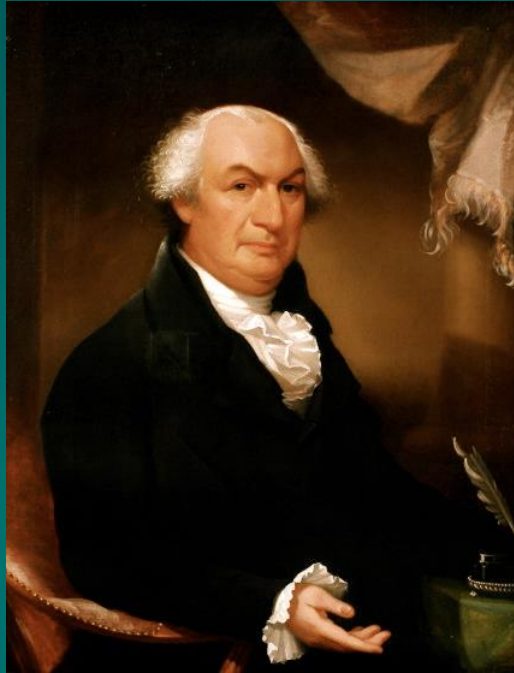
*George Washington-Chairman*



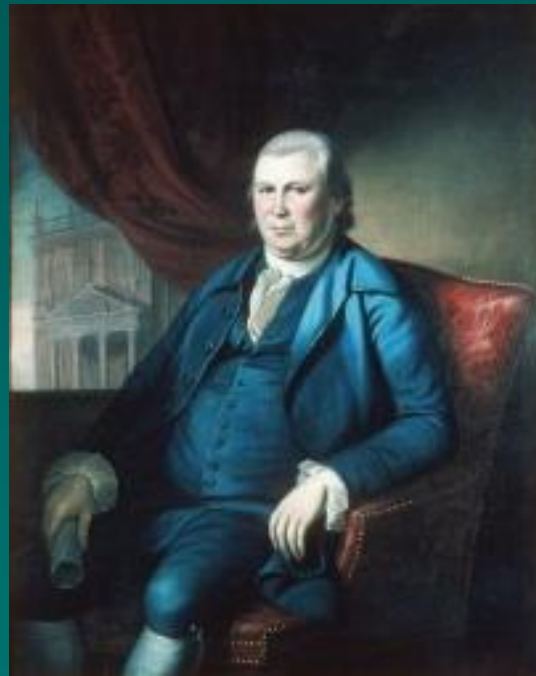
*Alexander Hamilton-NY*



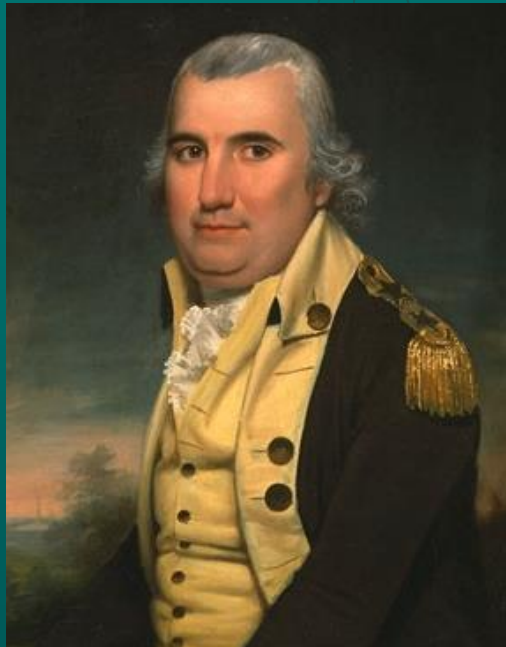
*James Madison-VA*



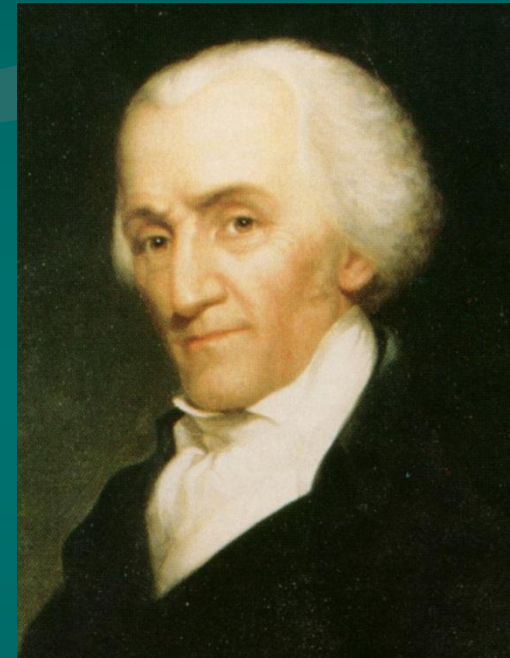
*Gouverneur Morris-PA*



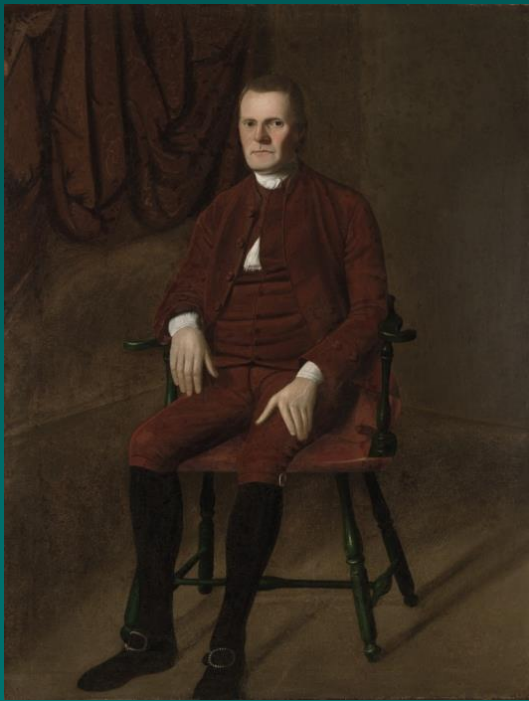
*Robert Morris-PA*



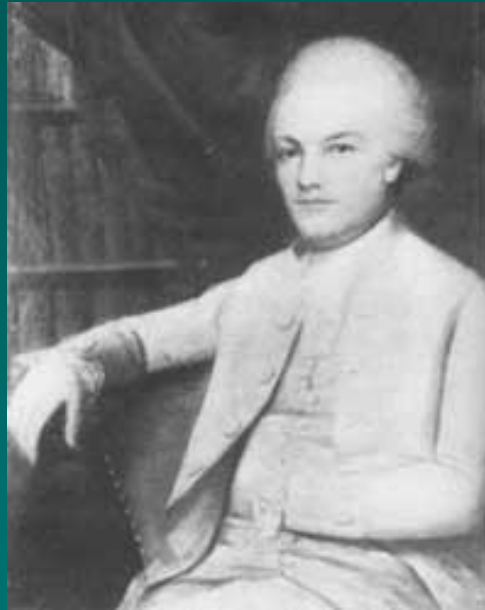
*Charles Coatsworth Pinckney-SC*



*Elbridge Gerry-MA*



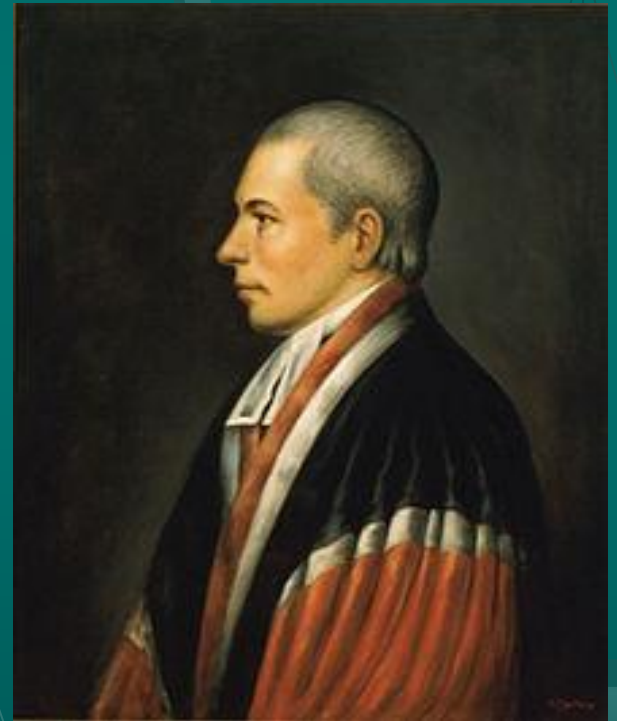
