Chapter 1 Political Thinking and Political Culture: Becoming a Responsible Citizen

The Theory of Modern Government

- Although the majority of the Americans believed that the invasion of Iraq was necessary without the UN’s approval, their levels of support for war varied with their knowledge of the enemy
- Half of the American public believed that Iraq was aligned with al Qaeda, the terrorist group that had attacked the US and 9/11; some mistakenly thought that Iraq helped plan the attacks; others erroneously believed that Iraq was equipping al Qaeda
- People who misunderstood the relationship between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda were more than twice as likely to support the war
- Many people live in the real world but don’t understand it
- In a self-governing society citizens are expected to act on behalf of themselves and others. But how can they govern themselves if they are out of touch with reality
- The American public were surveyed and found out they don’t know much about politics, elections, and other political issues
- The lack of information obviously does not keep citizens from voting, nor are uninformed citizens lacking in opinions; but their sense of the world is wildly at odds with the reality of it

Learning to Think Politically

- Political thinking is reflective thinking focused on deciding what can reasonable be believed and then using this information to make political judgments
- Any form of government should be judged on its ability to promote the individual “as a progressive being”

Obstacles to Political Thinking

- The major barrier to political thinking is the unwillingness of citizens to make the effort because it requires close attention to politics, a responsibility that many people refuse to accept
- Although many Americans pay close attention to politics, it is very possible that the information they receive are false
- The news slant information to fir their purpose while burying contradictory facts
- The government is often controlled by individuals
- Right before the Iraq War, the US government targets both Iraq and al Qaeda as terrorists
- Research suggests that faulty perceptions are becoming more prevalent, and that changes in communication are largely to blame
- Many people prefer messages that conform to what they already believe; people only follow the talk shows/channels they believe in
- Rather than expanding people’s thinking, such exposure tends to narrow and distort it
- Citizens cannot know whether their ideas are sound until they have heard alternative views and weighed them against their own
- People don’t have the alternative view to compare to what they have heard
- The more people understand politics, they participate more

What Political Science Can Contribute to Political Thinking

- How to think politically instead of what to think politically
- The tools are derived from political science—the systematic study of government and politics
- Political science attempts to depict and explain politics
- Political Science offers a set of analytical tools that can increase one’s ability to think politically:
  - Reliable information about how the US political system operates
  - Systematic generalizations about major tendencies in American politics
  - Terms and concepts that precisely describe key aspects of politics
Political thinking needs to be developed through practice

**Political Culture: Americans' Enduring Beliefs**
- The understanding of a country's politics starts from understanding its Political Culture: the widely shared and deep-seated beliefs of its people about politics
- Americans' beliefs are the foundation of their national identity
- The Americans core ideals are rooted in the European heritage of the first white settlers
- The American Revolution was the first successful large-scale rebellion in human history driven largely by the desire to create a radically different form of society
- **Core Values: Liberty, Individualism, Equality, and Self-Government**
  - The government serves the people, and it does not own them. Unalienable rights—freedoms that belong to each and every citizen and that cannot lawfully be taken away by government
  - Liberty is the principle that individuals should be free to act and think as they choose, provided they do not infringe unreasonably on the freedom and well-being of others.
  - Political Liberty was nearly a birthright for early Americans
  - Religious sentiments also entered into the thinking of the early Americans
  - The Declaration of Independence rings with the proclamation that people are entitled to “Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”
  - Early Americans did not have landlords like Europe who owns all of the land.
  - Individualism is the commitment to personal initiative note that liberty in America, as in no other country, is tied to a desire for economic independence
  - Equality—the notion that all individuals are equal in their moral worth and thereby entitled to equal treatment under the law
  - Self-government—the principle that the people are the ultimate source of governing authority and should have a voice in their governing

**The Limits and Power of Americans’ Ideals**
- The Americans’ culture beliefs are idealistic
- Idealistic does not guarantee that people will live up to them
  - Slaves → Civil War → Jim Crow Laws → equal rights under the law, but there are two different Americans: White and Black
- Chinese and Japanese were also discriminated against in the US
- Selective education for children
- How could a nation that claims to uphold the principle of equality have barred the Chinese, enslaved the blacks, declared wives to be the “property” of their husbands, and stolen Indian lands?
- Although America’s ideals obviously do not determine exactly what people will do, they are hardly empty promises.
- The US determined to build a more equal society through education.
- The US has the world’s most elaborate system of higher education, which now includes more than three thousand two-year and four-year institutions
- The principles of liberty and self-government have also shaped American society
- Americans are a nation born of an idea; not a place, but the idea, created the United States Government

