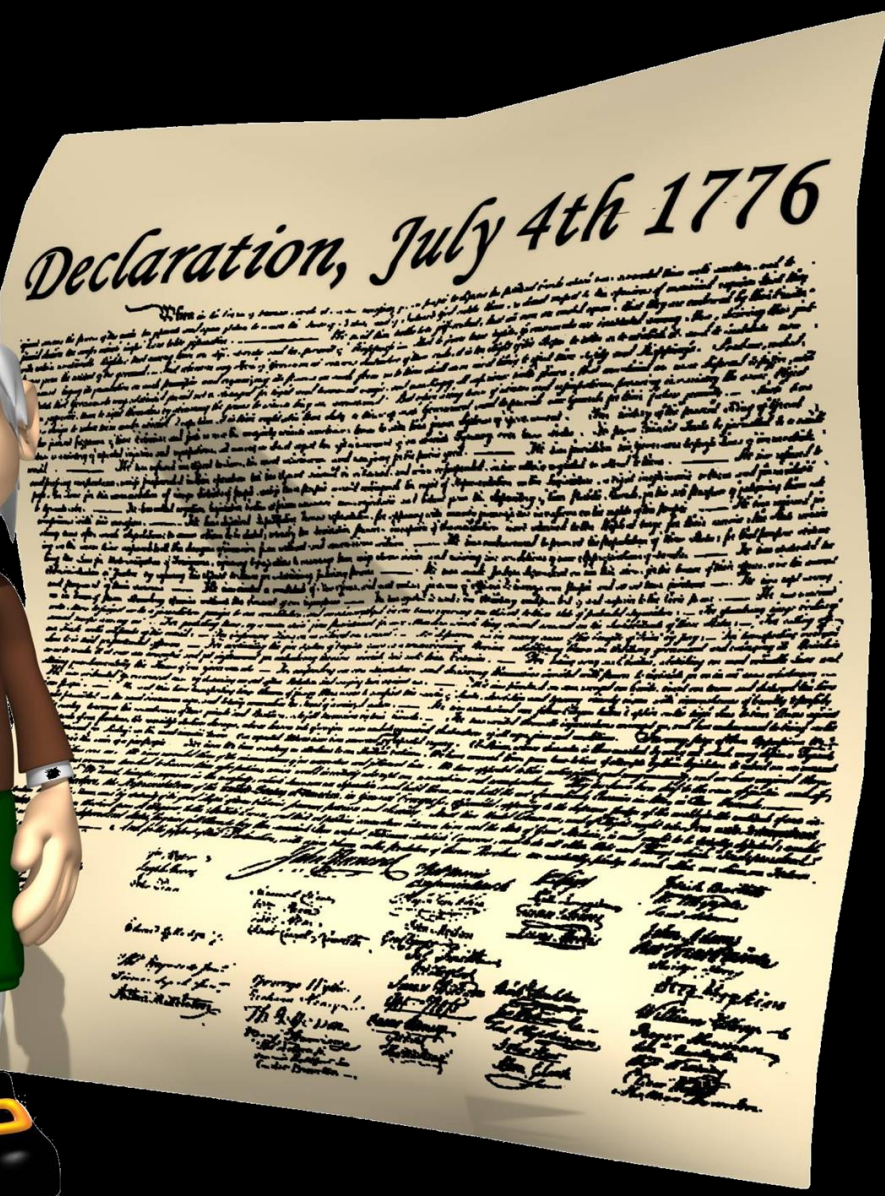


Foundations of American Government



WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?

- Authority & power to make and enforce laws
- Accepting authority – **LEGITIMACY**
 - Can exist through force

WHY DO WE NEED IT?

- Maintain social order
- Ensure domestic tranquility
- Establish justice
- Provide for the common defense
- Promote the general welfare
- Secure liberty



Characteristics of States

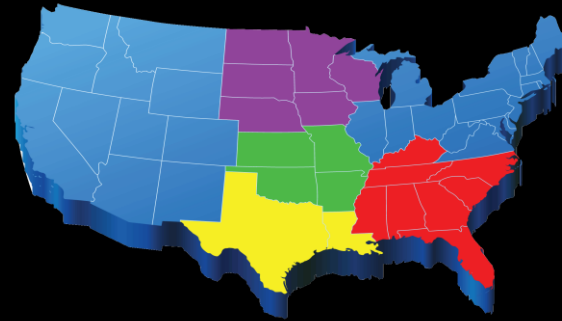
- **Population**

- Citizens
 - Rights
 - Responsibilities



- **Territory**

- Recognizable boundaries



- **Sovereignty**

- Foreign Policy
 - Ability to negotiate treaties
- Protect territory and keep foreigners out if so wish
- Coin money, overturn laws



