

MR. POGREBA, PARKER SCHOOL

Unit 1: AP Test Review

Test Format for AP American Government Test 2022

Section 1: Multiple Choice Questions

55 multiple choice questions over 80 minutes, covering analysis and knowledge of core concepts. This is 50% of the test grade.



Section 2: Argument Essay

A 40 minute long essay that will advance a complex, nuanced argument using reference to foundational documents. It is 12.5% of your grade.



Section 2: Short Answer

Three short answer questions (Concept Application, Quantitative Analysis, and SCOTUS Comparison). Each is worth 12.5 % of your grade and should take 20 minutes.



15-22%

HOW MUCH OF THE TEST WILL COME FROM UNIT 1?

LAST MONTH REVIEW STRATEGY

BIG ARGUMENTS

Make sure you can articulate answers, develop thesis statements, and contextualize these big arguments.

KEY POINTS

Review these key points, narrowed down from our notes throughout the year. Pay particular attention to bolded terms.

CONTEXT

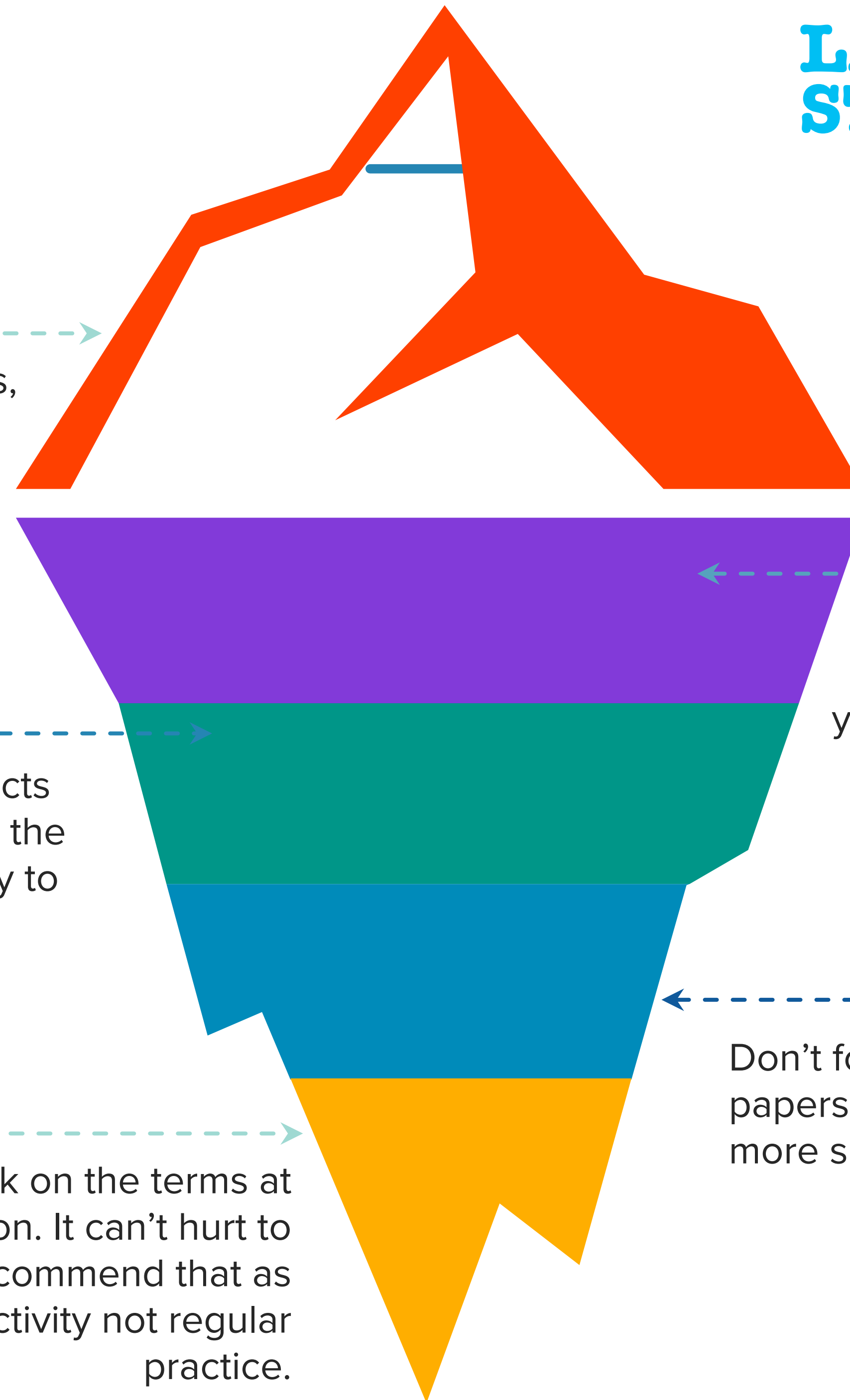
Think about how each unit connects to others. For instance, how does the compromise that denied humanity to slaves connect to the Civil Rights Movement?

TEST PREP

Don't forget to review rubrics, sample papers, multiple choice questions and more specific test prep!

TERMS

Your lowest priority is to work on the terms at the end of the presentation. It can't hurt to review those, but I would recommend that as a quick, periodic Quizlet activity not regular practice.



THE BIG ARGUMENTS

MAJOR THEMES AND CONCEPTS

THE BIG ARGUMENTS

- ✓ The US Constitution emerged from a mixture of the political ideals of the Enlightenment, the revolutionary impulses of the rebellion, a spirit of compromise, the failures of the Articles of Confederation, and a willingness to limit the extension of rights to some Americans.
- ✓ The Constitution rests on these core principles: limited government, republicanism (not democracy), federalism, checks and balances, and popular sovereignty.
- ✓ The Constitution represents an effort to balance order and liberty.
- ✓ Over time, the balance of power has shifted dramatically from the states to the federal government, but there is increasing pressure from right and left to restore local/state authority.
- ✓ Debate over the allocation of power (from President to Congress, state to federal) has been a core struggle in American government.
- ✓ The founders deliberately created a system of complex governance to limit and even slow the response of government.