**Politics and Power in American**
- Politics is a conflict over “who gets what, when, and how.
- Politics is the means by which society settles its conflicts and allocates the resulting benefits and costs
- Those who prevail in political conflicts are said to have power, a term that refers to the ability of persons, groups, or institutions to influence political developments.
- The most extreme form of authoritarian government, totalitarianism, admits to no limits on its power: the state controls the media, directs the economy, dictates what can and cannot
be taught in schools, defines family relations, and decides which religions—if any—can be practiced openly

- The US has a set of rules—democracy, constitutionalism, and a free market—to keep politics within peaceful bounds.

### A Democratic System
- Democracy is the form of government in which the people govern, either directly or through elected representatives
- Majority rule through the free and open election of representatives
- When political leaders respond to the policy desires of the majority, the result is majoritarianism
- In the US, majoritarianism occurs primarily through the competition between the Republican and Democratic parties
- Majoritarianism has its limits
- Pluralism holds that, on most issues, the preference of the special interest largely determines what government does
- Party Polarization is used to characterize today’s party politics
- Authority is the recognized right of officials to exercise power

### A Constitutional System
- If the majority principle is ultimate, the world will be filled with majority tyranny
- To guard against oppressive majorities, the writers of the Constitution devised an elaborate system of checks and balances, dividing authority among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches so that each branch could check the power of the others
- Congress would be prohibited from enacting laws that abridge freedom of speech, press, and religion; these limits reflect the principle of constitutionalism—the idea that there are lawful restrictions on government’s power
- Legal action is the use of the courts as a means of asserting rights and interests
- If the accused is too poor to hire a lawyer, the government must provide one
- On per capita basis, there are roughly twice as many lawyers in the US as in Britain, Italy, and Germany, and five times as many as in France

### A Free Market System
- Many of society’s costs and benefits are allocated through the private sector
- Under Communism, the government owns most or all major industries and also takes responsibility for overall management of the economy, including production quotas, supply points, and pricing
- Under Socialism, as it is practiced today in Sweden and other countries, government does not attempt to manage the overall economy, but owns a number of major industries and guarantees every individual a minimal standard of living
- Free Market System operates mainly on private transactions; firms are largely free to make their own production, distribution, and pricing decisions, and individuals depend largely on themselves for economic security
- The US economy is chiefly a free-market system
- Enormous concentrations of wealth are on US private sector such as Google, Ford, and Bank of America
- Corporate power operates in part through the influence that firms have with policymakers
- Wealth is also the foundation of elitism, which refers to the power exercised by well-positioned and highly influential individuals

### Who Governs?
- A defining characteristic of American politics is the widespread sharing of power
- Few nations have as many competing interests and institutions as does the US
The Text’s Organization

- American politics operates within a constitutional system
- Public policies are the decisions of government to pursue particular course of action
- Politics are the result of political interactions that political scientists call the public policy process
- The first stage—problem recognition—refers to the emergence of an issue
- The second stage of the policy process is policy formulation
- The policy implementation is the third stage

A working definitions of government is those institutions that create public policy

Constitutionally defined, the formal institutions of government on the national level are the executive branch headed by the president, the legislative branch consisting of the Congress, and the judicial branch made up of the Supreme Court and lower courts

Government and politics, thus, can be defined by a formula that combines both concepts and results in an end goal: government plus politics equals the creation of public policy

The Basic Function of Government

- The Meaning of politics
  - People with similar needs, values, and attitudes will band together to form political parties

- The Electorate
  - The role of the electorate is also crucial in determining the means with which individuals get involved
  - How the voters perceive the candidate’s positions on issues, the way people feel about the party, the comfort level of the voter in relation to the candidate and the party, as well as the influence the media have on the election all come into play in the eventual success or failure of the candidate

- The Function of Interests Groups
  - Once the Constitution was ratified, parties formed
  - In doing so, the party appealed to business interests such as manufacturing and trade
  - Special interest groups played a significant role in the 2012 presidential election
  - As a result of the supreme court’s citizen’s united campaign finance decision, independent groups raised millions of dollars and ran campaign ads throughout the primary and general campaign