*Roger Sherman-CT*



*Charles Pinckney-SC*



*John Rutledge-SC*



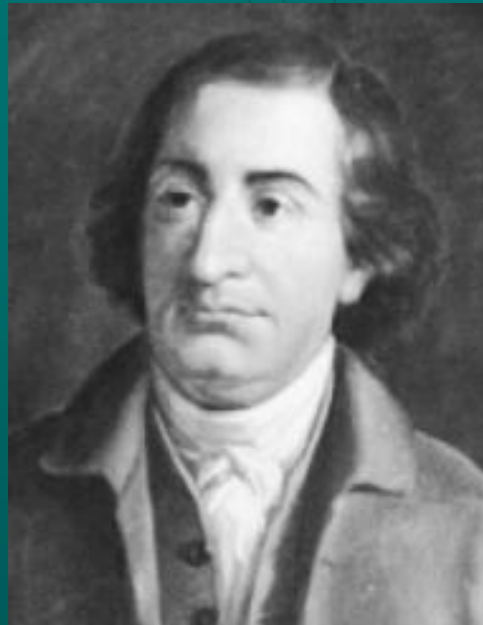
*William Paterson-NJ*



*William Jackson-Secretary*



*William Samuel Johnson-CT*



*Edmund Randolph-VA*

# The Founding Fathers



# Key Decisions

- ◆ *The meeting was shrouded in secrecy.*
- ◆ *The only records are from a notebook kept by James Madison.*
- ◆ *Simply majority-7 votes would decide any issue*
- ◆ *Scrap the Articles of Confederation*



