

APUSH TERMS 246-280

246. John Locke, Second Treatise of Government

He wrote that all human beings have a right to life, liberty, and property and that government exists to protect those rights. He believed that a contract existed between a government and its people, and if the government failed to uphold its end of the contract, the people could rebel and institute a new government.

247. Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)

English philosopher who believed that people are motivated mainly by greed and fear, and need a strong government to keep them under control. He developed the theory that kings are given their position by divine right, and thus should have absolute power.

248. James Madison, "Father of the Constitution"

His proposals for an effective government became the Virginia Plan, which was the basis for the Constitution. He was responsible for drafting most of the language of the Constitution.

249. Great Compromise

At the Constitutional Convention, larger states wanted to follow the Virginia Plan, which based each state's representation in Congress on state population. Smaller states wanted to follow the New Jersey Plan, which gave every state the same number of representatives. The convention compromised by creating the House and the Senate, and using both of the two separate plans as the method for electing members of each.

250. Virginia Plan, New Jersey Plan, Connecticut Plan

The Virginia Plan called for a two-house Congress with each state's representation based on state population. The New Jersey Plan called for a one-house Congress in which each state had equal representation. The Connecticut Plan called for a two-house Congress in which both types of representation would be applied, and is also known as the Compromise Plan.

251. North-South Compromises

The North was given full federal protection of trade and commerce. The South was given permanent relief from export taxes and a guarantee that the importation of slaves would not be halted for at least 20 years, plus the national capitol was placed in the South. Slaves were also deemed to be counted as 3/5 of a person when determining the state population, thus giving the Southern states a greater number of representatives in the House.

252. Slavery and the Constitution: slave trade, 3/5 Clause

The South's slave trade was guaranteed for at least 20 years after the ratification of the Constitution. Slaves were considered 3/5 of a person when determining the state population.

253. Beard thesis, his critics

Charles Austin Beard wrote in 1913 that the Constitution was written not to ensure a democratic government for the people, but to protect the economic interests of its writers (most of the men at the Constitutional Convention were very rich), and specifically to benefit wealthy financial speculators who had purchased Revolutionary War government bonds through the creation of a

strong national government that could insure the bonds repayment. Beard's thesis has met with much criticism.

254. Fiske, *The Critical Period of American History*

He called the introduction of the Constitution the "critical period" because the Constitution saved the nation from certain disaster under the Articles of Confederation.

255. Anti-federalists

They opposed the ratification of the Constitution because it gave more power to the federal government and less to the states, and because it did not ensure individual rights. Many wanted to keep the Articles of Confederation. The Anti-federalists were instrumental in obtaining passage of the Bill of Rights as a prerequisite to ratification of the Constitution in several states. After the ratification of the Constitution, the Antifederalists regrouped as the Democratic-Republican (or simply Republican) party.

256. Supporters of the Constitution

Known as Federalists, they were mostly wealthy and opposed anarchy. Their leaders included Jay, Hamilton, and Madison, who wrote the *Federalist Papers* in support of the Constitution.

257. Opponents of the Constitution

Known as Anti-federalists, they were mostly commoners who were afraid of strong central government and being taken advantage of. They included Patrick Henry and Samuel Adams.

258. Patrick Henry (1736-1799)

One of the main opponents of the Constitution, he worked against its ratification in Virginia.

259. Sam Adams

He was opposed to the Constitution until the Bill of Rights was added, and then he supported it.

260. George Mason, Bill of Rights

He opposed the Constitution because it didn't protect individual rights. His opposition led to the inclusion of the Bill of Rights.

261. The *Federalist Papers*, Jay, Hamilton, Madison

This collection of essays by John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison, explained the importance of a strong central government. It was published to convince New York to ratify the Constitution.

262. "The Federalist, # 10"

This essay from the *Federalist Papers* proposed setting up a republic to solve the problems of a large democracy (anarchy, rise of factions which disregard public good).