- Linkage Institutions—The Informal Institutions
  - A linkage institutions is the means by which individuals can express preferences regarding the development of public policy
  - Are there a significant number of single-issue groups, those special interests who base their vote on a single issue?
  - Or is the candidate’s stand o issues broad enough to attract the mainstream of the voting electorate?
  - The media have been accused of simplifying the issues by relying on photo opportunities set up by the candidates and 30 second statements on the evening news shows

- Policy-Making Institutions
  - A significant policy-making function is defined by the Constitution
  - The development and growth of bureaucracies becomes a fourth branch of government, because it has independent regulatory power and is connected directly and indirectly to the federal government itself
  - Congress, through its committee system and ultimately its votes, determines the fate of the president’s legislative agenda and the proposed budget

- The Supreme Court
  - Direct impact on the public policy through its interpretation of the Constitution and
how it relates to specific issues brought before the Court

- **Bureaucracies**
  - Regulatory agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration and the Environment Protection Agency have issued directives as a result of congressional legislation

- **Evolution of Representative Democracy**
  - **Elections**
    - Elections had to be open to all citizens, issues and policy statements of candidates had to be available to the electorate, citizens could form political parties to advocate policies, and elections would be determined by a majority or plurality
    - Through linkage institutions and sovereignty, individuals must have a forum and a vote to determine their elected officials

- **Role of Government**
  - Government must become responsive, respect minority rights, respect individual freedom through the Bill of Rights, reinforced the Court decisions concept that the First Amendment is even applicable to high school students, operate on the basis of consensus and compromise

- **The Importance of Control**
  - Pluralism involves different groups all vying for control of the policy agenda
  - Elite and class theory revolves around an economic strata of society controlling the policy agenda
  - Congressmen and women also rely on contrasting theories that dictate their behavior, aka representational view

- **Meaning of Political Theories**
  - Most political analysts would agree that a democracy characterized by a pluralists society working in harmony and achieving compromise through centrist positions usually has a good chance of success

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**Chapter 2 Constitutional Democracy: Promoting Liberty and Self-Government**

**Constitutional Foundations**

- The features of the Constitution sought to create a limited government—one that is subject to strict legal limits on the use of power, so that it would not threaten the people's liberty.
- They also sought to establish a system of representative government—one in which the people would govern through the selection of their representatives
- Representative government requires that the majority through its elected representatives has the power to rule
- Limited government ernment requires that majority rule stop at the point where it infringes on the legitimate rights and interests of the minority
- This chapter will be about:
  - America during the colonial period developed traditions of limited government and representative government
  - The Constitution provides for limited government mainly by defining lawful powers and by dividing those powers among competing institutions
  - The Constitution in its original form provided for representative government mainly though indirect methods of electing representatives
  - The idea of popular government—in which the majority’s desire have a more direct and immediate impact on government officials—has gained strength since the nation’s beginning

- **Before the Constitution: The Colonial and Revolutionary Experiences**
  - Americans admired limited government because it is different from other Europeans
countries besides Great Britain; the British Parliament was completely separated from the monarchy; the rights of Englishmen

- Each colony had its own elected representative assembly
- The American Revolution was partly a rebellion against Britain's failure to uphold the colonies' establish traditions
- The British government starting taxing on the colonies after the French and Indian War
- Taxing the colonies was a way to reduce the debt, so Parliament levied a stamp tax on colonial newspapers and business documents
- No taxation without representation
- Parliament backed down and repealed the Stamp Act, it then passed the Townshend Act, which imposed taxes on all glass, paper, tea, and lead sold in the colonies
- In 1774, the colonists met in Philadelphia at the First Continental Congress to formulate their demands on Britain
- King George III rejected their demands, and British troops and Massachusetts minutemen clashed at Lexington and Concord on April 9, 1775.

**The Declaration of Independence**

- Ideas about the proper form of government also fueled the rebellion other than the grievances against Britain
- John Locke claimed that government is founded on a social contract
- Locke asserted that people living in a state of nature enjoy certain inalienable rights (or natural rights), including those of life, liberty, and property
- Thomas Jefferson declared that Locke "was one of the three greatest men that ever lived, without exception"

**The Articles of Confederation**

- A constitution is the fundamental law that defines how a government will legitimately operate—the method for choosing its leaders, the institutions through which these leaders will work, the procedures they must follow in making policy, and the powers they can lawfully exercise
- The first US government was based on the Articles of Confederation and not on a Constitution
- The Articles of Confederation created a very weak national government that was subordinate to the states
- Under the Articles of Confederation, the national government had no judiciary and no independent executive
- The Articles prohibited Congress from levying taxes, so it had to ask the states for money
- Once the Revolutionary War ended, however, the states felt free to go their separate ways

**A Nation Dissolving**

- In late 1785 at his Mount Vernon home, Washington met with leaders of Virginia and Maryland to secure an agreement between the two states on commercial use of the Potomac River
- Many farmers faced not only losing their property but being sent to prison for unpaid debts after the rebellion in western Massachusetts
- Hamilton convinced the delegates to adopt a resolution calling for a convention “to render the Constitution of the Federal government adequate to the exigencies of union
- Congress concurred and scheduled a constitution convention of Union.