James Madison

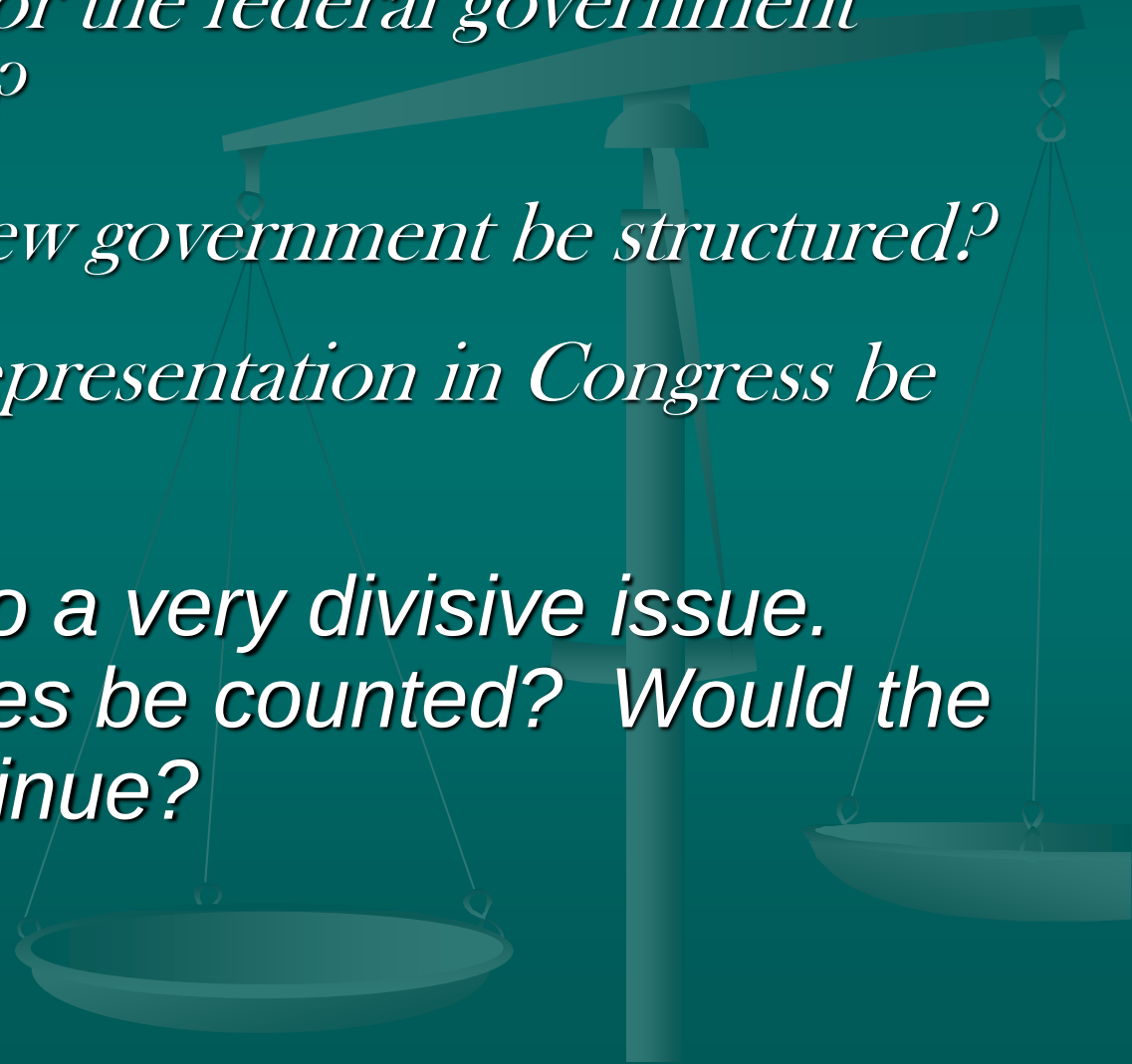
# Problems and Questions

- ◆ *The states considered themselves independent.*
- ◆ *Would the states give up power to a government that did not yet exist?*
- ◆ *What kind of new government would there be?*
- ◆ *Big states v. Small states*
- ◆ *North v. South*
- ◆ *Slavery?*

