

# The Constitutional Convention (1787)

Compromise, Compromise,  
Compromise!!!

# Failures Force Changes

- Articles of Confederation = too weak to deal with the major issues
- Debt, currency, national defense, border disputes, etc.
- Delegates meet in Philadelphia, PA (Summer 1787)

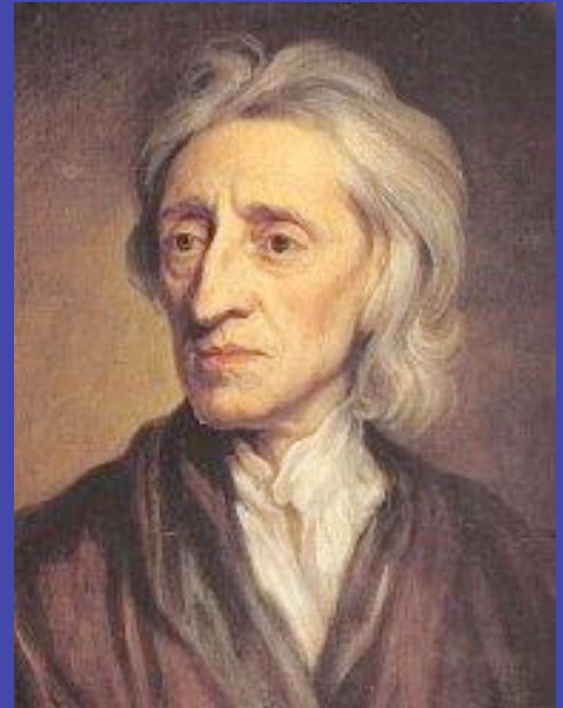


# Ideas that Influenced the Delegates

- Greeks (Athenian Democracy)
- *demos* = people, *kratos* = power/force
- Roman Republic
- The Enlightenment Thinkers: Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Voltaire

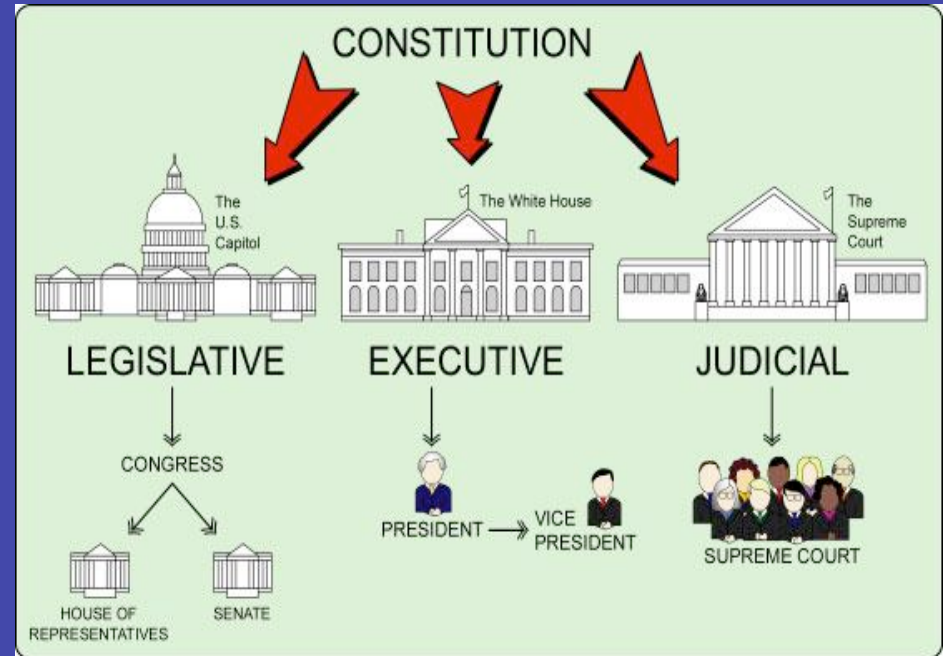
# John Locke

- English philosopher
- Believed that individuals had certain natural rights = “life, liberty, & property”
- Government’s job is to protect these rights
- If gov’t doesn’t protect these rights, then revolution is necessary