KEY POINTS

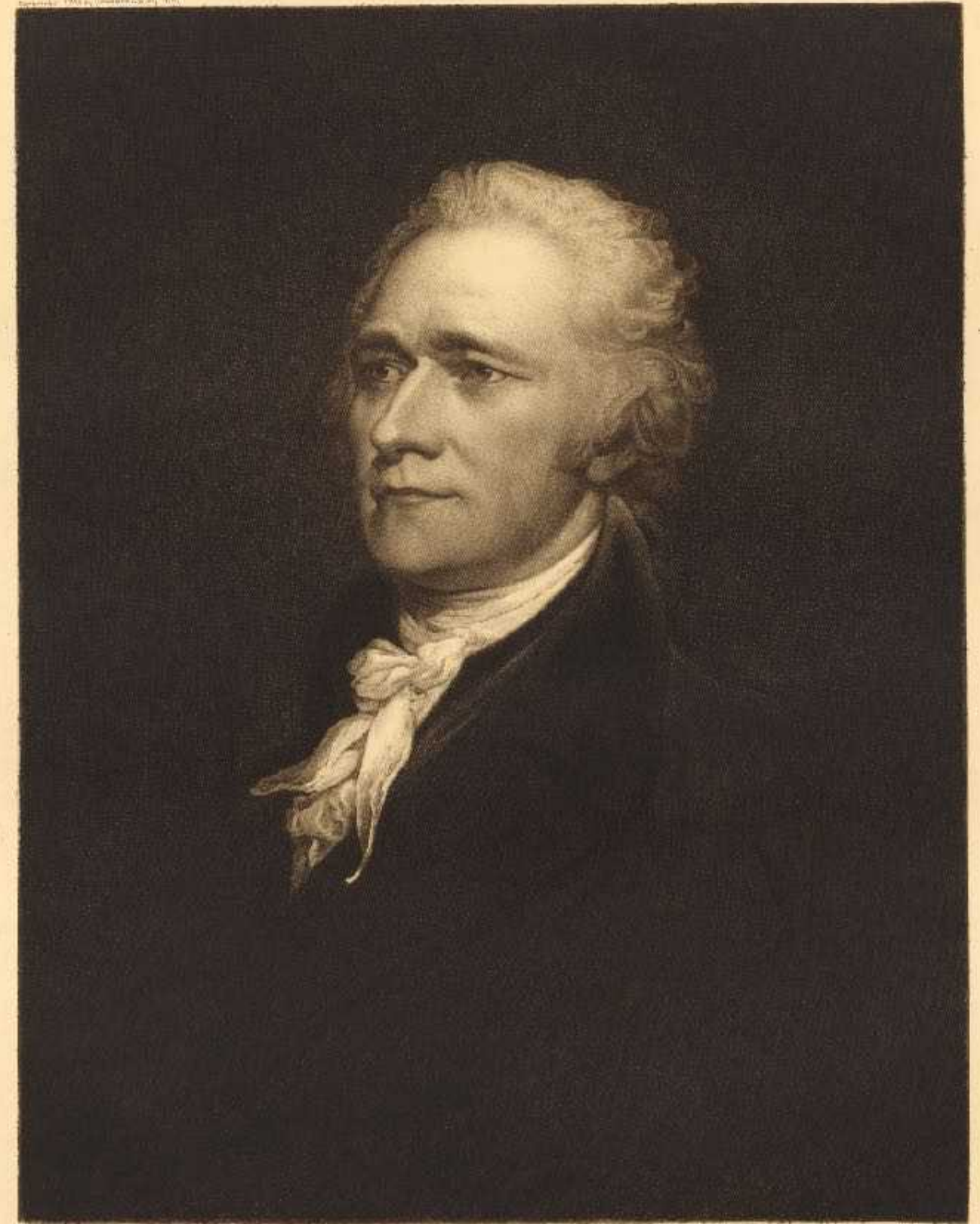
KEY POINTS WORTH LOCKING AWAY IN THE BRAIN



Foundations

TWO IDEAS OF DEMOCRACY

- ▶ The government envisioned by the founders is a **representative democracy**, one in which voters choose those who represent them.
 - ▶ The US, as a result, is a **democratic republic**.
- ▶ Most were adamantly opposed to the idea of a **direct democracy**, because they feared the rule of the mob.



James Madison
1751-1836



5 VIEWS OF POLITICAL POWER IN THE UNITED STATES

- ▶ The **class view**: American government is driven by the interests of the wealthy.
- ▶ The **power elite view**: The US system is dominated by powerful interest groups (business, labor, military, etc.)
- ▶ The **bureaucratic view**: government officials and workers themselves run the government, despite the intentions of elected officials/public.
- ▶ The **pluralist view** holds that a multitude of groups, not individuals, hold power in the US. It is the evolving contest and changing resources among these groups that determines the course of American government.
- ▶ The **creedal passion view** accepts that many of the preceding four theories are correct, but maintains that the most important changes come from morally impassioned elites who put aside economic interest.



