## The Colonial Period

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| French and Indian War (1754 - 1763) | Bankrupts Great Britain which leads to a clamping down on the colonies and more of an effort to extract revenue |
| Stamp Act + Stamp Act Congress (1765) | Designed to bring revenue to the Crown by taxing all printed materials - very invasive |
| Tea Act + Boston Tea Party (1773) | Taxed colonial imports, dumped tea in the harbor |
| Coercive Acts (1774) | Punishment for BTP, closed port of Boston and restricted the Massachusetts Bay Colony, led to the 1st Continental Congress |
| Battles of Lexington + Concord (1775) | Biggest in a series of violent conflicts, 2nd Continental Congress was convened and Declaration of Independence was written. |

## The Framing of the Constitution

The Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia during the summer of 1787 - the delegates were all wealthy white men

The Constitution officially became law in June 1788 when New Hampshire became the 9th state to ratify - everyone else would do it by the end of 1791

## The Framing of the Constitution (cont)

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|---|---|
| The Virginia Plan: | Madison and the nationalists proposed, would benefit the large states. The house of reps would be direct elected and proportional to the size of each state. The house would elect senators and a judiciary. The national government could make and veto whatever they want |
| The New Jersey Plan: | Presented by Paterson and offered more protection for state's rights. One house, with equal representation, gave the national legislature more power than articles of confed but less than VA plan |

## The Declaration of Independence: Concepts

No man is born to rule over another

"Certain unalienable rights" bestowed by the creator and protected by government

Governments are of the people, for the people, and by the people

Government arises from the consent of the governed

Power should be divided among several institutions

Citizen rights must be protected

*nothing about slavery because southern slaveowners couldn't be offended or separated - everyone needed to work together

## The Articles of Confederation

Adopted in 1777 and set up a confederation

Decentralized, the national government derives limited authority from the states

So, the states have a bunch of power and authority, and it was impossible to get anything done due to the requirement of a 9/13 supermajority

No courts and no one person to lead the country

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| The national government had very little power and couldn't impose any regulations on the states: | Could not raise an army, tax citizens, relied on voluntary contributions from states, both states and the national government could create their own money, and both the states and nation could negotiate their own tariffs + taxes |
| Shay's Rebellion: | Armed farmers stormed the Massachusetts court to demand that they stop prosecuting debtors - none of the states would help each other |



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