

Why the Constitution?

The ships were leaky and miserable. The trip took more than two months, many became ill, and the seas were rough and dangerous. So, why did hundreds brave the waves to come to an unknown wilderness? Some came for promised gold and glory. However, many filled the boats, as William Bradford wrote in his book *History of Plymouth Plantation*, because they had “committed themselves to the will of God.” From the Jamestown landing to the quill’s sure strokes in each line of the Constitution, we will dust for prints and clearly see God’s hand present in forming the framework and foundation of this great country, The United States of America. As you travel these pages, take out your magnifying glass and examine the truth of history. By the last page, as Tweety-Pie says, “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free!”

Check out the prints!

Look carefully and you will see God’s fingerprints shaping the history of America.

The heart-shaped print will guide you in understanding God’s workings in men’s lives as they fought, and built, and took a stand for truth and right.

Remember the FACTS

Pilgrims (Separatists) - Did not agree with the Church of England, and wanted to separate from it.

Strangers - Businessmen seeking wealth in the New World.

William Bradford - Separatist; Plymouth Colony Governor.

Puritans - Did not agree with the Church of England, but tried to change it first before leaving for America.

Charles I - King of England after James I; wanted to rule without the consent of Parliament; had absolute authority over the Church.



13 Colonies
established in the
New World

All Subject to the
King of England

Who's in Charge?

Parliament

Made Laws for
Colonists
without any
Representation from Colonies



1607



Royal

- Colony Established by the King
- Governor Chosen by the King

Proprietary

- Established by the
Family
- Governor
Chosen by the
Family

Charter

- Established by a
Charter
- Governor elected



1774

Second Continental Congress

Delegates from Colonies sent The Declaration of
Independence to King George III declaring
independence from England

First Continental Congress

56 Delegates from Colonies (except Georgia) sent
letter to King George III declaring loyalty to the
crown but disputing Parliament's right to tax

1776

1777



Judicial (Judges)
Court System

Articles of Confederation

Government from Nov. 1777 - Mar. 1781
An agreement among all 13 colonies to give
limited power

to a central government and to declare their own
individual independence and sovereignty



Legislative (Congress)
Law Makers

*Plymouth Colony Established 1620; Massachusetts Bay Colony Established 1630; **NJ First Established as Proprietary in 1664

Section 8

**collect Taxes...pay the debts...
provide...common defence...
general Welfare of the United
States.**

**What does
“general Welfare” mean?**

During the time of the writing of the Constitution, “general Welfare” referred to the well-being of the States. It wasn't until 1935 that the national welfare system to provide for individuals became law.

Power was given to Congress to collect taxes on goods coming into the U.S. (called import taxes). The money received is to be used to defend our borders and for the general well-being of the United States.

The thought of “general Welfare” in 1789 was - the exemption from any unusual evil or calamity; the enjoyment of peace and prosperity, or the ordinary blessings of society and civil government; applied to states *1828 Webster's Dictionary

It all began with
THE PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE
gave **THE POWER.**

THE STATES gave authority to the
Central Government to act on the
laws within the Constitution.

THE STATES
were the
building blocks.

DE PA NJ CA CT MA MD SC NH VA NY NC RI

In Section 8, the states agreed to give Congress the power to:

- borrow money
- manage business with foreign nations
- handle the Post Office and roads
- protect authors and inventors
- create lower courts
- protect America's territorial waters
- declare war
- raise an army
- make rules to govern land and navy forces
- call up the militia (local defense troops)
- make laws for the federal district (nation's capital)



People should be judged. Exo. 18:22-
“...but every small
matter they shall judge.”