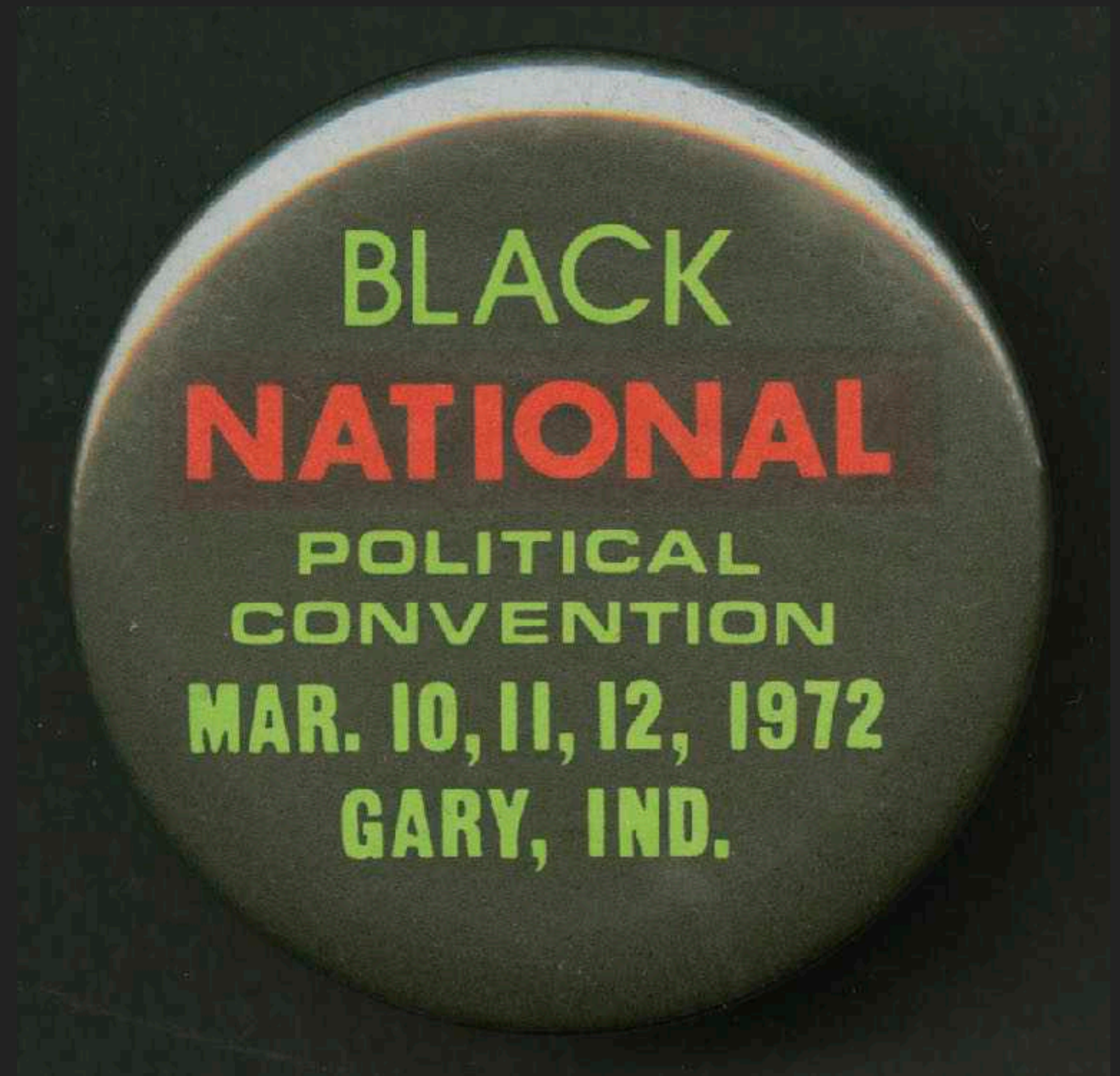
THE POLICY AGENDA

- ▶ Broadly, the **political agenda** refers to the issues that we believe are appropriate for governmental action.
- ▶ This idea has evolved greatly over American history, shifts from individual to government, and state to federal action.
- ▶ Primary drivers of the policy agenda today are **interest groups, government institutions, the media, and the states.**
- ▶ Political debates are often settled by the **perception of costs** versus the **perception of benefits.**



4 TYPES OF POLITICS

- ▶ **Majoritarian Politics** involve making appeals to a broad group.
- ▶ **Interest Group Politics** tend to be fought out by small groups, some of which will benefit, some of which will bear costs from the change.
- ▶ **Client Politics** are policy changes in which one group will benefit and the costs are widely distributed to others. This can lead to **pork barrel projects** and **logrolling** to get passage.
- ▶ **Entrepreneurial Politics** occur when a large number of people benefit and a small group bears a substantial cost.





