**UNIT 3: NEW NATION STUDY GUIDE**

**Articles of Confederation and Shays’ Rebellion**

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were written during the American Revolution. They were America’s first governing document, and they reflected Americans’ fear of a powerful national government. As a result, it created a government that had no executive branch and that lacked the power to tax, regulate commerce, or establish one national currency. The new governing document gave individual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ governments more power than the national government, resulting in conflicts among the states that that threatened the existence of the nation. The political weakness of the United States and its potential for collapse left it vulnerable to attack by foreign countries and convinced many influential Americans to support a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Convention.

Political leaders were further motivated by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which they felt set a precedent for people to revolt against their government by mob force. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ led more than a thousand farmers who, like him, were burdened with personal debts caused by economic problems stemming from the states’ Revolutionary War debts. The rebellion’s men tried to seize a federal arsenal in Massachusetts but were turned back by the Massachusetts Militia. This was just one of many protests that debt-ridden farmers made during this period. Without the power to tax, America’s weak government could not repair the national economy. Responding to the incident, George Washington supported the establishment of a stronger central government. In May 1787, he was elected president of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, where he and the Founding Fathers created a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ form of government for the United States.

**Federalists and Anti-Federalists**

Writing the Constitution was just the first step in creating the new government. Before the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (new government document) could take effect, the states had to accept, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it. As soon as the potential contents of the Constitution were published, a group of influential people spoke out against it. These people came to be known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They believed the government created by the Constitution would be too powerful and would eliminate the power of the states. They also argued that the Constitution did not describe the rights guaranteed to the states and to each citizen; therefore, they refused to approve the Constitution without the admission of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

To counter these claims, James \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Alexander \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and John \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wrote a series of articles that supported ratification of the Constitution and explained the intent behind its major provisions. These articles were known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and supporters of the Constitution became known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These essays laid out a series of reasoned arguments designed originally to persuade the people of New York that the structure of a new Constitution actually protected and strengthened the United States. Key to these arguments was the use of the Constitution itself to illustrate how the Anti-Federalists had nothing to fear. In Papers 6-9, the writers pointed out that the factionalism of the Confederation period had weakened the Union. In Paper 39 Madison presented the argument for a Republican form of government. Papers 47-51 used the writings of Enlightenment thinker, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to support the idea of a separation of powers protected through a series of checks and balances that would prevent one branch of government from becoming too powerful.

To overcome the Anti-Federalist argument that the Constitution failed to include a statement of states’ rights and individuals’ rights, the Federalists promised that they would support of bill of rights upon ratification of the Constitution. As a result, the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment guaranteed rights not listed in the Constitution were reserved to the people..

The Federalist Papers, the promise of the Bill of Rights, and the efforts of Federalists convinced a majority of state assemblies to ratify the Constitution by 1791.

**The Great Compromise**

One great issue facing the delegates to the Constitutional Convention was how states would have representation in the new government. States with large populations supported the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Plan, which proposed to create a legislative branch in which representatives were assigned based on each state’s population. States with smaller populations supported a plan to create a legislative branch in which all states were equally represented called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Plan. Delegates to the Constitutional Convention settled the issue of representation in Congress by approving the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (also called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ). This compromise helped “save” the Constitution by settling the dispute between states with large populations and states with small populations. The compromise called for the creation of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ legislature with two chambers: a House of Representatives, with representation based on population, and a Senate, with equal representation for all states.

**Slavery**

Another divisive and controversial issue that confronted delegates to the Constitutional Convention was slavery. Though slavery existed in all the states, southern states depended on slave labor because their economies were based on producing cash crops. When it became clear that states with large populations might have more representatives in the new national government, states with large slave populations demanded to be allowed to count their slaves as a part of their population. Northern states resisted. Both sides compromised by allowing the states to count \_\_\_\_\_\_ of their slaves when calculating their entire population. Also, to protect the practice of slavery, states with large numbers of slaves demanded that the new government allow for the continuation of the slave trade for 20 years and that northern states return runaway slaves to their owners. Delegates to the Constitutional Convention agreed to these demands.

**Separation of Powers**

Despite the fact that most delegates to the Constitutional Convention believed the government designed by the Articles of Confederation had to be replaced, many still feared strong central governments. To reassure people that the new government would not be too powerful, the framers of the Constitution created a limited government with divided powers. The framers were greatly influenced by the ideas of the famed French political thinker Barron Charles de \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The rights guaranteed to U.S. citizens by the Constitution limited the power of the government. Powers were divided in two ways within the new government. First, power was divided between national and state governments. Second, the power of the executive branch was weakened because it was shared with the legislative and judicial branches. For example, the legislature can override a presidential veto of a bill, and the Supreme Court can rule that a bill signed by the president is unconstitutional. To further safeguard against an abuse of power, the Constitution gave each branch of government a way to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the power of the other branches. An example of these would be the president’s power to veto laws passed by Congress.