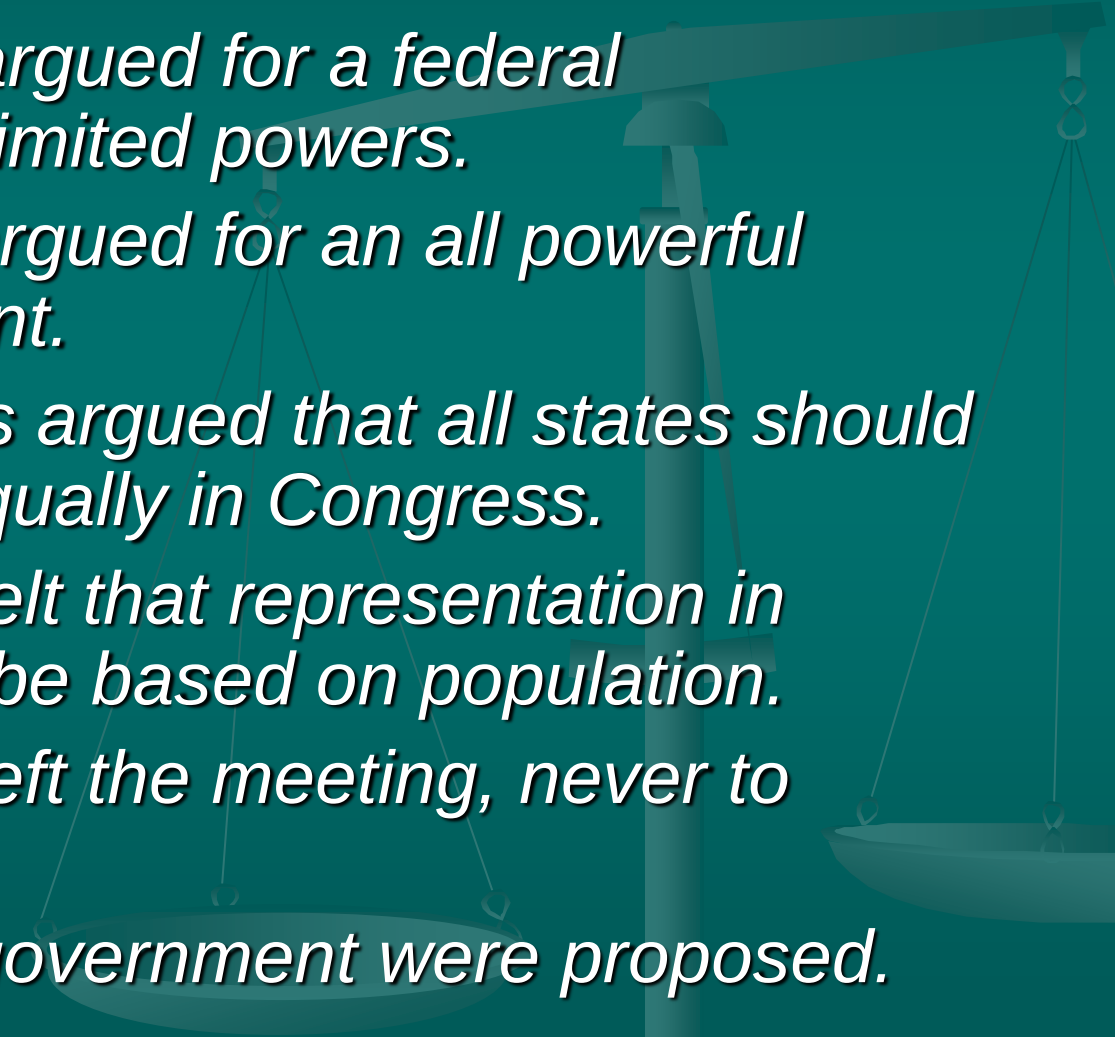


# Issues That Divided the Delegates

- *Would the states or the federal government have more power?*
- *How would the new government be structured?*
- *How would the representation in Congress be determined?*
- *Slavery was also a very divisive issue. How would slaves be counted? Would the slave trade continue?*

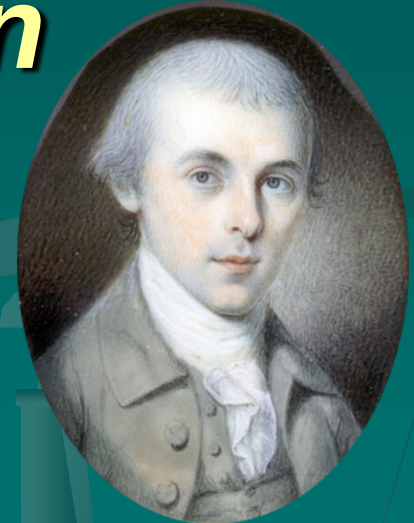


# Debates Raged Through the Summer of 1787

- *Some delegates argued for a federal government with limited powers.*
  - *Other delegates argued for an all powerful federal government.*
  - *The smaller states argued that all states should be represented equally in Congress.*
  - *The large states felt that representation in Congress should be based on population.*
  - *Some delegates left the meeting, never to return.*
  - *Several plans of government were proposed.*
- 

# *The Virginia Plan*

- *Written by James Madison*
- *Presented by Edmund Randolph*
- *Called for a new national government with three separate branches-executive, legislative, and judicial*
- *A two-house legislature (bi-cameral)*
- *Representation based on each state's population*
- *Supported by the “Large States”*