The Constitution

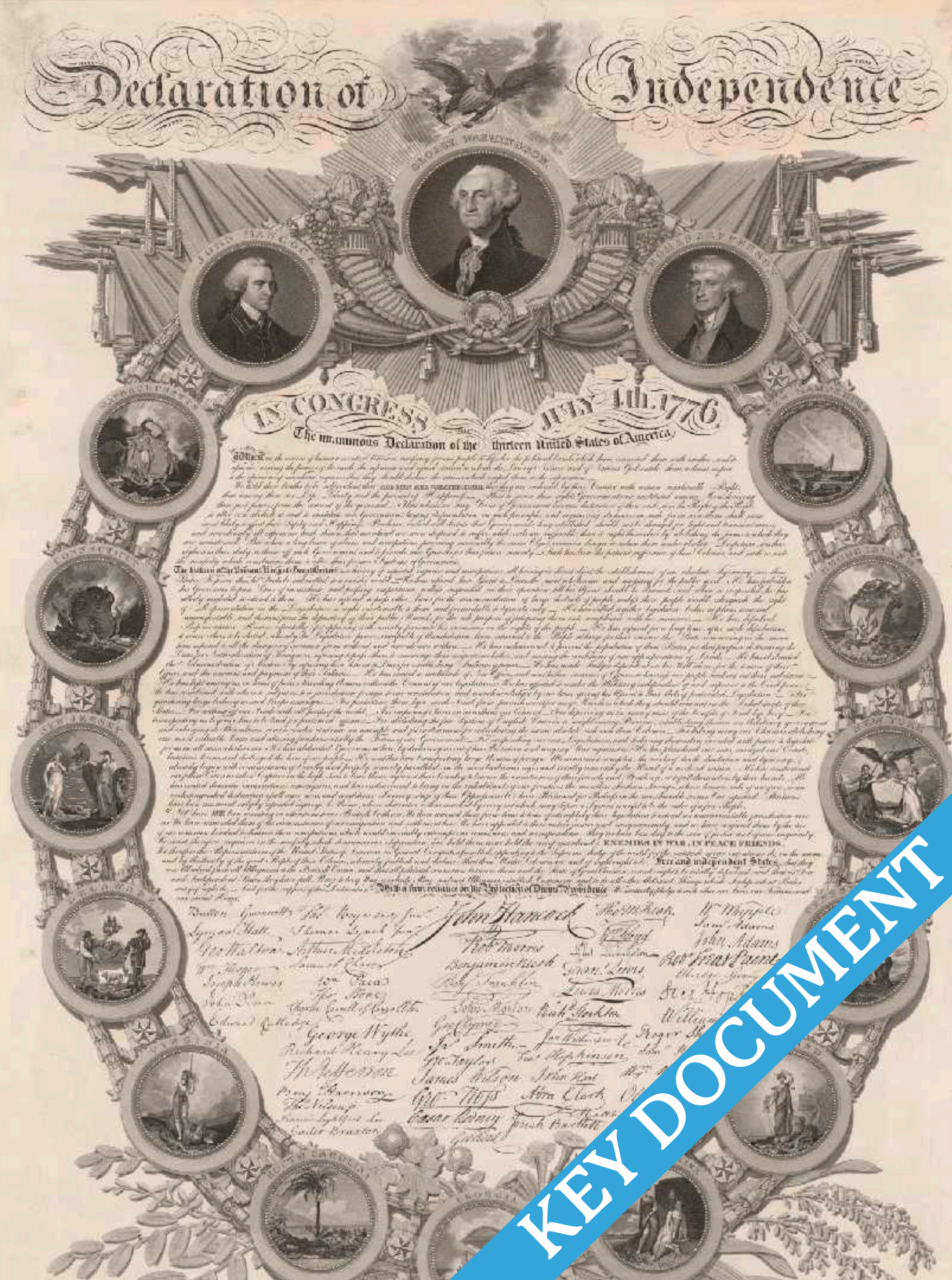
ENLIGHTENMENT IDEAS

- ▶ The founders were inspired by the thinkers of **The Enlightenment**:
 - ▶ **Belief in natural rights and reason**
 - ▶ **Social contract theory**
 - ▶ **Rejection of divine right of kings**
 - ▶ **Right to life, liberty, and property**
 - ▶ **Checks and balances**
 - ▶ **Limited Government**
 - ▶ **Republicanism**



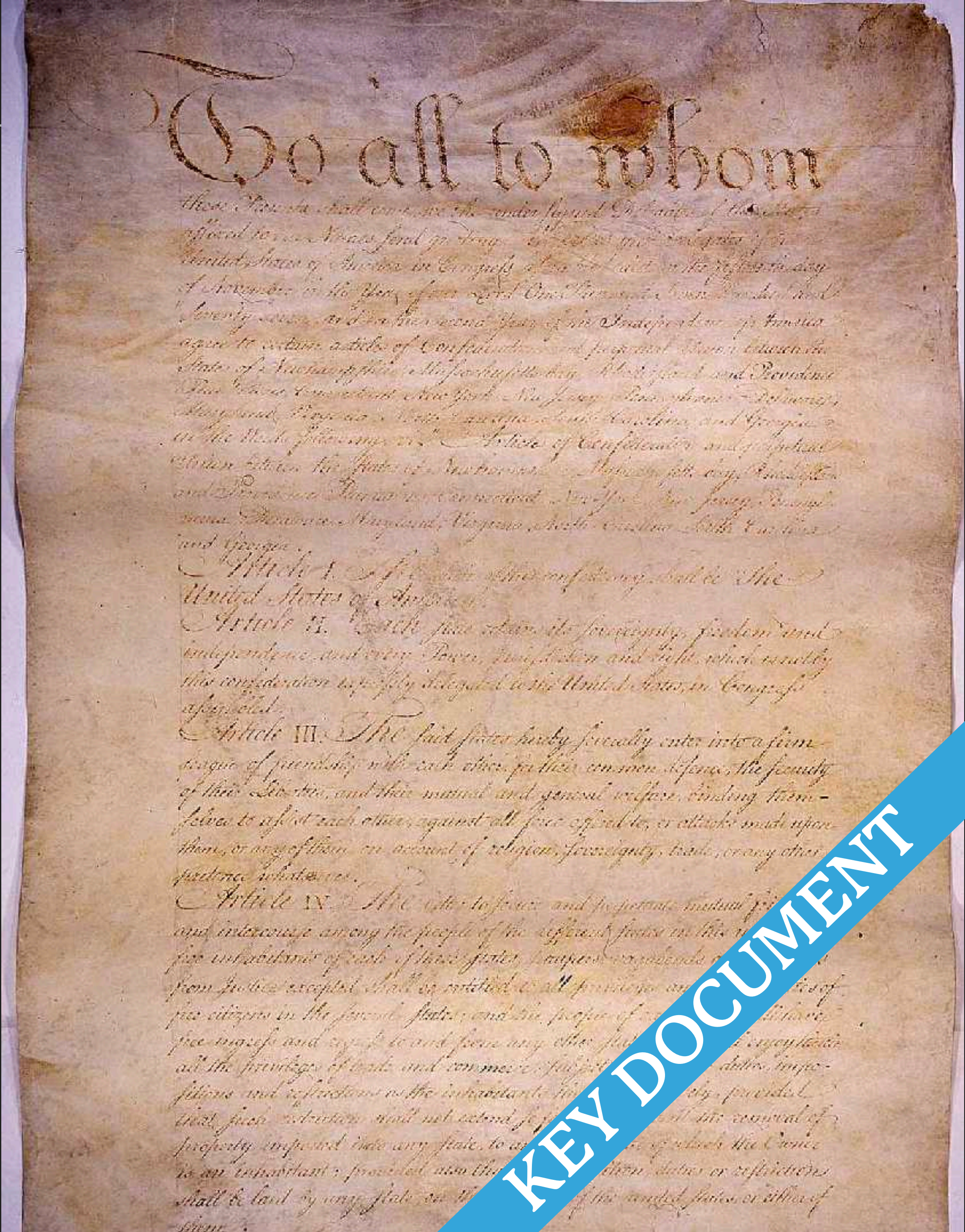
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

- ▶ **Thomas Jefferson** was the chief writer of the **Declaration of Independence**, which
- ▶ Identified the violations of liberty by King George III as **justifications for rebellion**.
- ▶ Established the argument that certain rights are **unalienable**.
- ▶ Asserted the **legitimacy and act of independence from Britain**.
- ▶ argued government depended on the **consent of the governed**.



ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

- ▶ The Articles of Confederation created a weak, limited central government:
- ▶ Sovereign states
- ▶ One vote per state, any could veto
- ▶ No President/Judiciary
- ▶ No taxation, no standing army



Go all to whom

these States shall come, we the undersigned Delegates of the said States, do hereby certify that we have agreed upon the following Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union between the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Providence Plantings, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia, in the Words following, to wit: Article of Confederation and perpetual Union between the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Providence Plantings, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia.

Article I. The said States hereby severally enter into a firm League of Friendship with each other, for their common Defense, the Security of their Liberties, and their mutual and general Welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all Force offered to, or Attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of Religion, Jurisdiction, Trade, or any other Pretence whatsoever.

