The Pursuit of Equality

- Renewed sense of equality in post-Revolution society
  - Most states reduce property holding requirements for voting
  - Decline/end to indentured servitude
  - Disdain for Society of the Cincinnati
  - Growth of trade organizations
  - Fight for separation of church and state
    - Thomas Jefferson and the VA Statute for Religious Freedom
The Pursuit of Equality - Slavery

- 1775 – Philadelphia Quakers establish world’s first anti-slavery society
- 1774 – Continental Congress calls for an end to the slave trade
- Some northern states abolished slavery outright
The Pursuit of Equality - Slavery

- No states south of PA abolished slavery
- Laws discriminated against slaves and blacks
- Why did abolition not go further? (p. 167)
  - Fight over slavery would have further divided the young republic at a time when unity was needed
The Pursuit of Equality - Women

- Does the new sense of equality apply to women?
- Republican Motherhood
- Educational opportunities expand...
Constitution Making in the States

- 1776 – Continental Congress calls upon colonies to draft new constitutions

- MA – called a special convention to draft constitution then submitted to people for a final vote
  - Constitution could only be changed by calling another const. convention
    - Same procedure used for changing federal constitution
### State Constitutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Written contracts that defined the powers of the government; authority drawn from the PEOPLE</th>
<th>Most included: bill of rights; annual election of legislators; weak executive and judicial branches</th>
<th>Legislative branch, viewed as the most democratic, given the most power</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Post-Revolution Economy

- After the war, states seized control of former crown / Loyalist lands
- War boosts domestic production / manufacturing
- American ships barred from British harbors
Post-Revolution Economy

- New trade outlets
- Rampant inflation
- War debt
- Role of speculators
- Americans and taxes...
A Shaky Start Toward Union

- Task: Create a NEW system of government in a NEW country for people who are suspicious of any type of authority

- Economy hits rock bottom in 1786 as British flood American markets with goods
Creating a Confederation

- Sovereignty of the states
- 1777 – Congress adopts the first written constitution for the new nation, the Articles of Confederation
  - Statement to France
- 1781 – ratified by all 13 states
Creating a Confederation

- Problem: What to do with new western lands?
  - States that held large claims wanted their lands
  - States with little to no claims did not want states to have their claims extended because they would be able to sell the lands and pay off their debts

- Should the territory of states be extended, or should new states be created?

- Solution: Western lands transferred to the federal government
Map 9.1: Western Land Cessions to the United States, 1782–1802
Creating a Confederation

• Significance: People now had a legitimate stake in the success of the federal government

• If people wanted to reap the advantages new land would provide, they must look to the federal govt. for assistance
The Articles of Confederation

- Provided for a loose confederation or “firm league of friendship” among the 13 states
- States come together to deal with common problems, such as foreign affairs
- Congress – chief agency of government
The Articles of Confederation

- No executive branch, judicial powers left to the states
- Each state had 1 vote (Was this fair to states with larger populations?)
- Bill must be approved by 9 states to be passed
- Amendments required unanimous vote (Impossible)
The Articles of Confederation

• Weaknesses of Congress
  • No powers to regulate commerce (States were free to establish conflicting policies regarding tariffs and navigation)
  • No power to tax
    • States were given a quota and asked to voluntarily contribute their share
    • What do you think happened?
Articles of Confederation

- National govt. was allowed to ASK but not COMMAND or CONTROL

- The national govt. under the AOC was EXTREMELY WEAK
  - States held the power
Articles of Confederation

- The AOC proved that the states needed to yield SOME POWER to a national govt.
- AOC as a stepping stone to the Constitution
- Outlined the general powers that were to be exercised by the central govt. (treaties, postal service, etc.)
Landmarks in Land Laws

- **Land Ordinance of 1785:**
  - Lands in the Old Northwest to be sold in order to pay off national debt

- Divided into townships (6 square miles)

- Townships divided into 36 sections (1 square mile)

- 16th section – Public school
Northwest Ordinance of 1787

• Related to the governing of the Old Northwest

• Admission process for statehood

• Forbade slavery (exempted slaves already present)
The World’s Ugly Duckling (Britain)