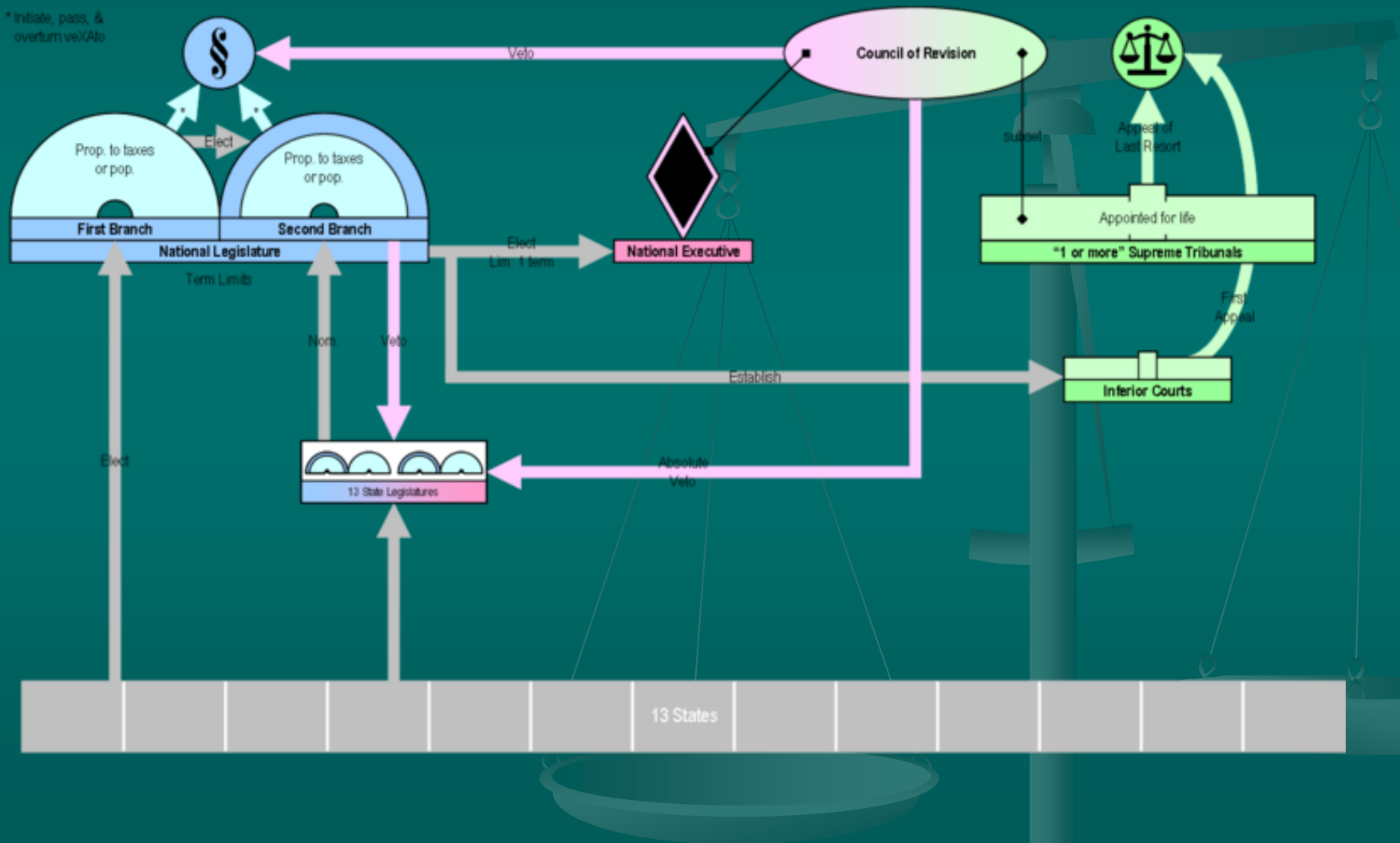
*James Madison*



*Edmund Randolph*

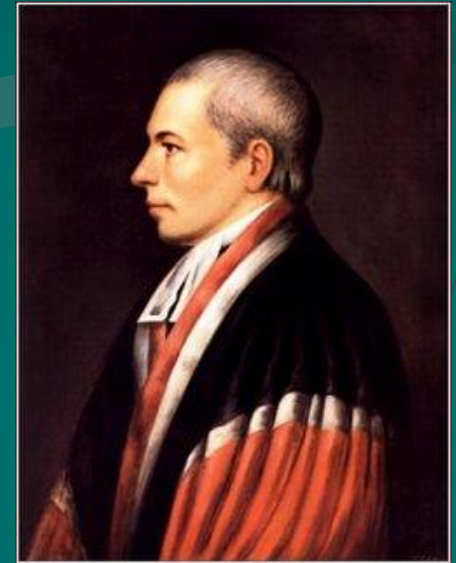
# *The Virginia Plan*

\* Initiate, pass, & overturn veto



# ***New Jersey Plan***

- *Submitted by William Paterson*
- *Called for a new national government with three separate branches-executive, legislative, and judicial*
- *A one-house legislature(unicameral)*
- *States would have equal representation in Congress*
- *Each state would have one vote*
- *Supported by the “**Smaller States**”*



*William Paterson*

# *The Great Compromise*

Roger Sherman

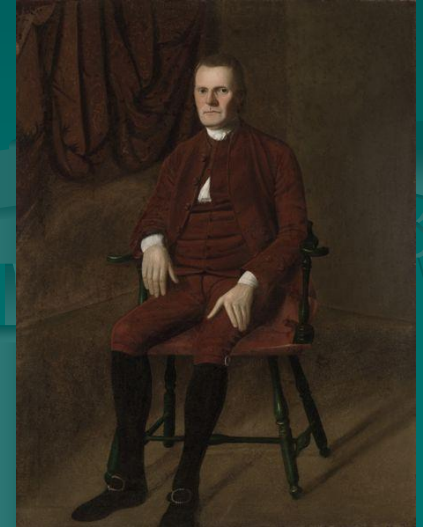
- *Connecticut Compromise*
- *Written by Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth of Connecticut*
- *Called for a two-house legislature*
- *U.S. Congress*