Article II. The said States hereby severally enter into a firm League of Friendship with each other, for their common Defense, the Security of their Liberties, and their mutual and general Welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all Force offered to, or Attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of Religion, Jurisdiction, Trade, or any other Pretence whatsoever.

Article III. The said States hereby severally enter into a firm League of Friendship with each other, for their common Defense, the Security of their Liberties, and their mutual and general Welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all Force offered to, or Attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of Religion, Jurisdiction, Trade, or any other Pretence whatsoever.

Article IV. All the said States hereby severally enter into a firm League of Friendship with each other, for their common Defense, the Security of their Liberties, and their mutual and general Welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all Force offered to, or Attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of Religion, Jurisdiction, Trade, or any other Pretence whatsoever.

KEY DOCUMENT

CONSTITUTION

- ▶ The Constitution rests on the idea that the government needed to be strong enough to preserve order but not so strong that it would undermine liberty, a balance between democracy and elite power.
- ▶ The Great Compromise created the House (based on population) and the Senate (two per state).
- ▶ The 3/5th Compromise ("the original stain") counted slaves as 3/5 a person for representation.



BASIC PRINCIPLES

- ▶ The American government should be a **republic**, a system of **representative democratic government**.
 - ▶ They feared that democracy would devolve into **mob rule** or **oligarchy**.
- ▶ **Popular Sovereignty**: government can only rule with the consent of the governed.
- ▶ **Checks and Balances**: the power of each branch should be limited by the powers of the other branches.



KEY DOCUMENT

BASIC PRINCIPLES, PART 2

- ▶ **Federalism:** The power of government should be divided between the federal government and the states.
- ▶ **Limited government:** There should be written and explicit limits to the power of government.
- ▶ **Separation of Powers:** power should be divided between the legislative, executive, and judiciary.
- ▶ **Amendments:** The Constitution should be able to change, though change should be difficult.



AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

- ▶ 27 Amendments have passed of the 12,000 proposed.
- ▶ 2/3 of both houses of Congress and 3/4 of the states must ratify an amendment.
- ▶ Or a constitutional convention could take place.
- ▶ The first set of amendments was the Bill of Rights, but we'll get into those later.



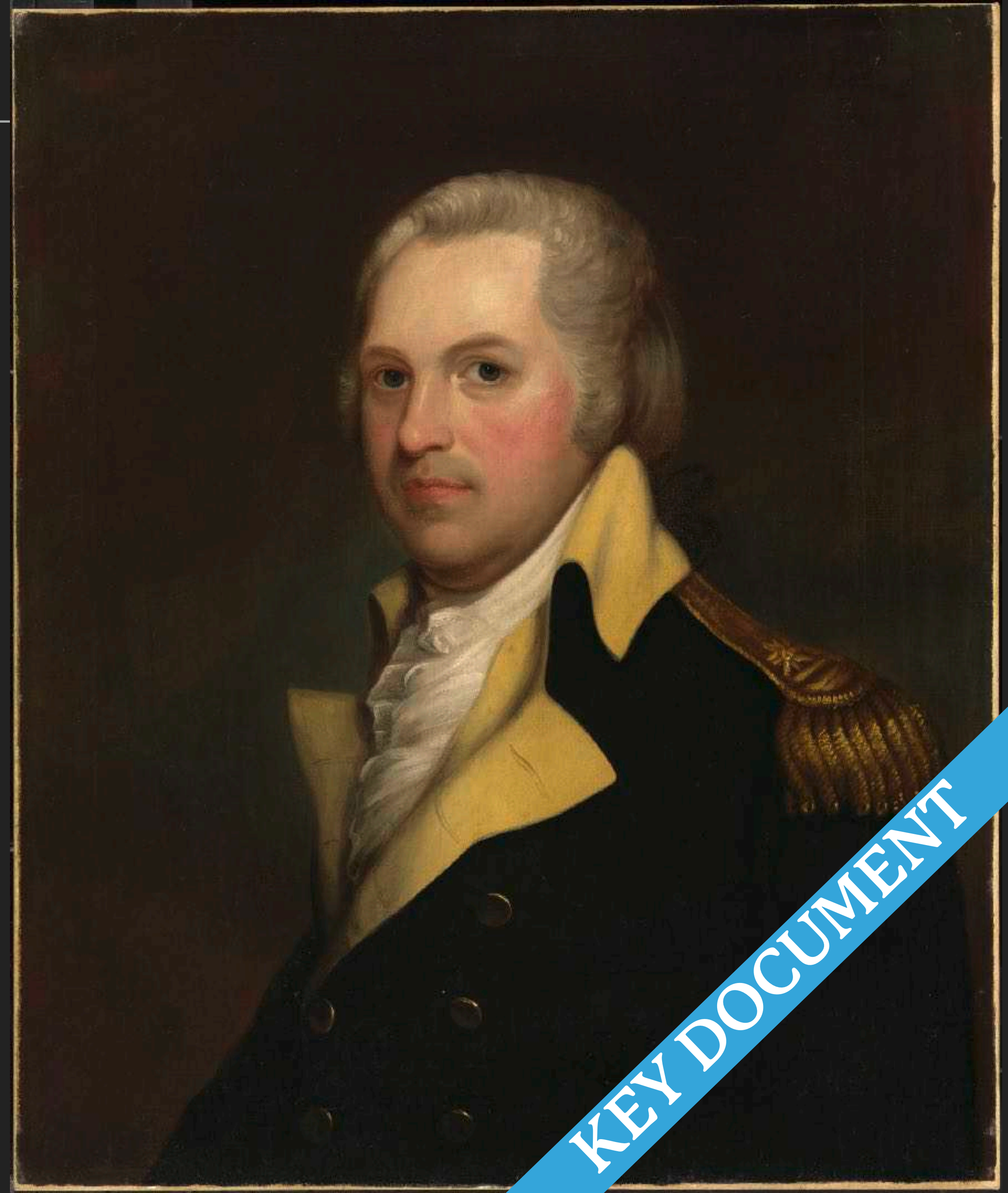
FEDERALISTS AND ANTI-FEDERALISTS

- ▶ **Federalists** believed a strong central government was key to the nation's military and economic survival.
- ▶ **Anti-Federalists** believed a large government:
 - ▶ Could not secure liberty
 - ▶ Would massively raise taxes
 - ▶ Would not protect rights (Bill of Rights)
 - ▶ Would override local authority and that only small republics could survive.