- British-American relations

- British remain in forts on American soil, trade furs with the Indians

- Americans want to punish British economically
  - One problem...
The World’s Ugly Duckling (Spain)

- Spanish-American relations
- 1784 – Spain closes MS River to American commerce
- Territorial disputes (See map)
- Plotted with Indians to contain American settlement
The World’s Ugly Duckling (Others)

- French demand repayment of war loans; restricted trade
- North African pirates attack American shipping interests, enslave sailors
  - U.S. response?
The Horrid Specter of Anarchy

- 1780s – Economic problems continue to surface
- Public debt piles up; nation’s credit disappears
- States continue to “do their own thing”
  - Printing currency
  - Levying duties on goods from other states
Shays’s Rebellion

- MA, 1786

- Impoverished farmers, many of whom were war veterans, began to lose their farms through mortgage foreclosures and tax delinquency.

- Capt. Daniel Shays and hundreds of others demand a suspension of property takeovers; promise to use force if necessary
Shays’s Rebellion

- MA authorities raise a small army and eventually put down the rebellion
- MA legislature passes laws more sympathetic to debtors
- Incident put fear into the propertied class (wealthy)
Final Verdict: Articles of Conf.

- Most agree that the AOC need strengthening

- Question: How MUCH power should be given to the central govt.?

- Americans begin to lose fear of a central govt. Some think that tyranny could come from “the common people” (Shays’s Rebellion)
A Convention of “Demigods”

- Control of commerce touched off the chain reaction that led to a constitutional convention

- 1786 – Convention in Annapolis, MD; only 5 states represented; Alexander Hamilton calls upon Congress to meet in a year in Philadelphia to revise the AOC

- State legislatures appointed reps.
A Convention of “Demigods”

- Select group of wealthy, propertied men
- 55 delegates from 12 states meet in May 1787
  - Who was absent?
- Secret sessions
- Most experienced in constitution making (states)
Roll Call

- Washington = chairman
- Present – Hamilton, Washington, Franklin, Madison
- Absent – John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Sam Adams, John Hancock
Patriots in Philadelphia

- **Delegates:**
  - Lawyers, merchants, shippers, land speculators, money lenders
  - 19 out of 55 owned slaves
  - Young
  - Experienced

**Goals:**
- Create stable political structure
- Protect from weaknesses abroad and excesses at home
- Preserve union
- Curb unrestrained democracy (mob-rule)
Conflict and Compromise

• Under instructions to *revise* the AOC, some members wanted to *scrap* them all together

• Virginia Plan
  • “large state plan”

• New Jersey Plan
  • “small state plan”
Conflict and Compromise

- The “Great Compromise”

- Robust, yet restrained, executive branch
  - Waging war, not declaring war
Conflict and Compromise

- Electoral College system
- 3/5 Compromise
- End to slave trade (in 1807)
Safeguards for Conservatism

- Agreements among delegates:
  - Sound money and protection of private property
  - Stronger govt., 3 branches, checks and balances
  - Safeguards against the “mob” (masses)
    - Judges appointed for life
    - President elected indirectly
    - Senators elected indirectly
Democratic Elements

- Govt. by popular consent of the people
- Limited govt. (Constitution)
- 42 out of 55 delegates sign Constitution
Political Clash

**Federalists**
- Supported stronger govt.
- George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton
- Wealthier, more educated, better organized
- Controlled the press

**Antifederalists**
- Opposed stronger govt.
- Sam Adams, Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee
- States’ rights advocates, debtors, farmers, etc.
- Constitution seen as plot to steal power from commoners
- Wanted a bill of rights
The Debate Within the States

- Members selected for state ratifying conventions
- MA convention
- 9 states (excluding VA, NC, NY, and RI) ratify by June 1788
Map 9.4: The Struggle over Ratification
The Four Laggard States

- VA = Antifederalist stronghold

- *The Federalist*
  - No. 10

- Remember Rogue’s Island???????