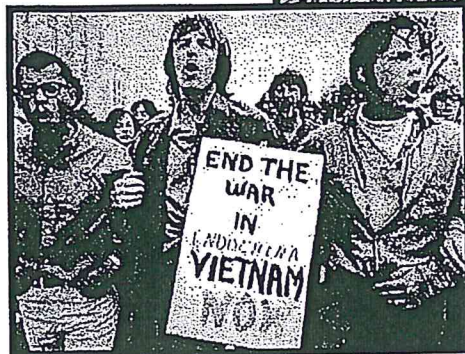
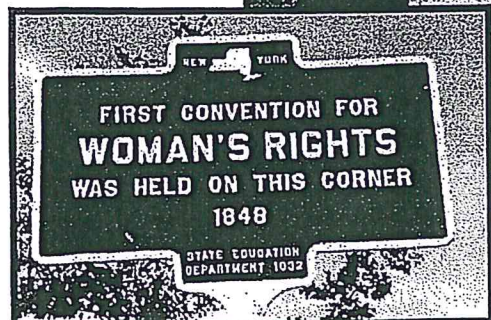
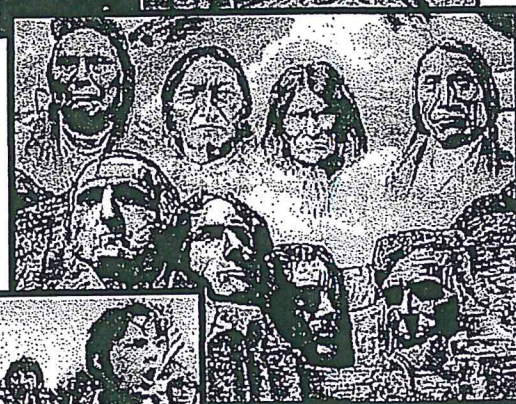
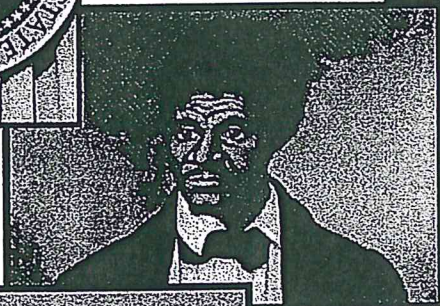
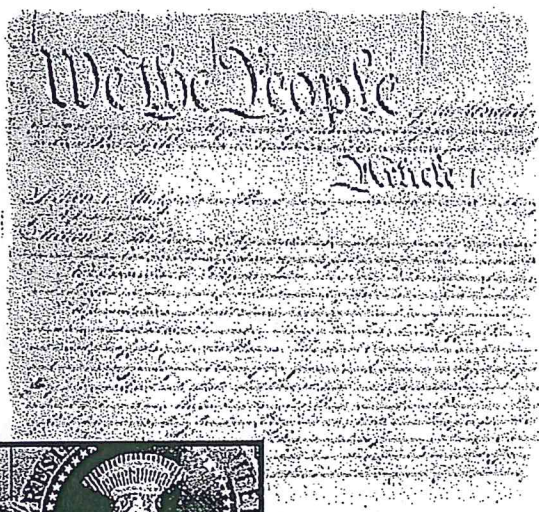