Authoritarian Systems

- **Autocracy:**

- One person - political power & authority
 - **Monarchy**
 - **Dictatorship**

- **Democracy**

- Rule by the People
 - **Direct Democracy**
 - **Representative Democracy**
 - Group elected to represent

- **Republic**

- No office inherited



Origins of American Democracy

- Ancient Greece
- The Middle Ages
 - Divine Right: Kings could do anything
- Protestant Reformation
 - Challenged authority of Roman Catholic Church
 - Introduced new ideas of power beyond religion
- The Enlightenment
 - Reason alone manages the world, controls nature



Social Contract Theory



Thomas Hobbes & John Locke

Social contract: People freely exchange some rights for governmental protection

Contract breaks = Government fails to protect people's rights

People's consent = Legitimate government authority

Characteristics of Our Democracy

- **Popular sovereignty**
 - people are a source of power to government
 - **Republican democracy:** representation
 - Parliament : English Congress (Commons/Lords)
 - Representatives would cool public passions
- **Limited government**
 - 1215 - **Magna Charta**
- **Rule of law:** all people must obey law

Characteristics of Our Democracy

- **Common good**
 - protection of individual rights and liberties while at the same time helping society
- **Equality** as an inalienable right for all
- **Individual Liberty (civil liberties)**
 - Personal freedom
 - **1688 – Bill of Rights (Glorious Revolution)**
 - basis of our Bill of Rights
- **Majority rule** balanced by protection of minority rights
- **Compromise (politics)**

Colonial Government

- Charter to start – self-governing after
- Mayflower Compact
 - just and equal laws for good of colony
- 1639 – Connecticut & the Fundamental Orders
- By 1760's – elected assemblies dominated colonies
 - Public opinion on their side (legitimacy)
 - Set governmental salaries & local taxes
 - Colonial policies allowed them freedom

Changing Times

- 1760's – relations changed
 - French & Indian War
 - Treaty of Paris 1763
 - Tremendous *debt*
 - Solution: make colonists pay for defense, more revenues from colonies
- 1765 – **Stamp Act**
 - Tax on all printed material
 - Taxation w/out representation
 - *violated basic right of English citizen*
 - Repealed



Changing Times

- **Oct 1765 – Sons of Liberty**
 - Pressured to ban buying/selling of British goods
 - Unity: only way to resist Parliament's actions
- **1767 – Townshend Acts**
 - Taxed everyday items
 - Colonists protested/sent more troops
- **March 1770 – Boston Massacre**
 - Troops/colonists clash – 5 killed
 - Repealed all except tea tax
- **1773 – Tea Act**
 - **Boston Tea Party** led to Intolerable Acts (1774)

- **Sept. 1774 - 1st Continental Congress**
 - **Declaration of Rights**
 - must have same rights and liberties as English citizen
- **April 1775 – War breaks out**
 - Lexington and Concord
 - take weapons/arrest Hancock & Adams
 - colonists resisted
- **May 1775 – 2nd Continental Congress**
 - Served as 1st American government until 1781
 - Borrowed and issued money
 - Negotiated treaties
 - Created Navy

Independence vs. Being British

Only most rebellious
wanted to completely break

Thomas Paine – Common Sense

Said the colonists had
no choice but to cut ties

Too late to APOLOGIZE

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles and organizing its Powers in such Manner, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Prosperity, and Security.

Prudence, in the course of human affairs, has not required that Governments should be changed upon every slight and temporary Grievance, but that serious and continuing Oppressions, all having in their Object the establishment of a new and separate Government, should be the Ground-work of a new Constitution. — That the History of the present King of Great Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Oppressions, and a long train of Abuses, which have summed up in the word Tyranny. — That the British People have a Right to throw off such a Government, and to institute new Legislatures, and to assume the same Powers, as free and independent States, have a Right to do.

That the United States have declared their Independence, and have assumed the same Powers, as free and independent States, have a Right to do. — That the United States have declared their Independence, and have assumed the same Powers, as free and independent States, have a Right to do.

If the Declaration of Independence was treated like present-day legislation....

Who's got time to read it. Just sign the damn thing!

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MURRAY CLOSE
& THE GUY



Declaration of Independence

- **TREASON**

- What did it do?