**Bill of Rights**

One of the principle reasons that the American colonists revolted against the British government was the colonists’ belief that Parliament had abridged colonial rights as guaranteed to them under the English Bill Rights. When the Constitution was drafted, the Anti-Federalist felt that a strong central government could also infringe upon civil liberties. The Anti-Federalists would not ratify the new Constitution without the inclusion of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . A proposal for the amendments was introduced in June 1789 by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . The proposal was approved separately by both houses of Congress by September 1789 and ratified by the states by April 1792.

An examination of the Bill of Rights should note that the first nine rights deal with key individual rights and protections. These rights include the right of free expression, assembly, protections against self-incrimination, and the right to a trial by a civilian jury. To protect these individual rights, Madison limited the power of the Federal government in the Tenth Amendment by reserving any un-enumerated rights to the states.

**Presidency of George Washington**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the most influential and popular figure of the time, was elected the first president of the United States. He established important \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for future presidents to follow. One key development associated with Washington was the creation of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ system—a group of close advisors. Washington called on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be his Secretary of State and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his Secretary of Treasury. Developments that altered the course of the history of the U.S. government took place during his administration. Washington favored a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ policy in Europe, thus, avoided siding with France against Great Britain. Instead, the United States persuaded Britain to forgive many pre-Revolutionary debts and to drop certain restrictions on American trade with British colonies in the Americas. This ushered in an era of booming trade with Britain. Washington’s new government persuaded Congress to pass taxes on liquor to help pay the states’ debt from the Revolutionary War. The tax hit the small whiskey-makers in western settlements particularly hard because they made liquor using excess crops of grain in order to make it easier to transport, even using whiskey as a medium of exchange. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ resulted in Western Pennsylvania when armed violence broke out as farmers frightened and attacked federal tax collectors. George Washington led a large militia force into the western counties and put down the rebellion. Washington’s response set a precedent for Constitutional authority to enforce the law—something that would have been unheard of (and unlawful) under the Articles of Confederation.

**Political Parties**

Political parties had their origin in the differences of opinions between Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, and Secretary of Treasury, Alexander Hamilton. Both felt very differently about the organization of the new nation and how the nation should be run including the Constitutionality of a national bank. Hamilton’s group adopted the name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and wanted to expand the power of the government to stabilize the nation and its economy. Jefferson’s supporters came to be known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and believed that the national government must limit its power to those areas described by the Constitution. Within the foundations of these two groups is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ system that has come to control United States politics. When Washington announced he would not seek a third term as president, the two men and their supporters attacked one another and competed to replace him. Things got so bad that in his farewell address, Washington warned about the dangers of political parties (factions).

**Presidency of John Adams**

The election of 1796 was a bitter contest between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, with Adams winning by a small margin. Like Washington, Adams set examples that influenced future presidents as well as the course of American history. However, his administration was plagued by conflicts with France and Great Britain that crippled the nation’s economy, and he received harsh political criticism from supporters of Vice President Jefferson. To aid Adams, a Federalist Congress passed the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These laws increased citizenship requirements so that Jefferson could not receive support from the immigrant community and attempted to stop any criticism by limiting speech and press rights. In reaction to the Alien and Sedition Acts, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Resolutions were drafted by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. These resolutions were political statements drafted in 1798 and 1799, in which the Kentucky and Virginia legislatures took the position that the federal Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional. The resolutions argued that the states had the right and the duty to declare unconstitutional any acts of Congress that were not authorized by the Constitution. In doing so, they argued for states' rights and strict constructionism of the Constitution. This was the beginning of the states’ rights concept and would be hotly debated for years to come, especially the notion of states having the ability to nullify federal laws.

**Northwest Ordinance**

The region west of the Appalachians had been settled by French and English traders and was one of the strategic objectives of both the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. Several states claimed portions of the region and reluctantly gave up claim to their lands in exchange for repudiation of their state Revolutionary War debts. Congress hoped to sell the public lands in the region to settle outstanding debt and to finance the operation of the new government. To rectify competing land claims, under the Articles of Confederation, Congress passed the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The law was significant in providing a mechanism for division of the land into rectangular sections. This methodology would be used each time the U.S. acquired new lands. It was also significant because it provided a way for free public education to be financed through the sale of the Sixteenth section in each township.

The land north and west of the Ohio River became the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It was the first territory created outside the original states. In 1787 Congress passed the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The law provided for the method by which new territories would be admitted to the United States. The ordinance banned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Northwest Territory effectively making the Ohio River the boundary between free and slave regions. The Northwest region was a lawless region prior to the passage of the 1787 act. This law demonstrated to Americans that their national government intended to encourage westward expansion. The laws of the nation would follow its citizens across the continent. New states would be admitted to the nation as equal members of the Union.