BRUTUS I

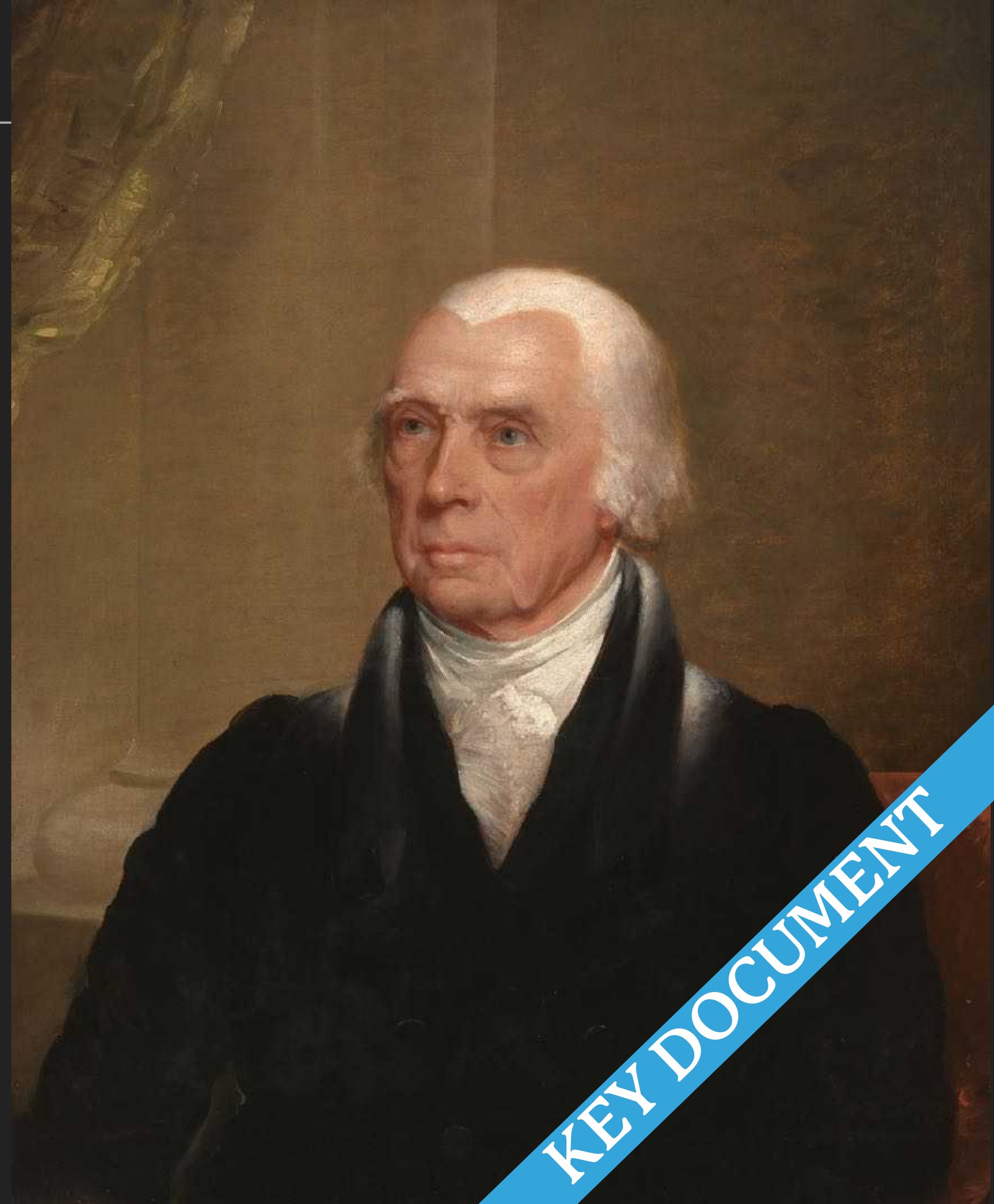
- ▶ Brutus I was one of the most influential Anti-Federalist documents, published right after the Convention. It argued:
- ▶ That a republic could only work in a small, cohesive society
- ▶ The demands of a large nation would compel the federal government to trample liberty. Rome and Greece were proof.
- ▶ A confederation of small republics would better serve liberty.
- ▶ Bill of Rights was needed.
- ▶ Too much power in the hands of the federal government (Elastic Clause)



KEY DOCUMENT

FEDERALIST 10

- ▶ In Federalist 10, Madison argues:
 - ▶ That **factions** are the greatest threat to democratic government.
 - ▶ That the factions come from human nature.
 - ▶ We cannot restrain liberty, even though it inspires factions.
 - ▶ **A large republic will restrain the influence of factions** because the government will have many opinions.
 - ▶ Pure democracy cannot work, but republics can.



KEY DOCUMENT

FEDERALIST 51

- ▶ In Federalist 51, Madison argues:
 - ▶ That **checks and balances** will prevent abuse by the government.
 - ▶ Republican government can restrain the worst impulses of factions.
 - ▶ Republican government can protect people and their rights from the **tyranny of the majority**.
 - ▶ Rights, the Founders believed, should not be subject to popular vote. Well, for some people.

THE
FEDERALIST,

A Collection of Essays written in favor of the New Constitution.

By a Citizen of New-York.

Corrected by the Author, with Additions and Alterations.

This work will be printed on a fine Paper and good Type, in one handsome Volume duodecimo, and delivered to subscribers at the moderate price of one dollar. A few copies will be printed on superfine royal writing paper, price ten shillings.

No money required till delivery.