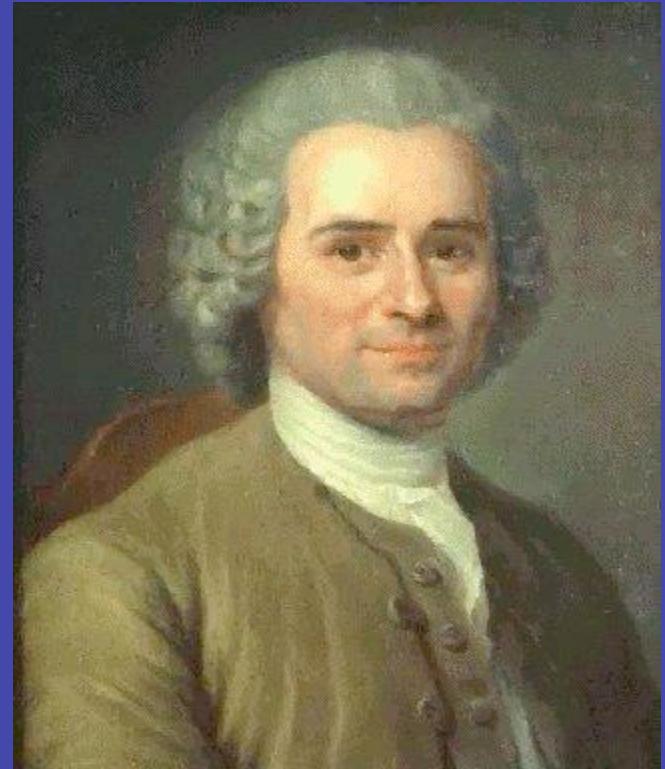
# Charles de Montesquieu

- French Philosopher
- Believed that government worked best when it was divided into three branches:
- Legislative = to make the laws
- Executive = to enforce or carry out the laws
- Judicial = to interpret the law



# Jean Jacques Rousseau

- Geneva, Switzerland
- The only good gov't is one that is formed from the “consent of the governed”
- Consent of the governed = power of the government directly comes from the people
- the common good = doing what's best for all of us
- Social Contract



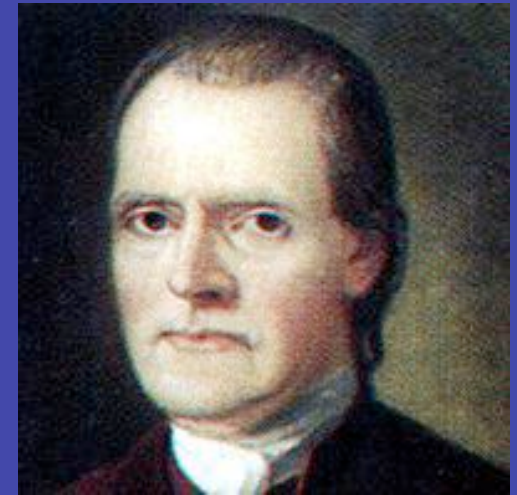
# Voltaire

- French philosopher
- Believed in the separation of church & state (highly critical of the Roman Catholic Church for being too involved in politics)
- Freedom of thought & expression (did not believe in government censorship)



# Representation in Congress?

- New Jersey Plan = unicameral system (one body); every state has equal representation
- Virginia Plan = bicameral system (two bodies: lower house & upper house); based solely on population
- The Great Compromise (Roger Sherman of Connecticut)