- Explained ideas and philosophy that justified break
- Rallied world sentiment in favor of colonists
- Unified American public opinion

- How it was written:

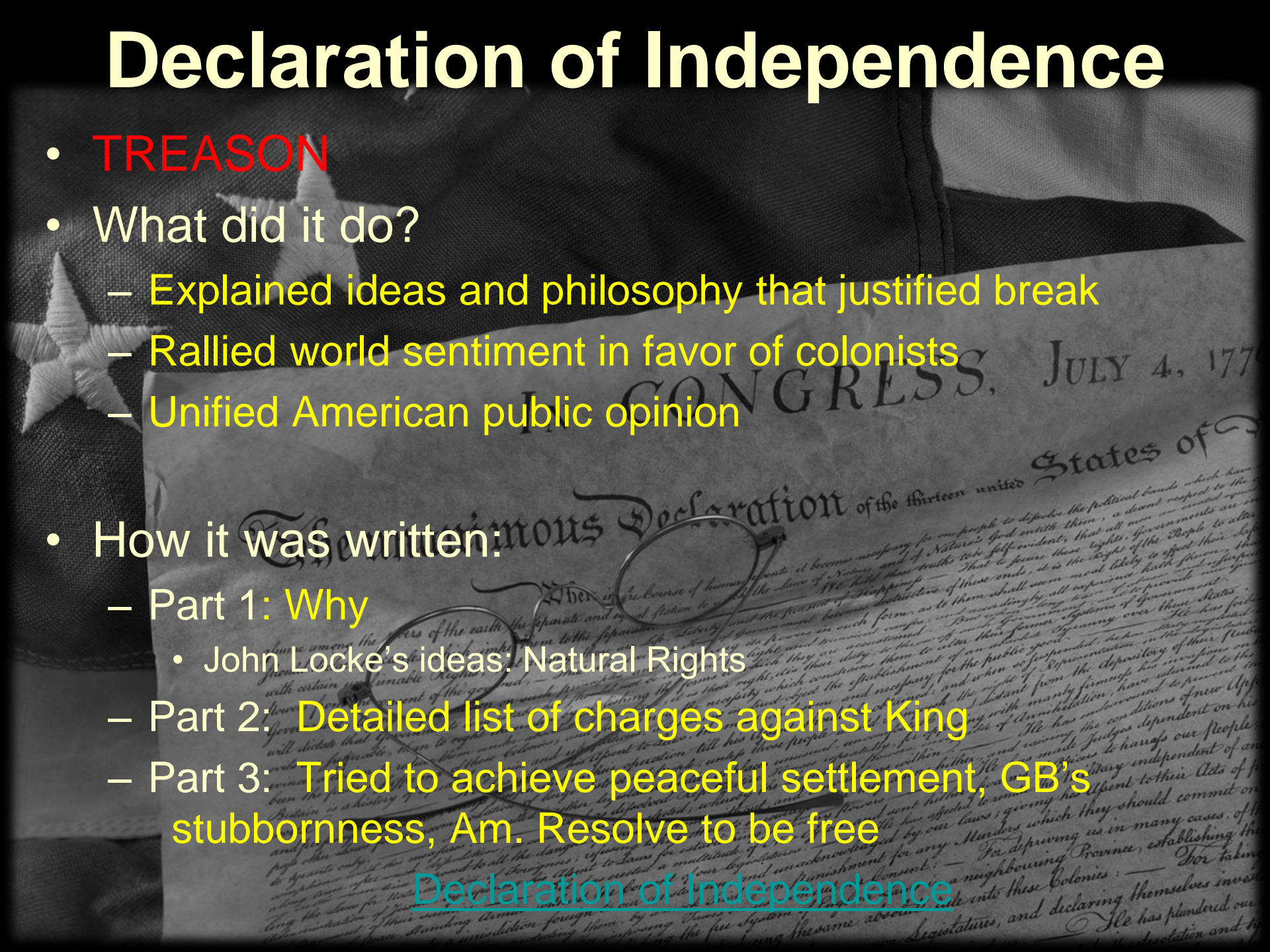
- Part 1: **Why**

- John Locke's ideas: Natural Rights

- Part 2: **Detailed list of charges against King**

- Part 3: **Tried to achieve peaceful settlement, GB's stubbornness, Am. Resolve to be free**

Declaration of Independence





Articles of Confederation

- Approved Nov 1777/ratified 1781
- **Joined together to meet common goals**
- Each was **sovereign**
- Strengths
 - Able to keep states together to win war
 - Northwest Ordinance of 1787
- Weaknesses
 - **couldn't collect taxes**, maintain army, establish sound economy
 - lacked authority
- **Shays' Rebellion** – reform of government
- Annapolis Convention - 1786

Philadelphia Convention

- 1787
- Rhode Island did not attend
- George Washington – president



How was the Constitution Created?