**Negotiating Toward a Constitution**

- Prominent delegates, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and James Madison were determined from the outset to establish an American nation built on a stronger central government
The Great Compromise: A Two-Chamber Congress

- The Virginia Plan—also called the large-state plan—to draft the constitutional convention of 1787, included separate judicial and executive branches as well as a two-chamber Congress that would have supreme authority in all areas (small states only have a few delegates while large states would have numerous delegates).
- The New Jersey Plan (also called the small-state plan) called for a stronger national government than that c for by the Articles of Confederation (it would have the power to tax and to regulate commerce among the states).
- The debate over the two plans dragged on for weeks before the delegates reached what is now known as the Great Compromise.
- It provided for a bicameral (two-chamber) Congress. One Chamber, the House of Representatives, would be apportioned on the basis of population. The other chamber, the Senate, would be apportioned on the basis of an equal number of senators (two) for each state.
- Article V of the Constitution: “No state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.”

The Three-Fifths Compromise: Issues of Slavery and Trade

- Issues over slavery forced a second major compromise.
- Southern states were concerned that northern representatives in Congress would tax or even bar the importation of slaves.
- Congress also imposed a heavy tariff on the export of agricultural goods, which would make them more expensive and therefore less attractive to foreign buyers, the South would again bear most of the tax burden because it provided most of the agricultural goods shipped abroad, such as cotton and tobacco.
- Three-Fifth Compromise; for purposes of apportionment of taxes and seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, each slave was to count as less than a full person.
- These Compromise have led critics to claim that the farmers of the Constitution had no objections to slavery.
- Yet the southern states’ dependence on slavery was a reality that had to be confronted if there was to be a union of the states.

A Strategy for Ratification

- Small decisions such as federal judiciary and bureaucracy were largely delegated to Congress.
- The last issue that had to be decided was a process for ratifying the proposed constitution.
- They also recognized that ratification would be difficult; many states leaders would oppose giving strong powers to the national government.
- In a bold move, the delegates ignored Congress’s instructions and established their own ratification process.

The Ratification Debate

- The Anti-Federalists (as opponents of the Constitution were labeled) raised arguments that still echo in American politics.
- They claimed that the central government would be too powerful and they distrust the centralized power and worried that the people’s liberty could be eclipsed as easily be a distant American government as it had been by the British King.
- The fact that the Constitution contained no bill of rights heightened this concern.
- The necessary of a Bill of Rights appears to be greater in this government than ever it was in any government before.
- Without a Bill of Rights, without check, limitation, or control, our republic will be lost, and tyranny must and will arise.
- Anti-Federalists argued that such representatives are “more competent” than “those of
a superior class”
◆ The presidency was another source of contention
◆ American monarchy?
◆ Would the Constitution become a tool by which the wealth ruled over those with little or no money?
◆ The anti-federalists acknowledged that need for more economic cooperation between the states and for a stronger common defense, but they opposed the creation of a stronger national government as the mechanism, arguing that a revision of the Articles of Confederation could accomplish these goals without the risk of establishing an overly powerful central government
◆ The Federalists response with a persuasive case of their own
◆ A majority of ordinary Americans opposed the Constitution’s ratification, but their voice in the state ratifying main supported the change

### The Farmers’ Goals
◆ The Constitution offered the world a new model of government in which a written document defining the government’s lawful powers would represent a higher authority than the dictates of any political leaders or institutions
◆ The Constitution embodied the farmers vision of a proper government
  ● Creation of a national government strong enough to meet the nation’s needs, particularly in the areas of defense and commerce
  ● Preserve the states as governing entities
  ● Establish a national government that was restricted in its lawful uses of power and that gave the people a voice in their governance