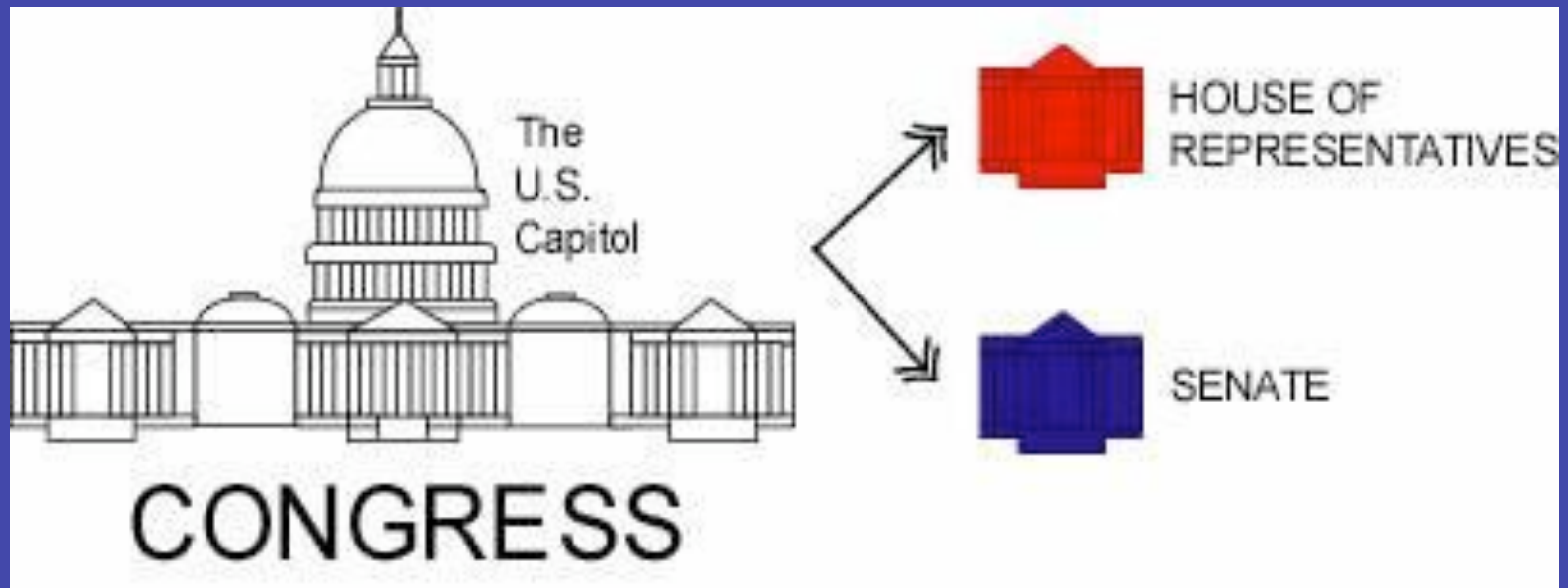




# The Great Compromise

Two Bodies of Congress:

- House of Representatives = population
- Senate = 2 per state

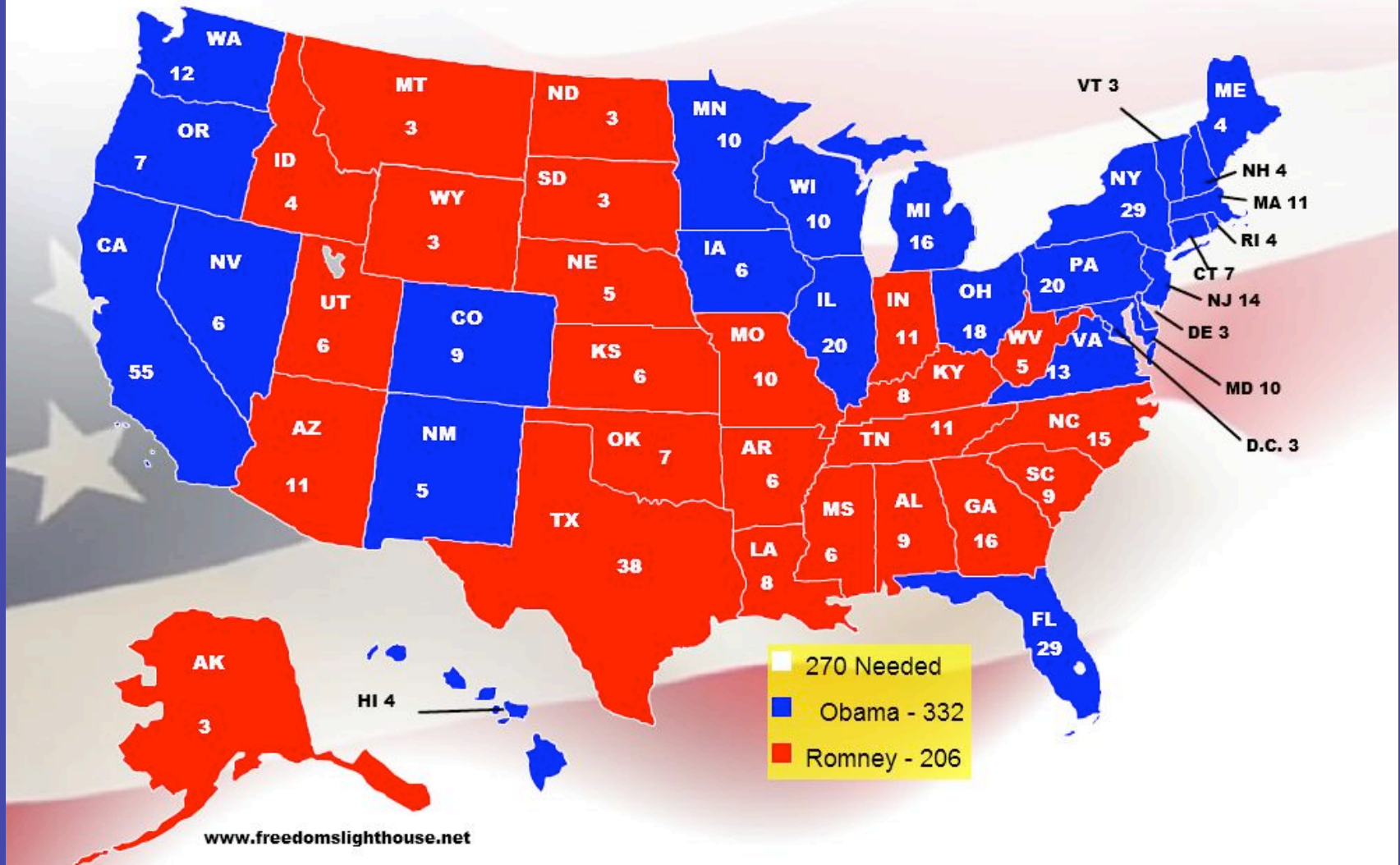


# How many Presidents? Who will choose him/her?

- Some wanted a council of presidents
  - Some wanted one president
  - Some wanted Congress to choose the president
  - Others wanted the president chosen by the people
- \*Decision = one president chosen by an electoral college

# 2012 Electoral College Map

***2012 Presidential Election Electoral Vote Results***

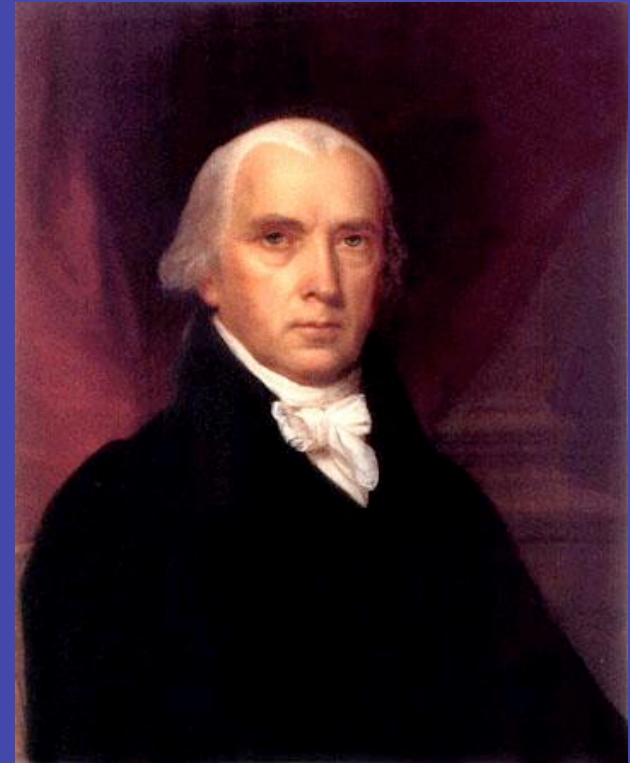


# Slavery & Representation

- North vs. South
- Regional conflict
- Would slaves be counted in the official census?
- Three-Fifths Compromise
- $\frac{3}{5}$ ths of the slave population would count towards representation

# James Madison

- Father of the Constitution
- Kept very detailed journals
- Becomes its strongest supporter
- Argued that factions were the key to a balanced gov't



# 7 Articles of the Constitution

- Article I = Legislative Branch (very specific powers given to Congress)
- Article II = Executive Branch (led by the President)
- Article III = The Courts
- Article IV = responsibilities of the states
- Article V = process for amending the Constitution
- Article VI = debts must be paid, supremacy of the Constitution, and no religious qualifications
- Article VII = 9 states must ratify

# September 1787 = The Debate Begins

- Constitution released to the public
- Federalists = support the Constitution; stronger central gov't is needed
- Anti-Federalists = opposed to the Constitution; fear too much government power; no protection of individual rights
- Delaware is the first to ratify it – Dec. 7, 1787
- New Hampshire is the 9<sup>th</sup> state to ratify = June 21, 1788
- Rhode Island is the last state = May 29, 1790

# Bill of Rights

- Amendments 1 through 10 get added
- To protect individual liberties & calm the concerns of the Anti-Federalists