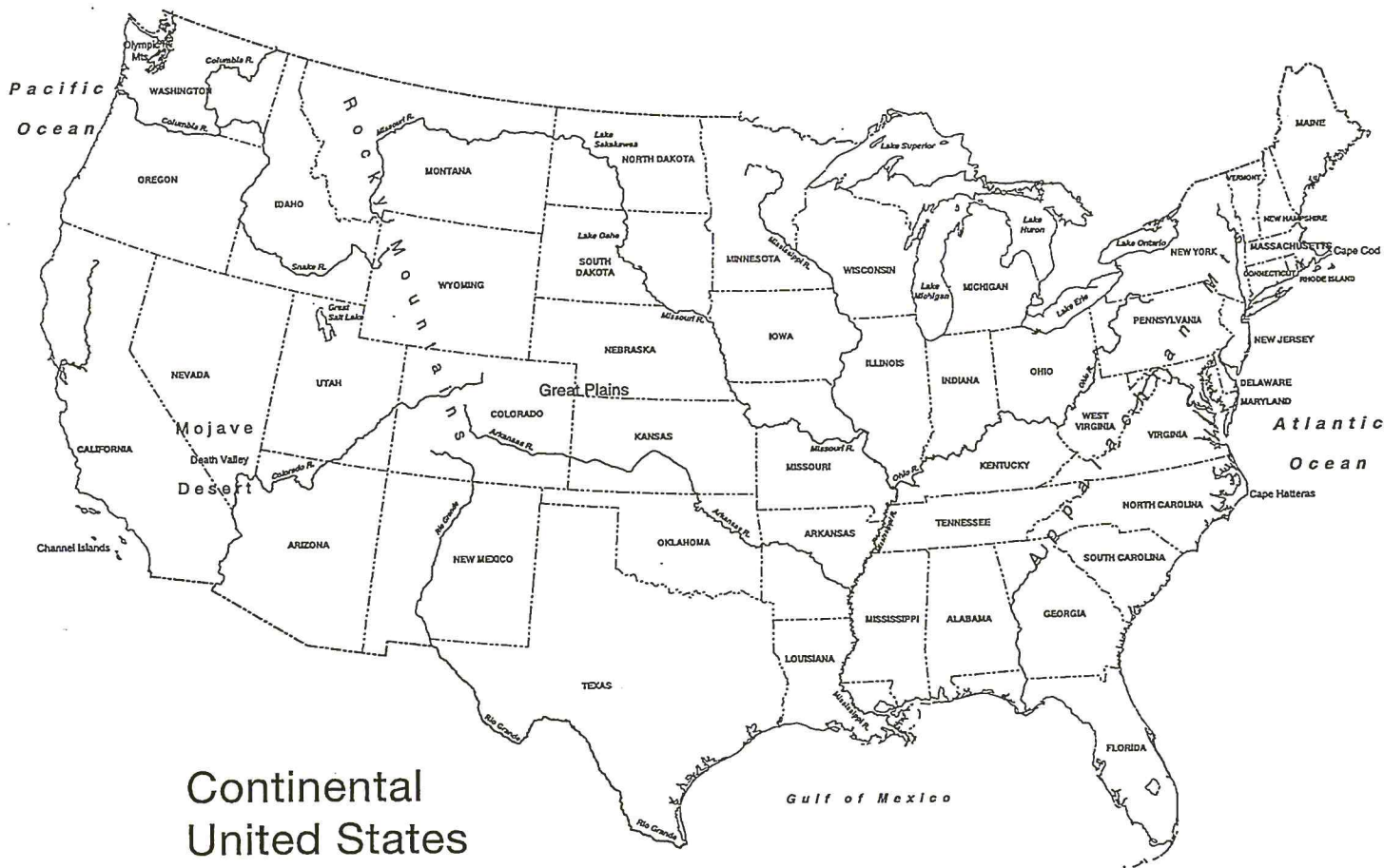
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United States History Regents Review Packet

This study guide will assist you in preparing for the
NYS Examination in United States History.

Social Studies
Department





Geography

- Atlantic and Pacific Oceans most influenced U.S. foreign policy throughout the 18th, 19th, and 20th century.
- Oceans on the east & west coasts helped the U.S. maintain its foreign policy of neutrality during much of the 1800s.
- **Natural harbors** contributed to the **development of commerce**.
- **Appalachian Mountains** served as the western boundary for British colonial settlements prior to the Revolutionary War.
- **Proclamation Line of 1763**- Border established by Great Britain in order to avoid conflicts between American colonists and Native Americans.
- Early colonial settlements were similar in that each developed near the coast line. EX) Jamestown (1607) Plymouth (1620) New Amsterdam (1625)
- **New England Colonies**- Influenced by good harbors, abundant forests, rocky soil, and a short growing season. Geographic factors influenced the economy of New England by promoting the growth of trade and manufacturing. Developed villages with town-hall meetings. Had small farms, commercial fishing, and the first American college.
- **Southern Colonies**- The climate and topography of the southeastern U.S. had a major impact on the history of the U.S. before 1860 because the region provided agricultural products that were processed in the North and in Europe. Developed plantations (large farms that used slave labor) because of fertile land and a long growing season.
- **Great Plains** The relatively flat, grassy region of the U.S. between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains is known as the Great Plains. The states with the largest percentage of land used for agriculture are located in areas with relatively flat terrain. Known for producing grain crops (aka food).