*\*Senate–Equal Representation*

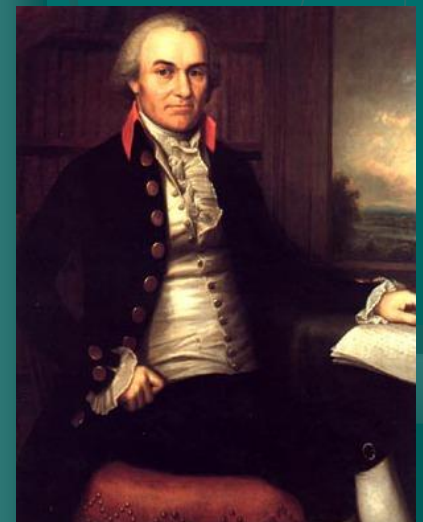
*Two Senators per state*

*\*House of Representatives*

*-Number of Representatives  
based on population*

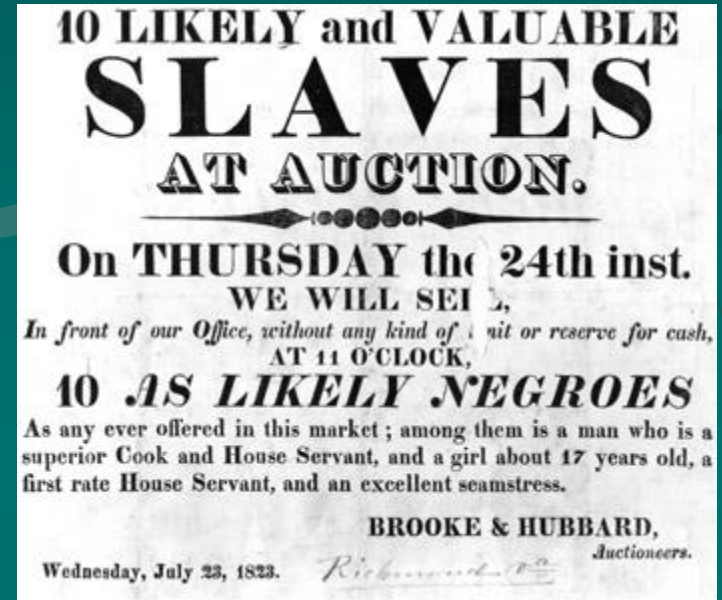


Oliver Ellsworth



# Three-Fifths Compromise

- The Southern states refused to approve any Constitution unless **slavery** was allowed to continue.
- Slaves would be counted as  $\frac{3}{5}$  of a person for the purposes of determining **representation in Congress**.
- Slaves would also be counted as  $\frac{3}{5}$  of a person for **taxation** purposes.
- Congress could not pass legislation affecting the slave trade until 1808.



# ***The Electoral College***

- *The delegates felt that ordinary people were not “well-suited” or educated enough to elect the nation’s highest executive.*
- *They created the Electoral College.*
- *Special group of electors*
- *Select the President and Vice-President*



# The Constitution

- After months of exhausting debate, 39 of the 55 delegates signed the Constitution.
- The plan is presented to the public on September 19, 1787.
- It is only a proposal.
- The document will not become the “law of the land” until **9 of the 13** states approve.



# ***Ratifying the Constitution***

- ◆ *The delegates left Philadelphia to hold a ratifying convention in each of the states.*



# ***Ratifying the Constitution***

- ◆ *Americans debated the plan for over two years.*

## ***Federalists***

- *Group that supported the new Constitution*

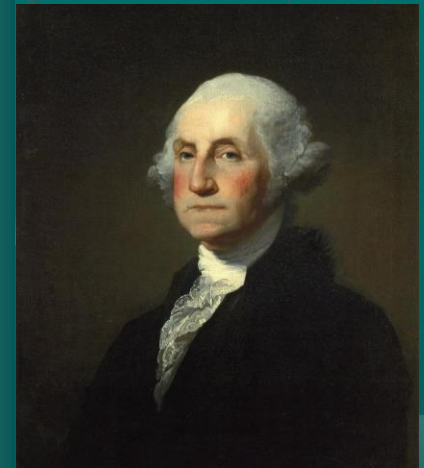
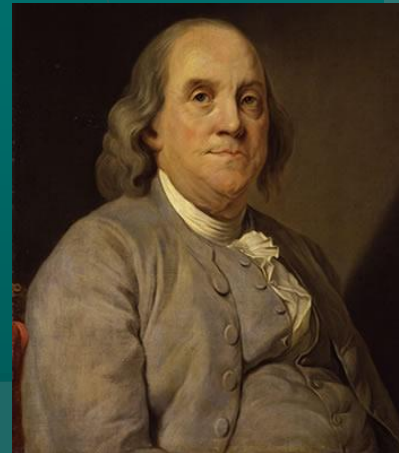
***VS.***

## ***Anti-Federalists***

- *Group that opposed the new Constitution*

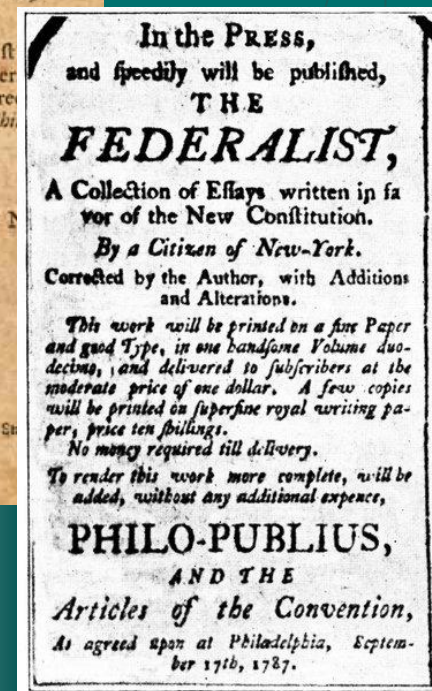
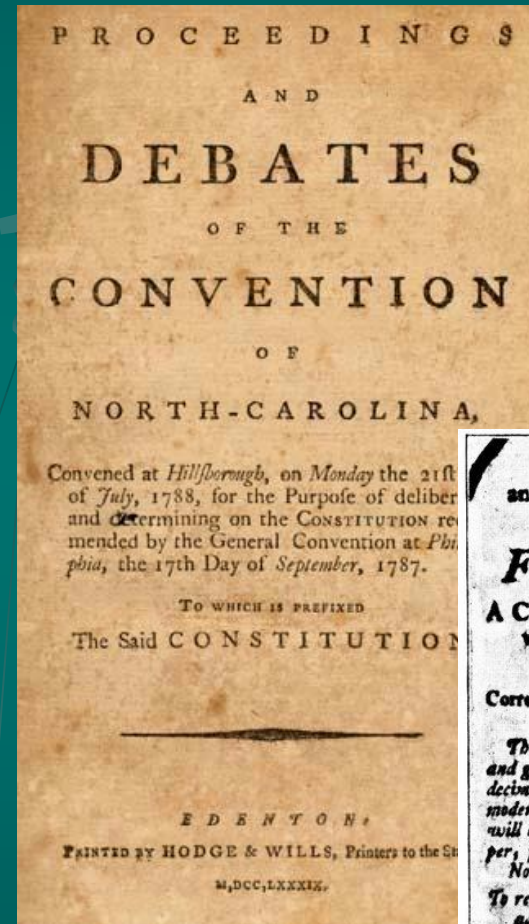
# *The Federalists*