To render this work more complete, shall be added, without any additional charge,

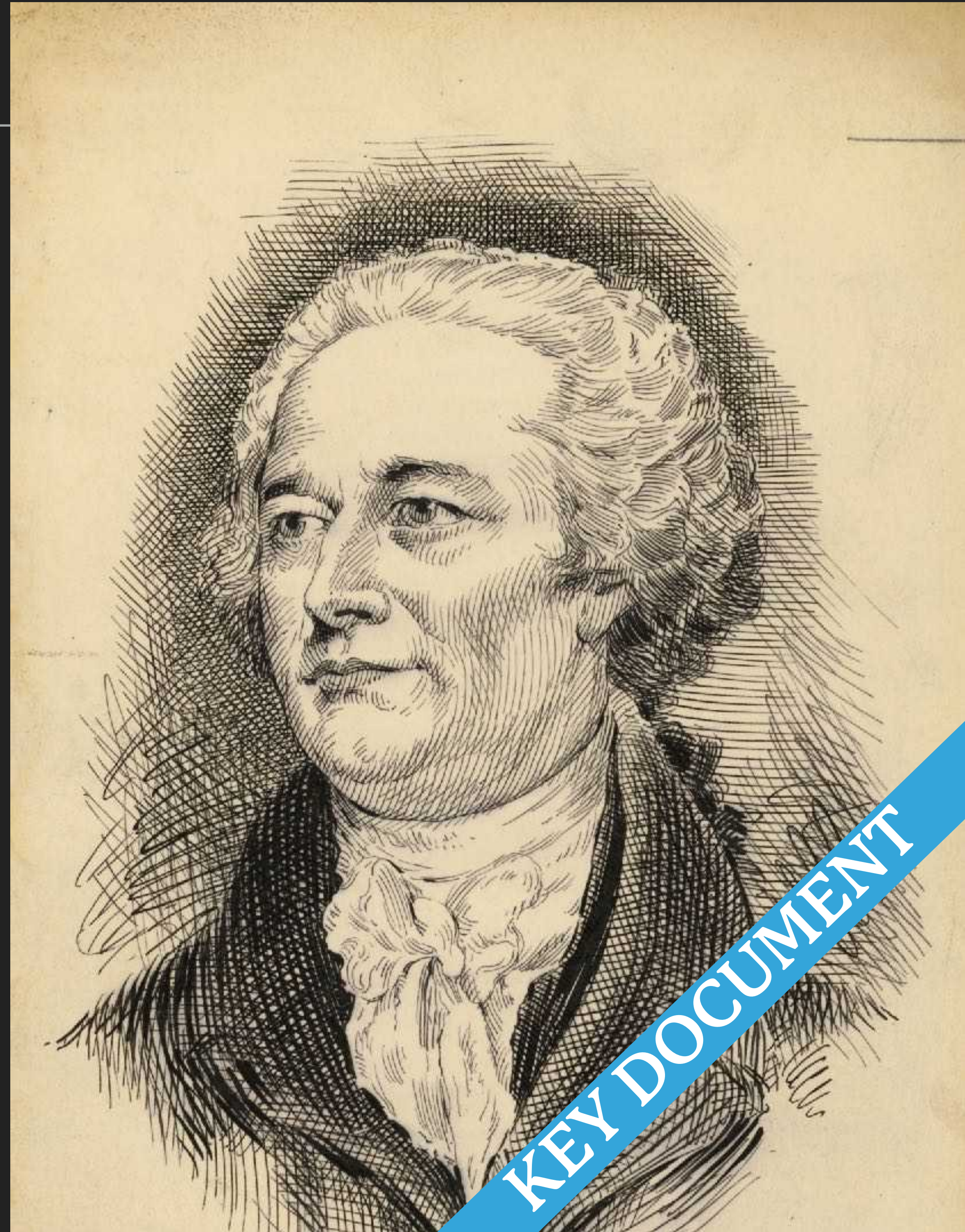
PHILO-PUBLIUS,

AND

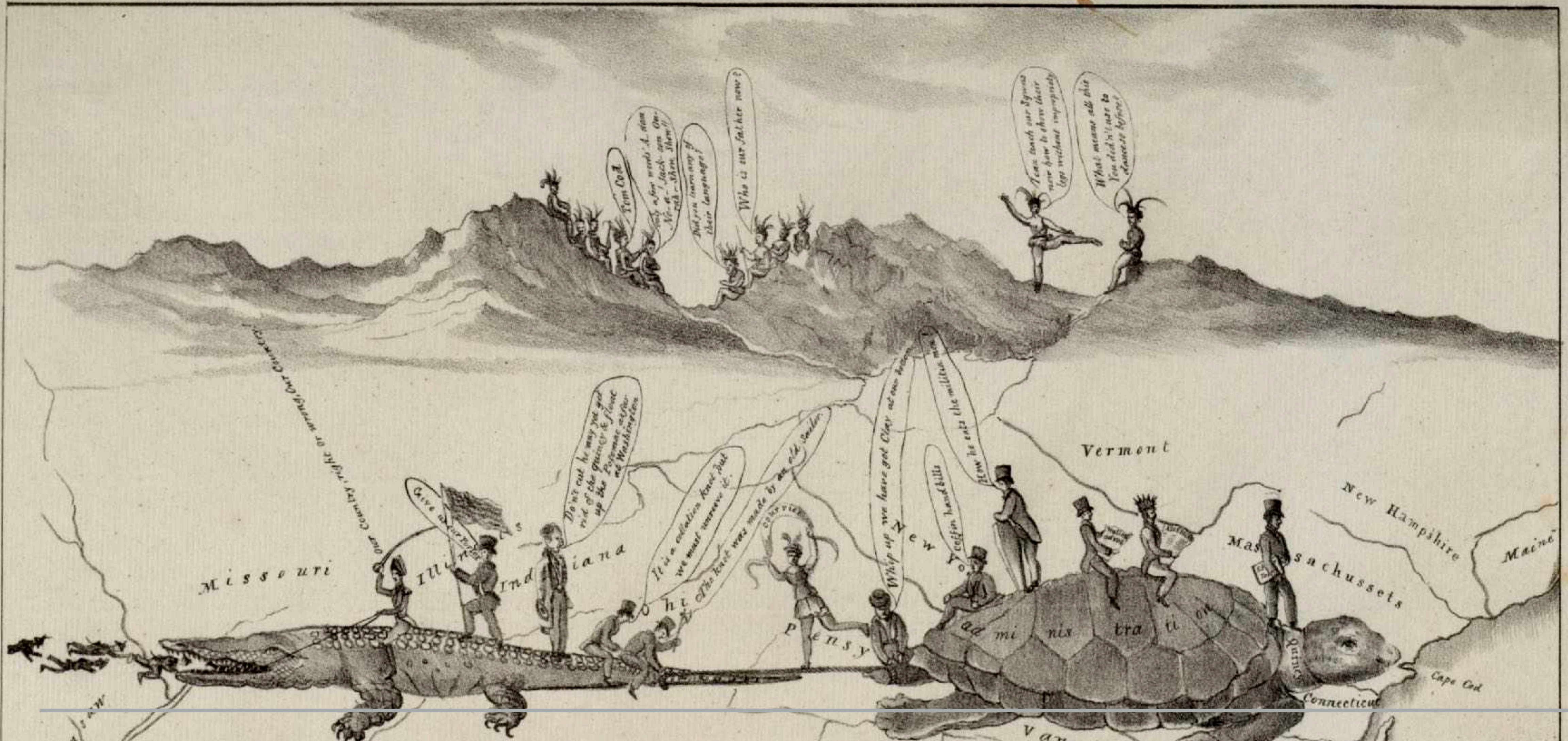
KEY DOCUMENT

FEDERALIST 70

- ▶ In Federalist 70, Hamilton argued that:
 - ▶ The US needed a strong, executive (President) to protect the country.
 - ▶ **A strong executive** would be able to act swiftly, unlike a slow-moving Congress.
 - ▶ Three key characteristics for Hamilton:
 - ▶ **Unity of action**
 - ▶ **Duration of term (stability)**
 - ▶ **Competent powers**



Exhibiting a View of the Rocky Mountains Surveyed by a Company of Winnebago Indians in 1828.



Federalism

WHAT IS FEDERALISM?

- ▶ **Federalism** is “a political system in which the national government shares power with local governments” (Wilson 2016).
- ▶ The Constitution explicitly reserved power for the states in the **10th Amendment**.
- ▶ Hamilton believed that the federal government was the supreme authority, but Jefferson and Madison thought most authority rested with the states.
- ▶ The US has moved from **dual federalism** (separate areas of state/federal control) to **cooperative federalism** (shared responsibility)



FEDERALISM

POWER!

- ▶ **Federal power**
 - ▶ **Enumerated Powers:**
 - ▶ **Implied Powers**
 - ▶ **Inherent Powers**
- ▶ **State Power**
 - ▶ **Reserved power**
 - ▶ **Concurrent powers**
 - ▶ **Prohibited powers**



CORE PRINCIPLES

- ▶ **The Elastic (or Necessary and Proper) Clause** gives Congress the power to make all “necessary” laws. Since 1789, the trend line has been to give Congress broad power.
 - ▶ Some argued (and still argue) that states can **nullify** federal law.
- ▶ **The Supremacy Clause** makes state and local law subordinate to federal law.
- ▶ **The Commerce Clause** is the center of much of the federalism debate, as Congress can regulate **interstate commerce**.
- ▶ **The Full Faith and Credit Clause** says that states must honor legal proceedings of other states.



LANDMARK CASES

- ▶ **McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)** cemented the supremacy of federal law over state law in a dispute over the creation of a national bank.
 - ▶ The Court reasoned that, while creating a bank was not an **enumerated power**, it was an **implied power** of the federal government.
- ▶ **US v. Lopez (1995)** affirmed the rights of states, striking down a federal law prohibiting firearms on schools grounds.
 - ▶ The Court reasoned the the **Commerce Clause** did not extend to the regulation of firearms.



BENEFITS OF FEDERALISM

- ▶ “Laboratories of democracy”
- ▶ Government closer to the people it represents
- ▶ Flexibility and responsiveness