Colonial Period

- **Triangular Trade**- led directly to the increased importation of enslaved Africans to the Western Hemisphere (colonies)
- **British Mercantilism**- Economic policy used by the British in which the American Colonies served as a source of raw materials and a market to sell goods. British buy raw materials from the colonies and sell them finished products. **Limited manufacturing** in America. **Limited colonies' trade with other nations**. This policy would eventually become **one of the reasons for the American Revolution**.
- **Salutary Neglect**- Period of time when the British ignored the colonies because they only wanted to benefit from the economic prosperity of the colonies. Led to the **development of independent colonial trade practices**.
- **French and Indian War**- Caused by disputed land claims in the Ohio River valley between the French and the British (the French and Indians were on the same side). War led to the **end of the period of Salutary Neglect**, because of the British need to tax the American colonists in order to pay for the war. This increase in taxes became one of the major causes of the **Revolutionary War** (war for American independence from Great Britain).
- **Virginia House of Burgesses/Mayflower Compact/Town Hall Meetings**- Early colonial efforts in self-government. They all contributed to the development of **representative democracy**.
- **Albany Plan of Union (1754)**- Early attempt to unify American colonies but under British rule. Many colonies objected to it because colonial assemblies did not want to give up their individual power.

Independence Movement/Revolutionary War (American Revolution)

Declaration of Independence-

- States the colonial grievances against British rule (**a list of reasons for separating from Great Britain**).
- Written by **Thomas Jefferson** who was most **influenced by** the writers of the **Enlightenment**.
- Is described as a statement of democratic principles rather than a framework for government.
- Takes ideas from **John Locke's theory of natural rights**-power to govern belongs to the people ("*consent of the governed*").
- Contributed to the political development of the U.S. by presenting a clear statement of the **social contract theory of government**- the fundamental purpose of government is to secure the natural rights of the people. If a government denies its people certain basic rights, that government can be overthrown.
- Similar to the Bill of Rights because both documents support limitations on governmental power and stress the importance of individual liberty.
- **NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION**- Many colonists believed they could not be taxed by the British because they had no representatives in the British government, which means that the British did not have **consent of the governed**.
- **Thomas Paine**- Published ***Common Sense*** which was influential in persuading American colonists to support colonial independence from Britain. Convinced many Americans who had been undecided on declaring independence from Britain.
- **Response to Mercantilist Policies**- Committees of Correspondence/Non-importation Agreements/Boston Tea Party First Continental Congress

Major Events Leading to Revolutionary War-

Sugar and Stamp Acts- tax foreign molasses and printed material. **Quartering Act**-requires colonists to house and feed British soldiers. **Townshend Acts**-taxes imported goods and tea. **Boston Massacre**-five people killed by British soldiers.

- Revolutionary War begins shortly after the signing of the **Declaration of Independence**.
- American Colonies win the war and independence with the help of familiar land and foreign aid (France).
- At the end of the Revolutionary War the **Mississippi** became the **western boundary of the U.S.**

Articles of Confederation

- First form of government used by the U.S. after independence from Britain. First plan of union for the original 13 states.
- At this point many **Americans distrusted a strong central government** because of their experiences under the rule of **Great Britain**. They wanted to limit the central government's opportunities to infringe upon the people's liberties so they established a **decentralized** (*power is broken up and divided among many groups, not unified*) political system in which the state governments had all the power.
- **Problems and Weaknesses**- Largely unsuccessful at solving many major problems because **most power remained with the state governments**. Congress depended on the states for men and money to support an army. National (aka Federal) government could not enforce its laws. Congress constantly overrode the President's vetoes.
- States had the power to collect taxes, coin money, and control trade.

- **Success of the Articles**- It provided a system for governing the **Western territories** and a process for admitting new states to the union.

Constitutional Convention (1787)-Major American delegates (politicians) meet in Philadelphia to revise (correct) the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.

- Called primarily because the **central government needed additional power** (the states had too much power).
- **Shays' Rebellion (1786)**- Significant because it convinced many Americans of the need for a stronger national government. Exposed the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation. Led to a call for the Constitutional Convention.
- Led to the creation of the **U.S. Constitution**.