263. Bill of Rights adopted, 1791

The first ten amendments to the Constitution, which guarantee basic individual rights.

264. President George Washington

He established many of the presidential traditions, including limiting a president's tenure to two

terms. He was against political parties and strove for political balance in government by appointing political adversaries to government positions.

265. Judiciary Act, 1789

Created the federal court system, allowed the president to create federal courts and to appoint judges.

266. Hamilton's Program: ideas, proposals, reasons for it

Designed to pay off the U.S.'s war debts and stabilize the economy, he believed that the United States should become a leading international commercial power. His programs included the creation of the National Bank, the establishment of the U.S.'s credit rate, increased tariffs, and an excise tax on whiskey. Also, he insisted that the federal government assume debts incurred by the states during the war.

267. Bank of the U.S.

Part of Hamilton's Plan, it would save the government's surplus money until it was needed.

268. National debt, state debt, foreign debt

The U.S.'s national debt included domestic debt owed to soldiers and others who had not yet been paid for their Revolutionary War services, plus foreign debt to other countries which had helped the U.S. The federal government also assumed all the debts incurred by the states during the war. Hamilton's program paid off these debts.

269. Excise taxes

Taxes placed on manufactured products. The excise tax on whiskey helped raise revenue for Hamilton's program.

270. Implied powers, elastic clause, necessary and proper clause

Section 8 of Article I contains a long list of powers specifically granted to Congress, and ends with the statement that Congress shall also have the power "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers." These unspecified powers are known as Congress' "implied" powers. There has long been a debate as to how much power this clause grants to Congress, which is sometimes referred to as the "elastic" clause because it can be "stretched" to include almost any other power that Congress might try to assert.

271. Loose, strict interpretation of the Constitution

Loose interpretation allows the government to do anything which the Constitution does not specifically forbid it from doing. Strict interpretation forbids the government from doing anything except what the Constitution specifically empowers it to do.

272. Location of the capitol: Washington D.C., circumstances surrounding it

The South was angry that the whole country was assuming state debts incurred primarily in the North, and that slaves were not being counted as full persons for purposes of assigning the number of representatives that each state would have in the House. As part of the Compromise Plan adopted at the Constitutional Convention, it was agreed that the nation's capitol would be located in the South.

273. Residence Act

Set the length of time which immigrants must live in the U.S. in order to become legal citizens.

274. Whiskey Rebellion

In 1794, farmers in Pennsylvania rebelled against Hamilton's excise tax on whiskey, and several federal officers were killed in the riots caused by their attempts to serve arrest warrants on the offenders. In October, 1794, the army, led by Washington, put down the rebellion. The incident showed that the new government under the Constitution could react swiftly and effectively to such a problem, in contrast to the inability of the government under the Articles of Confederation to deal with Shay's Rebellion.

275. Election of 1796: President Adams, Vice-president Jefferson

The first true election (when Washington ran, there was never any question that he would be elected). Adams was a Federalist, but Jefferson was a Democratic-Republican.

276. Federalists and Democratic-Republicans

The first two political parties. Many of the Democratic-Republicans had earlier been members of the Anti-federalists, which had never organized into a formal political party.

277. Federalists / Democratic-Republicans: Party leaders and supporters

The leading Federalists were Alexander Hamilton and John Adams. The leading Democratic-Republicans were Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

278. Federalists / Democratic-Republicans: Programs

Federalist programs were the National Bank and taxes to support the growth of industry. The Democratic-Republicans opposed these programs, favoring state banks and little industry.

279. Federalists / Democratic-Republicans: Philosophies

Federalists believed in a strong central government, a strong army, industry, and loose interpretation of the Constitution. Democratic-Republicans believed in a weak central government, state and individual rights, and strict interpretation of the Constitution.

280. Federalists / Democratic-Republicans: Foreign proclivities

Federalists supported Britain, while the Democratic-Republicans felt that France was the U.S.'s most important ally.