

The Colonies to the Constitution: A Lecture/Discussion (Video)

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Key Subjects in Arthur Germann's Accompanying Video

A Lecture/Discussion

Colonists emigrated from Great Britain in the period between 1600-1700. The colonists were under British control for over 150 years. The relationship with Britain ended July 4th 1776, when King George III refused to resolve 27 grievances that were presented to him December 1775.

Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson's response to Great Britain, King George III, and Parliament for their refusal to resolve 27 issues of the Colonists, a letter of itemized unresolved colonists' issues and declaration of a separation from Great Britain.

Revolutionary War began in the evening of August 18, 1775 and ended with the signing of the Peace Treaty in Paris with the British in 1783 negotiated by John Jay. Included in this signing, Britain agreed to cede land from the east coast as far west to the Mississippi River and as far south as North Florida.

Articles of Confederation First governing document for the newly named 13 states, this document was very dysfunctional, because these states wanted to maintain their own independence and would not agree to surrender any of their sovereignty.

The Constitution of the United States Constitutional Convention called in May 1787 to amend the Articles of Confederation which did not happen. Instead, a new document was written that we now know as the U.S. Constitution and concluded September 17, 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. All but the state of Rhode Island sent delegates. The complete structure of this government culminated in writing 7 Articles. Slavery and The Bill of Rights were not resolved at this convention.

Federalism The idea of a shared small centralized government with set limitations as indicated under The Enumerated Powers Clause given to the

Federal Government in Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution. This concept was intended to cover the basic mutual needs of the states as Military, Judiciary, etc.

Federalist Papers The three authors of the Federalists papers, Alexander Hamilton (51), James Madison (29) and John Jay (5) had these papers printed one year prior to ratification by the states in the New York newspapers. These papers were to educate the people on an understanding the rationale explaining the need for the Constitution.

Anti-Federalism Those who were in opposition to a shared centralized Federal Government. Patrick Henry and John Dewitt were the main opponents, as expressed in the Anti-Federalist papers in the Boston Newspapers in 1787.

James Madison. Commonly known as the Father of the Constitution, he was considered the architect of the Constitution by building the framework and the three branches of the government with their respective separation of powers.

Alexander Hamilton was the chief aide to George Washington during the Revolutionary War. A brilliant intellect, he was responsible for developing many of the departments in the government.

George Washington, commonly known as the Father of our Country, was a superb military strategist. He was chairman of the Constitutional Convention and the first President of the U.S.

John Jay, a major critic of the Articles of Confirmation, negotiated the peace treaty with Great Britain in Paris in 1783. He was also responsible for keeping commercial traffic flowing on the Mississippi River. Working with Spain with the vast new landscape acquired in the Paris Peace Treaty, he sold off thousands of acres to pay off the National Debt.

Potential Collison Points in the Constitution Article 1 Section 8 Enumerated Clause is not being adhered to. What started out giving the Federal Government 18 specific areas where they exercise power has now escalated into 61 government agencies with 2.5 million employees. The 10th Amendment is being violated repeatedly with no Constitutional challenges.

Description:

This video presentation explains highlights in the history of the development of the colonies and the history of the other key events, chronologically ordered, that led to the completion of the United States Constitution. Arthur Germann is a constitutional scholar, and this presentation was delivered to a church organization to emphasize the need for Christians to know the constitution and monitor its use in contemporary U.S. affairs.