- *The Federalists consisted primarily of the **39 delegates** that signed the Constitution.*
- *Led by **Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay***
- *They are the minority.*
- *Most Americans are fiercely opposed to this new go*



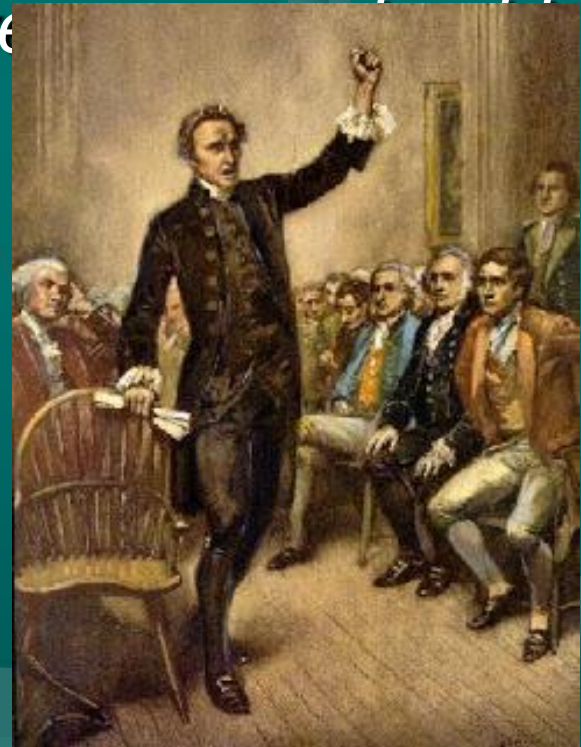
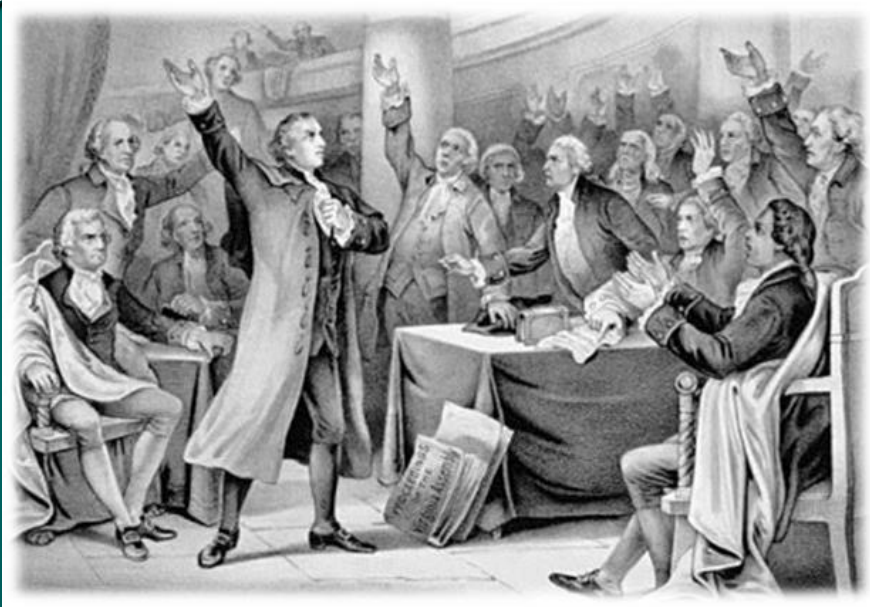
# The Federalists

- The Federalists skillfully debated every provision of the new Constitution.
- They masterfully explained the structure of the new government and how it would work.
- They argued that the states simply would not survive independently, or in any sort of “loose” confederation.