### Protecting Liberty: Limited Government
◆ The framers of the Constitution sought a national government that could act decisively but not one that would act irresponsibly
◆ In fact, liberty—the principle that individuals should be free to act and think as they choose, provided they do not infringe unreasonable on the freedom and well-being of others—was the governing ideal that the framers sought most to uphold
◆ The dilemma is that government itself can use force to intimidate or brutalize its opponents

### Grants and Denials of Power
◆ The framers chose to limit the national government in part by confining its scope to constitutional grants of power
◆ The Congress’s powers include: powers to tax, establish an army and navy, declare war, regulate commerce among the states, create a national currency, and borrow money
◆ The framers also used denials of power as a means to limit government prohibiting certain practices that European rulers had routinely used to oppress policies opponents
◆ The framers made the Constitution difficult to amend, thereby making it hard for those in office to increase their power by changing the rules

### Using Power to Offset Power
◆ They sought to limit government by dividing its power among separate branches
◆ Separation of powers was widely admired in America, and when the states drafted new constitutions after the start of the Revolutionary War, they built their governments around the ideal
◆ In Federalists No. 10, Madison asked why governments often act according to the interests of overbearing majorities rather than according to principles of justice; he attributed the problem to “the mischiefs of faction”
◆ He argued that people are divide into opposing religious, geographical, ethnic, economic, and other factions
A faction that controlled the legislature could enact laws ruinous to other interest; a safer system would be one branch to check another.

**Separated Institutions Sharing Power: Checks and Balances**
- Political scientist Richard Neustadt devised the term separated institutions sharing power to describe the framers’ governing system.
- Checks and balance.
- Legislative, executive, and judicial powers in the American system are divided in such a way that they overlap, each of the three branches of government checks the others’ powers and balances those powers with powers of its own.

**Sharing legislative powers**
- The president can veto acts of Congress, recommend legislation, and call special sessions of Congress.
- The president also has the power to execute—and thereby interpret—the laws Congress makes.
- The Court has the power of judicial review: it can declare laws of Congress void when it finds that they are not in accord with the Constitution.

**Sharing Executive Powers**
- The president’s power to make treaties and appoint high-ranking officials is subject to Senate approval.
- Congress has the power to impeach and remove the president from office.
- The judiciary’s major check on the presidency is its power to declare an action unlawful because it is not authorized by the laws that the executive claims to be impeaching.

**Shared Judicial Powers**
- Congress is empowered to establish the size of the federal court system, to restrict the Supreme Court’s appellate jurisdiction in some circumstances, and to impeach and remove federal judges from office; Congress can rewrite legislation that the courts have misinterpreted and can initiate amendments when it disagrees with court rulings on constitutional issues.
- The president has the power to appoint federal judges with the consent of the Senate and to pardon persons convicted in the courts.
- The president is also responsible for executing court decisions, a function that provides opportunities to influence the way rulings are carried out.

**The Bill of Rights**
- Although the delegates to the Philadelphia convention discussed the possibility of placing a list of individual rights, they ultimately decided that it wasn’t necessary.
- The Constitution, unlike the Articles of Confederation, granted the federal government direct authority over individual citizens and yet did not contain a list of their rights.
- Ultimately, the demand for a bill of rights led to its addition to the Constitution.

**Judicial Review**
- The writers of the Constitution both empowered and limited government.
- Because the Constitution did not explicitly grant the judiciary this authority, the principle had to establish in practice.
- The Court asserted its power of judicial review—that is, the power of the judiciary to decide whether a government official or institution has acted within the limits of the Constitution and, if not, to declare its action null and void.

**Providing For Representative Government**
- There is no contradiction between this idea and the Constitution’s provisions for limited government, because individual liberty is an essential element of representative government.
- The great risk of popular government was the tyranny of the majority: the people acting as
an irrational mob that tramples on the rights of the minority

- **Democracy versus Republic**
  - No form of representative government could eliminate completely the threat to liberty of majority tyranny, but the farmers believed that the danger would be greatly diminished by creating a republican government as opposed to a democratic government
  - By the term democracy, the framers meant a government in which the power of the majority is unlimited
  - By the term republic, the framers meant a government that consists of carefully designed institutions that are responsive to the majority but not captive to it
  - Trustees: the representatives are obliged to serve the interest of those who elect them, but the nature of this interest is for the representatives, not the voters, to decide