Great Compromise-

- Settled a dispute over how the states would be represented in the **national legislature aka Congress** (group of people who write and vote on laws). Delegates from **states with small populations supported** the idea of **equal representation** for the states in the national legislature (ex New Jersey). Delegates from **states with large populations supported** the idea of **representation based on the size of population** (ex Virginia).
- **Solution**- Created a **bicameral legislature** (two houses that write and vote on laws). One house would be based on population (**House of Representatives**) and the other house would have equal representation for all states (**Senate**).
- **Three-Fifths Compromise**- Solution to the problem of how to determine the number of representatives in the *House of Representatives (branch of Congress)* from states with large slave populations. Determined that **3/5 of the slave population would be counted for representation in the House**.
- **Other Major Compromises**- Slave Trade, Taxation, Election of President.

U.S. Constitution vs. Articles of Confederation

Differences

- Constitution strengthened the power of the Federal (aka national) Government.
- Constitution granted **Congress sole control over interstate and foreign commerce** (trading between different states and trading with other countries).
- Constitution created **three separate, independent branches of government**.
- Constitution gave the Federal (national) Government the power to collect taxes.

Similarities

- Both provided a **national legislature** (lawmaking body).
- Both provided some form of **cooperation between states**.

Federalists- Group that **supported ratification** (make into a law) of the **U.S. Constitution**. Wanted a strong national government to provide order. Published the **Federalist Papers** which encouraged ratification of the Constitution.

Anti-Federalists- Group that was against ratification of the Constitution. They believed it would threaten the rights of individual citizens. Did not want the national government to have too much power. Only agreed to ratify the Constitution after the addition of the **Bill of Rights** to the Constitution.

Bill of Rights- First ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

- Main purpose is to **protect civil liberties** and protect the people **from government abuse**.
- Similar to the Declaration of Independence because both stress the importance of **individual liberty**.
- **Unreasonable Search and Seizure-** Protects U.S. citizens from being jailed or searched for no reason. This amendment was put in because the British government used **writs of assistance** against American merchants during the colonial/Revolutionary War era.
- 14th amendment extends the protections of the Bill of Rights to include actions of state governments (states must also obey the Bill of Rights).
- **Major Rights-** Right to assemble peacefully, freedom of speech, protection against unreasonable search and seizure, etc.
- **Separation of church and state** (religion is separate from the government) is established in the 1st Amendment.
- **Freedom of Speech** (1st Amendment)
 - **John Peter Zenger-** Arrested by governor of New York (1733) for printing an article that criticized the governor. Was found to be **not guilty** because the article was based on fact. Led to a **strengthening of freedom of press**.

Constitution: Basic Principals

U.S. Constitution- A statement of rules and procedures for governing the U.S.

Enlightenment Influence-

- Idea of **sovereignty of the people** came from **social contract philosophers** of the Enlightenment period. *Sovereignty is derived from the consent of the governed* (only the citizens give the government the power to rule).
- Consent of the governed concept comes from enlightenment philosophers.
- Limitations on the power of government were influenced by the ideas of **John Locke** and **Baron de Montesquieu** (**checks & balances**, three branches of government).

Democracy- A government for the people by the people. A democracy must have citizen participation in government. Ex) the citizens of the U.S. choose their congressional representatives (House & Senate) through elections. The most essential feature of democratic government is a free and open election process.

Republican Government- Described as one in which representatives are elected by the people.

Division of Power- The framers of the Constitution included the concepts of federalism, checks & balances, and separation of powers in the document because they feared a government with unlimited power.

Federalism- Division of powers between the national and state government.

- A constitutional principle that establishes limits on the powers of the government (the state and Federal government share different powers so neither can become too powerful).
- **Reserved Powers-** Powers only granted to the state governments by the Constitution. Ex) Public Education,

- **Delegated Powers** - Powers only granted to the Federal Government by the Constitution. EX) Power to declare war, coin money, control interstate commerce.
- **Concurrent Powers**- Powers shared by the federal and state governments EX) power to tax.