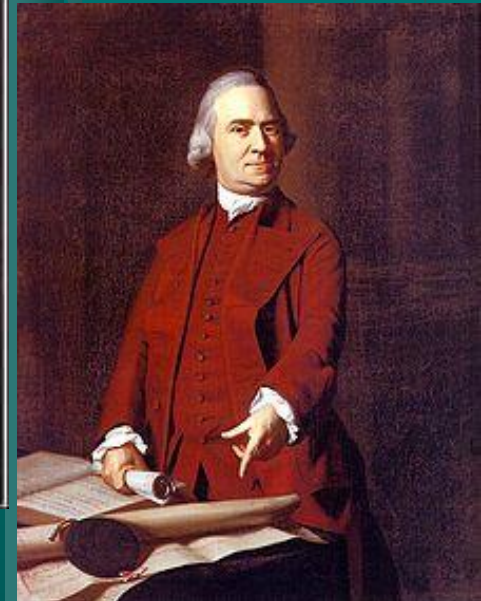
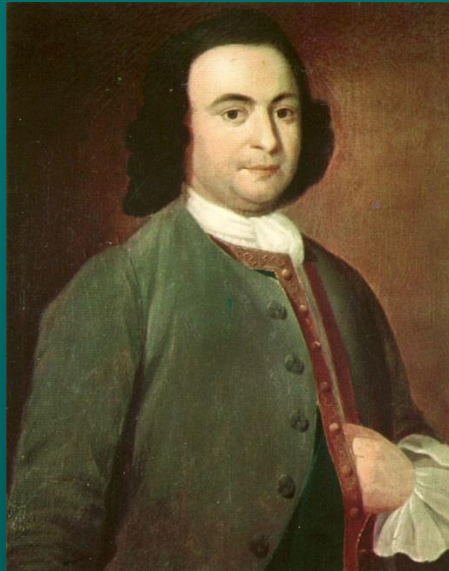
# ***The Anti-Federalists***

- *Most Americans opposed the Constitution.*
- *They feared the powers of the new central government.*
- *They argued that the state governments retain most of their power.*



# ***The Anti-Federalists***

- *Led by Patrick Henry, George Mason, Richard Henry Lee, and Samuel Adams.*
- *They refused to accept or ratify any new Constitution without the addition of a **Bill of Rights**.*



## **Federalists**

Favored Constitution

Led by Madison, Hamilton, Jay

Stressed weaknesses of Articles; strong government needed to protect nation and solve domestic problems

Checks and balances would protect against abuses.

Protection of property rights

Constitution is a bill of rights with limitations and reserved powers for the states; state constitutions already had protections in bills of rights.

## **Anti-Federalists**

Opposed Constitution

Led by Henry, Richard Henry Lee, George Mason, Samuel Adams

Wanted strong state governments; feared a strong national government

Created a strong executive similar to monarchy

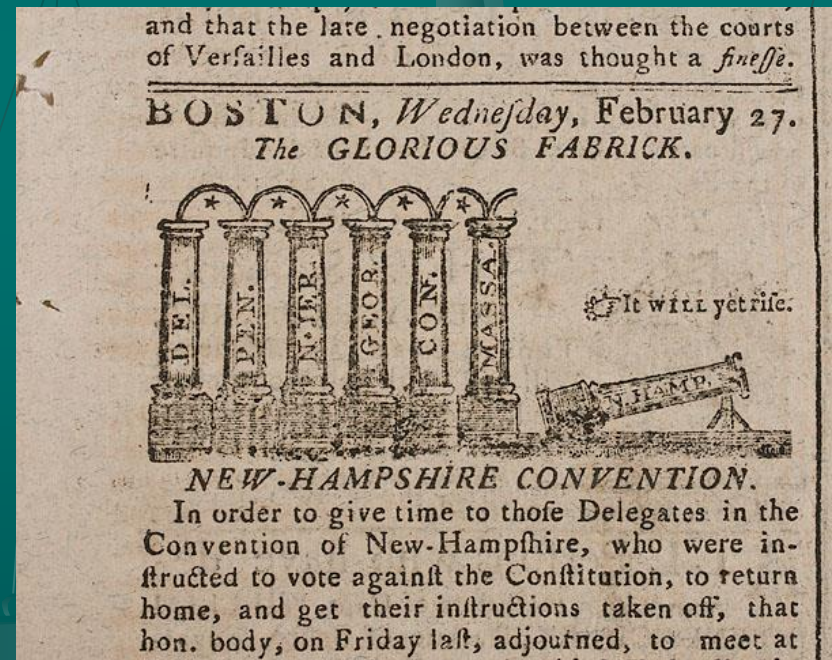
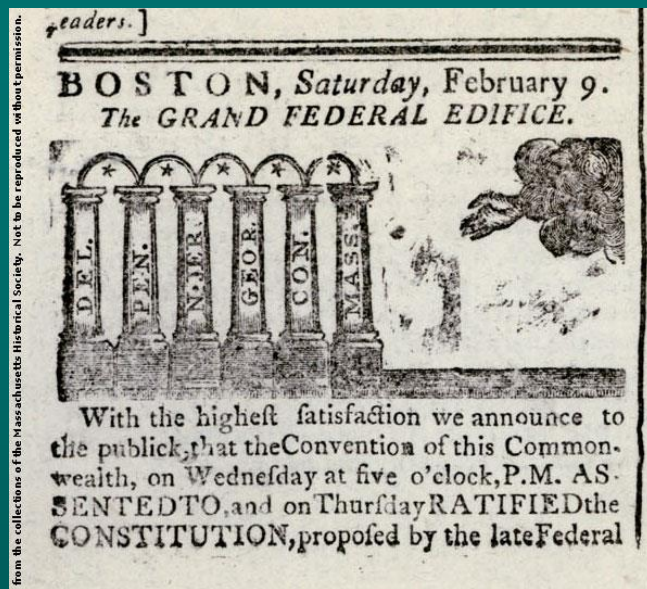
Wanted fewer limits on popular participation

Wanted a bill of rights to protect citizens against government

**Figure 6-3 Federalists versus Anti-Federalists.**

# Ratification of the Constitution

- ◆ With the promise of a Bill of Rights, one by one, the states began to ratify the Constitution.



# ***Ratification of the Constitution***

- ◆ *In May of 1790, Rhode Island became the last of the original states to ratify the Constitution.*



**UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION**