Virginia Plan

- 3 branches
- Leg – select
ex/judicial
- Bicameral – by
population
- National over state

New Jersey Plan

- Unicameral leg – each
state cast one vote
- Plural ex – 2 or more
Presidents
- Supreme Court

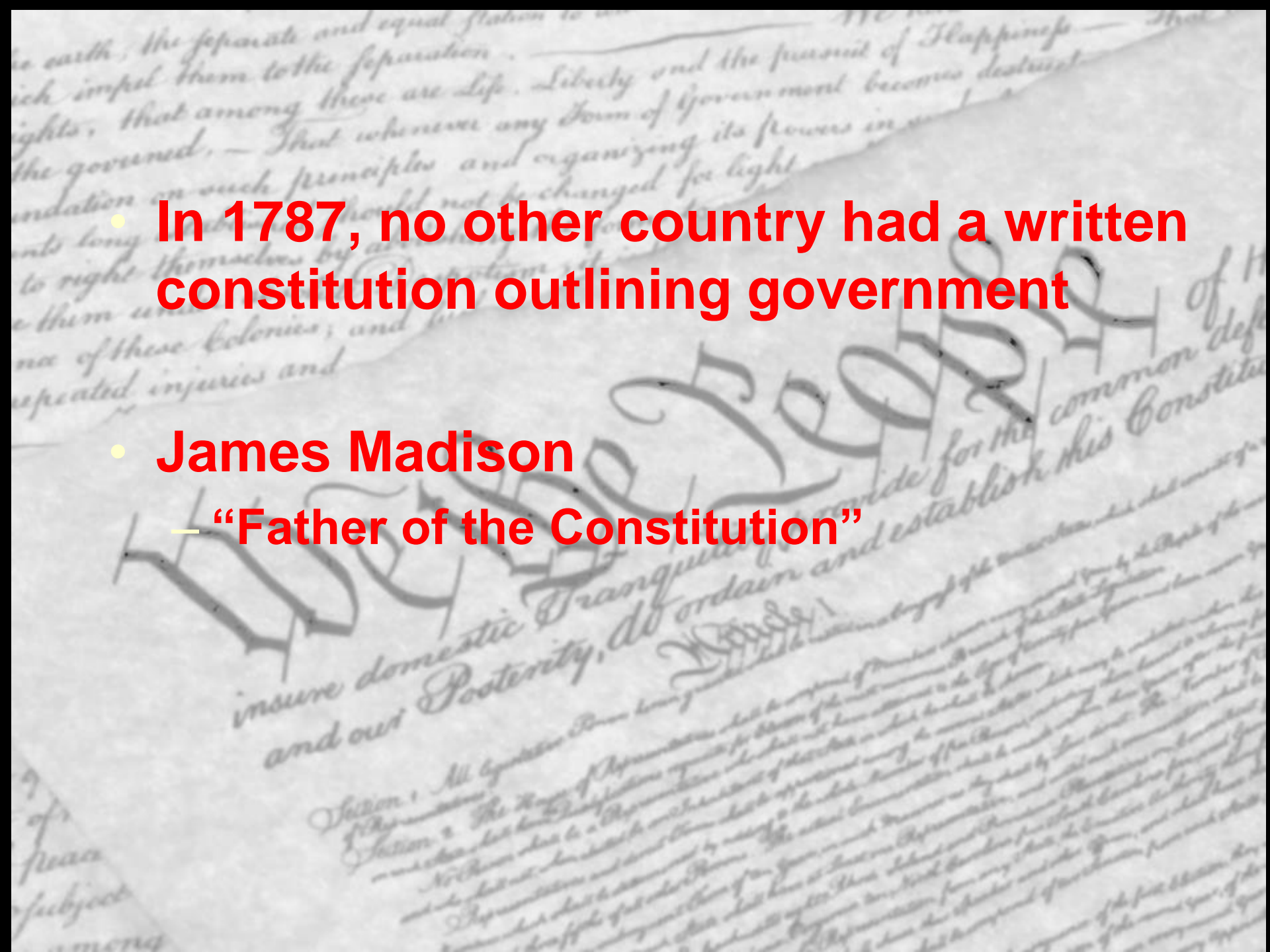
**“in one branch the people,
in the other the states”**

Dr. William Johnson, CT

Connecticut Compromise

House	Senate
Based on population Elected by common man	Based on equality Elected by state legislatures

- **3/5 compromise**
 - each slave counted as 3/5 a man
- **Other Compromises**
 - **Treaties must be approved by 2/3 Senate**
 - **Couldn't impose duties on exports**



- In 1787, no other country had a written constitution outlining government

- James Madison
 - “Father of the Constitution”

The Battle

- Accepted September 8, 1787
 - 9 states needed to ratify
- **Federalists vs. Antifederalists**
 - No Bill of Rights vs. Bill of Rights
 - Strong central vs. state
 - “**The Federalist**” – turned the tide toward ratification
 - James Madison/Alexander Hamilton/John Jay
 - New York – important for size/stature