- ▶ Liberty
- ▶ Encourages political participation because the agent of power is closer to the voter



DRAWBACKS OF STATE POWER

- ▶ Legacy of racism and Jim Crow
- ▶ “Race to the bottom”
- ▶ Slows federal response to national crises (Great Depression)



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

- ▶ One of the ways the federal government exercises power is through grants:
 - ▶ **Categorical grants** are given to the states for a specific purpose and with strings attached.
 - ▶ School lunches
 - ▶ **Block grants** are given with far fewer restrictions, increasing the state's authority.
 - ▶ Medicaid
 - ▶ **Mandates**, especially **unfunded mandates**, are controversial because the government uses grants and penalties to compel state action.



RESURGENCE OF FEDERALISM

- ▶ The idea of states rights took a pretty serious hit after the Civil War, and federal power grew through the Progressive Era, WW1/2, the New Deal, and the 1960s.
- ▶ **Devolution** of power to the states became a conservative rallying cry in the 1980s and a key part of the conservative movement.
- ▶ Liberals have begun to embrace **progressive federalism** on issues like immigration and environmental standards.
- ▶ Both Republicans and Democrats seem willing to put politics ahead of principle on federalism questions.



TERMS

CAN'T HURT TO KNOW WHAT THESE MEAN

KEY TERMS

- ▶ 10th amendment
- ▶ 3/5th Compromise
- ▶ anti-federalists
- ▶ Articles of Confederation
- ▶ Baron de Montesquieu
- ▶ bicameralism
- ▶ Bill of Attainder
- ▶ Bill of Rights
- ▶ block grants
- ▶ categorical grants
- ▶ checks and balances
- ▶ Civil War Amendments
- ▶ Commerce Clause
- ▶ Concurrent Powers
- ▶ Confederation
- ▶ cooperative federalism
- ▶ dual federalism
- ▶ Elastic Clause
- ▶ Electoral College
- ▶ elite and class theory
- ▶ Eminent Domain
- ▶ enumerated powers
- ▶ Ex Post Facto Law
- ▶ extradition
- ▶ faction
- ▶ federalism
- ▶ Federalist Papers
- ▶ federalists
- ▶ fiscal federalism
- ▶ formula grants
- ▶ Full and Faith Credit Clause
- ▶ full faith and credit
- ▶ Great Compromise
- ▶ hyperpluralism
- ▶ implied powers
- ▶ Interstate Commerce
- ▶ Interstate Compact
- ▶ Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- ▶ John Locke
- ▶ Judicial Review
- ▶ limited government
- ▶ Madison Model
- ▶ Mandate
- ▶ natural rights
- ▶ Necessary and Proper Clause (Elastic Clause)
- ▶ Nullification
- ▶ pluralism
- ▶ popular sovereignty
- ▶ Privileges and Immunities Clause
- ▶ project grants
- ▶ Reserved Powers
- ▶ separation of powers
- ▶ Social Contract Theory
- ▶ Super Majorities
- ▶ Supremacy Clause
- ▶ Thomas Hobbes
- ▶ unicameralism
- ▶ unitary governments
- ▶ writ of habeas corpus