Structure of the Federal Government

- **Legislative Branch**- AKA Congress (House of Representatives and Senate) Group of representatives from each state that propose, write, vote on laws, approve treaties.
- **Executive Branch**- The President of the U.S. and his cabinet.
 1. **Chief Legislator**- It is the President's role to ask executive department staff to propose and support legislation.
 2. **Chief Executive**- President is highest military official (Commander & Chief).
 3. **Chief Diplomat**- President meets and negotiates with other foreign rulers. EX) Wilson at treaty of Versailles, Regan meets with Gorbachev, Jimmy Carter negotiates Camp David Accords.
 4. From time to time, the President must inform Congress and the nation about the state of the Union (condition of the country).

Judicial Branch- Federal Courts and Supreme Court.

Marbury v. Madison

- Heard under Chief Justice John Marshall.
- Established **judicial review**.
- Strengthened the **Judiciary branch** (Supreme Court) of the U.S.
- First time a Federal law was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court

Checks & Balances- Each of the three branches of government (executive, legislative, judicial) checks the other to ensure that no one branch has too much power.

- President can be **impeached** (removed from office by trial) by congress.
- **Congress** (legislative branch) can pass a bill and the President (executive branch) can sign the bill into law or **veto** (reject) the bill. Congress can override the veto by a two-thirds vote of both houses.
- President can negotiate treaties but the **senate** must ratify (pass) them.
- The **Supreme Court** can rule that a law is unconstitutional.
- The President appoints Supreme Court judges but the Senate must approve the appointments.

Flexibility of Constitution- Amendments (changes to the constitution), the Elastic Clause, necessary and proper clause, unwritten constitution, and Judicial Review all allow for the Constitution to meet the needs of a changing society (adapt to changing times).

- The elastic clause has been used primarily to broaden the power of Congress (because it allows Congress to pass more laws).
- **Examples**- Pure Food and Drug Act (1906), Social Security Act (1935), Louisiana Purchase, creation of Federal Communications Commission (FCC), creation of Federal Reserve were all enacted using the **elastic clause**.

Unwritten Constitution- Practices of the U.S. government that are **based on custom and tradition**, but not actually written anywhere in the Constitution.

- **Examples-** creation of the presidential cabinet, political parties, committee system in Congress, Judicial Review, lobbying,
- Limiting the President's time in office to two terms was established under the unwritten constitution and later included in the written Constitution.

Electoral College- President of the U.S. is **elected by winning electoral votes** from each state, **not a popular vote**.

- The number of electoral votes a state receives is based on the size of its population.
- - records population data to determine the number of electoral college votes from each state, as well as the number of members in the House of Representatives.
- Some presidential candidates skip campaigning in low population states.
- The winner of the popular vote can lose the election (happened in 1876 and 2000).
- This indicates that the authors of the original Constitution did not completely trust the common voter to make decisions.
- Ratification of a constitutional amendment is the only way to eliminate the Electoral College.

George Washington- First President of the U.S. and Revolutionary War general.

- Did not want to become entangled (involved) with European affairs.
- Issued the **Proclamation of Neutrality** in order to isolate the U.S. from Europe and keep it independent.
- Set a precedent (example) for all future presidents by using the **unwritten constitution** to form the **first cabinet** (group of close advisers to the President).
- **Whiskey Rebellion-** Passage of a **new excise** tax led to a **rebellion** in western Pennsylvania. Washington used state militia (army) to put down the rebellion, demonstrating that the new national government intended to **enforce federal laws**.
- His actions and policies strengthened the Federal Government.
- Washington pursued **neutrality** because he believed the U.S. needed time to gain economic and military strength.
- **Farewell Address-** Washington urges the U.S. to **avoid European conflicts**, stay neutral, and avoid alliances with any other nation of the world.

Alexander Hamilton- First Secretary of Treasury of the U.S.

- Proposed a **national bank** to improve the economic position of the U.S. government.
- Argued that the government has the power to create a **National Bank** based on the **elastic clause** of the Constitution.
- Established a sound financial plan for the new nation.
- Devised a plan to **pay off U.S. debt**.
- Urged Congress to pass a **protective tariff** (tax on foreign goods) to encourage the growth of U.S. manufacturing.
- Believed the government should exercise all powers necessary and proper to meet its responsibilities (loose interpretation of the Constitution).

Thomas Jefferson-

- **Opposed** Hamilton's plan to create a **national bank** because the plan depended on a loose interpretation of the Constitution.