- **Limited Popular Rule**
  - The Constitution provided that all power would be exercised through representative institutions
  - The House of Representatives was the only institution that would be based on direct popular election—its members would be elected to serve for two years by a vote of the people
  - US senators would be appointed by the legislatures of the states they represent
  - Presidential election
    - Direct election was twice proposed and twice rejected because it would link executive power directly to popular majorities
    - Electoral College
      - Each state would have the same number of electoral votes as it had members in Congress and could select its electors by a method of its choosing
  - The framers decided that federal judges and justices would be appointed rather than elected; they would be nominated by the president and confirmed through approval by the Senate
  - Unlike the House of Representatives, institutions such as the Senate, presidency, and judiciary would not yield to an impassioned majority in a single election

- **Altering the Constitution: More Power to the People**
  - Self-government was an ideal that had led tens of thousands of ordinary farmers, merchants, and tradesmen to risk their lives in the American Revolution
  - **Jeffersonian Democracy: A Revolution of the Spirit**
    - Thomas Jefferson objected to its system of representation, voicing the Anti-Federalist’s fear that federal officials would lose touch with the people and discount their interests
    - Adams publicly indicated that the Constitution was designed for a governing elite and hinted that he might use force to suppress dissent
    - Jefferson challenged Adams in the next presidential election and, upon defeating him, hailed his victory as the “Revolution of 1800”
    - Although Jefferson was a champion of the common people, he had no clear vision of how a popular government might work in practice
    - Jeffersonian democracy was mostly a revolution of the spirit
    - Jefferson taught Americans to look on national government institutions as belonging to all, not just the privileged few
  - **Jacksonian Democracy: Linking the People and the Presidency**
    - Jackson carried out the constitutional revolution that Jeffersonian democracy had foreshadowed
    - Unlike the president, who was the only official who could legitimately claim to represent the people as a whole, members of Congress were elected from
separate states and districts rather than from the entire country

- To connect the presidency more closely to the people, Jackson urged the states to award their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the state’s popular vote

**The Progressives: Senate and Primary Elections**

- The Progressives rejected the Burkina idea of representatives as trustees, instead embracing the idea of representatives as delegates—officeholders how are obligated to carry out the expressed opinions of the people they represent
- The Progressives also instigated two changes in federal elections
  - Primary election gives rand-and-file voters the power to select party nominees
  - Direct election of US senators, who by the ratification of the 7th Amendment in 1913 were chosen by state legislatures and were wedel perceived as agents of big business

**Constitutional Democracy Today**

- The type of government created in the US in 1787 could accurately be called a constitutional democratic republic
- It is constitutional in its requirement that power gained through elections be exercised in accordance with law and with due respect for individual rights; democratic in its provisions for majority influence through elections; and a republic in its mix of deliberative institutions, each of which moderates the power of the others
- By some standards, the American system of today is a model of representative government
- By other standards, however, the US system is less democratic than some.

**The Declaration of Independence**

- Ideas in the Declaration of Independence came from philosophers such as Locke, Rousseau, and Montesquieu
- Life, liberty, and property
- Consent of the governed,
- Concept of limited government were all borrowed by the authors
  - **The Philosophical Basis**
    - “Unalienable rights” as a cornerstone of natural rights
  - **The Grievances**
    - Taxation without representation, unjust trials, quartering of British soldiers, abolition of colonial assemblies, and a policy of mercantilism created a logic for drastic change
  - **The Statement of Separation**
    - Called a “conservative revolution,” the new leaders tried to create a government based on the idea of the consent of the governed
    - The unalienable rights of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” were only limited to white males
    - Property as an indicator of wealth and status was also a requirement for political office

**The Articles of Confederation**

- It relied on the states to make the decisions, whether to have a strong central government, that would ultimately determine whether the country would survive
- Under the articles of confederation, the central government has two levels of government—a weak national government with a one-house congress and dominant state governments
- Congress was give limited power to declare war, make peace, and sign treaties
- No power to tax

**Constitutional Convention**

- Leaders such as Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Patrick henry, John Adams, and John
Hancock doubted that abolishing the Articles of Confederation was the answer to the country's problems and did not attend

- They share a belief that people could not be given power to govern and that political conflict would naturally occur if there were not built-in checks

- **The Constitution**
  - Charles Beard argued that the founding fathers were concerned with protecting the wealth of the property class
  - **A Bicameral Congress**
    - The smaller states, led by New Jersey, insisted that each state should have equal representation
    - The Virginia Plan argued that a legislature based on population would be more equitable
    - Great Compromise
  - **Economic Issues**
    - Primary concern was protection of the property owner, they dealt with economic issues

- **The Birth of Political Parties**