

## Government Chapter 2 Materials Study Sheet for 9-27-11 Quiz

English concepts of government that colonists brought to America:

1. Ordered Government—English colonists saw the need for having an organized government
2. Limited Government—government is not all powerful
3. Representative Government—government should serve the will of the people

First English document which limited the rights of kings: Magna Carta, AD 1215

When King George III started taking more control over the colonies after 1760, the colonies began to organize:

Stamp Act Congress—1765

First Continental Congress—1774

Second Continental Congress—1775 (became the colonial government at the time of the Declaration)

Jonathan Mayhew—argued that Romans 13:1-7 required Christians to actively oppose tyranny when the government was destroying ordered society

Where do you draw the line between a government promoting order and a government frustrating order?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer—a German theologian and pastor who decided to oppose Hitler

Bonhoeffer's options for how Christians can interact with their government if it is hurting its own citizens:

1. Question Government to keep it accountable.
2. Help the victims of government action.
3. Stop the government—"jam a spoke in the wheel"

Articles of Confederation

- Approved by the Second Continental Congress in 1777
- Required ratification by all 13 states (all states finally agreed on it in 1781)
- Unicameral: Congress was the only branch of government
- Each state had one vote in Congress
- Congress could borrow money, but did not have the power to TAX, so Congress could not raise enough money to pay for the Revolutionary War
- Congress did not have the power to regulate commerce between the states
- Congress could not pay the army and debts went unpaid
- The American economy almost collapsed
- Shay's Rebellion
  - Small farmers lost their land as the economy got worse
  - Daniel Shays led an uprising to force courts to close (courts foreclose property)
  - States (NOT the national government) had to stop the rebellion

Constitutional Convention—1787

- Original purpose: to revise the Articles of Confederation
- Virginia Plan
  - Congress could veto state law
  - Representation in Congress would be based on state's population
- New Jersey Plan
  - Each state equally represented in Congress (representation NOT based on representation)
- Connecticut Compromise—Congress would have two houses
  - Senate—with equal representation (2 senators per state)
  - House—with representation based on population
- Three-Fifths Compromise—slaves count as three-fifths of a person

Federalists

- Favored approval of the Constitution and a strong national government
- Examples: Alexander Hamilton and James Madison (wrote the Federalist Papers)

Anti-Federalists

- Thought that the Constitution placed too much power in the federal government
- Wanted a "Bill of Rights" that specifically limited government power