

Introduction to Law

Chapter 36 Part 1

“Origins of the Constitution”

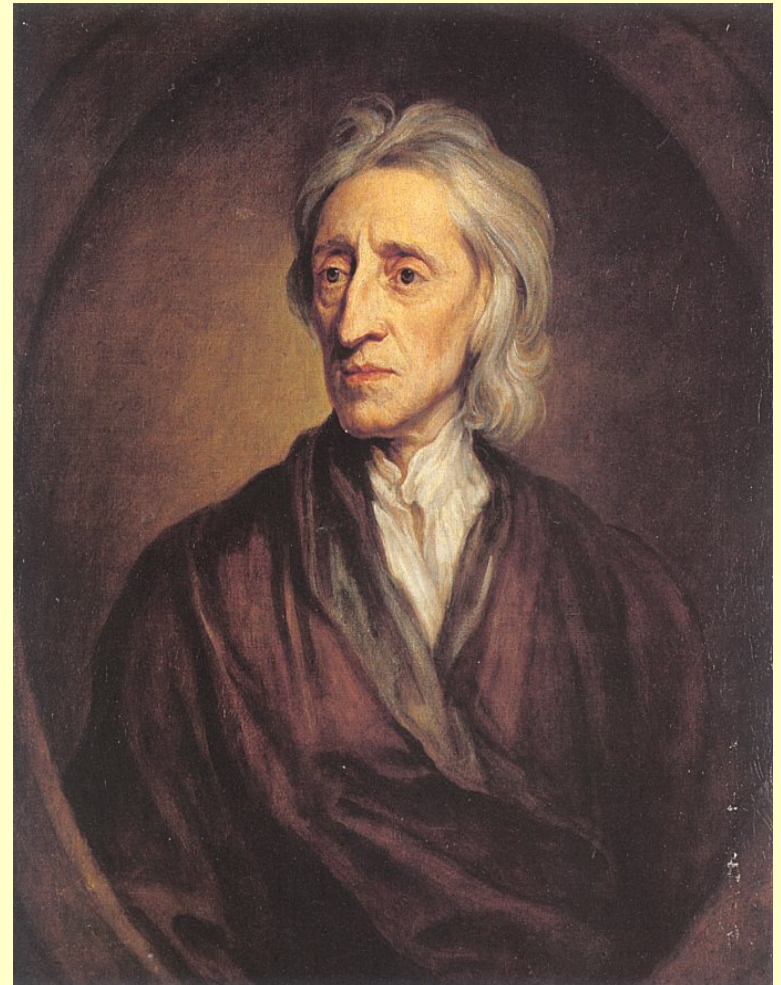


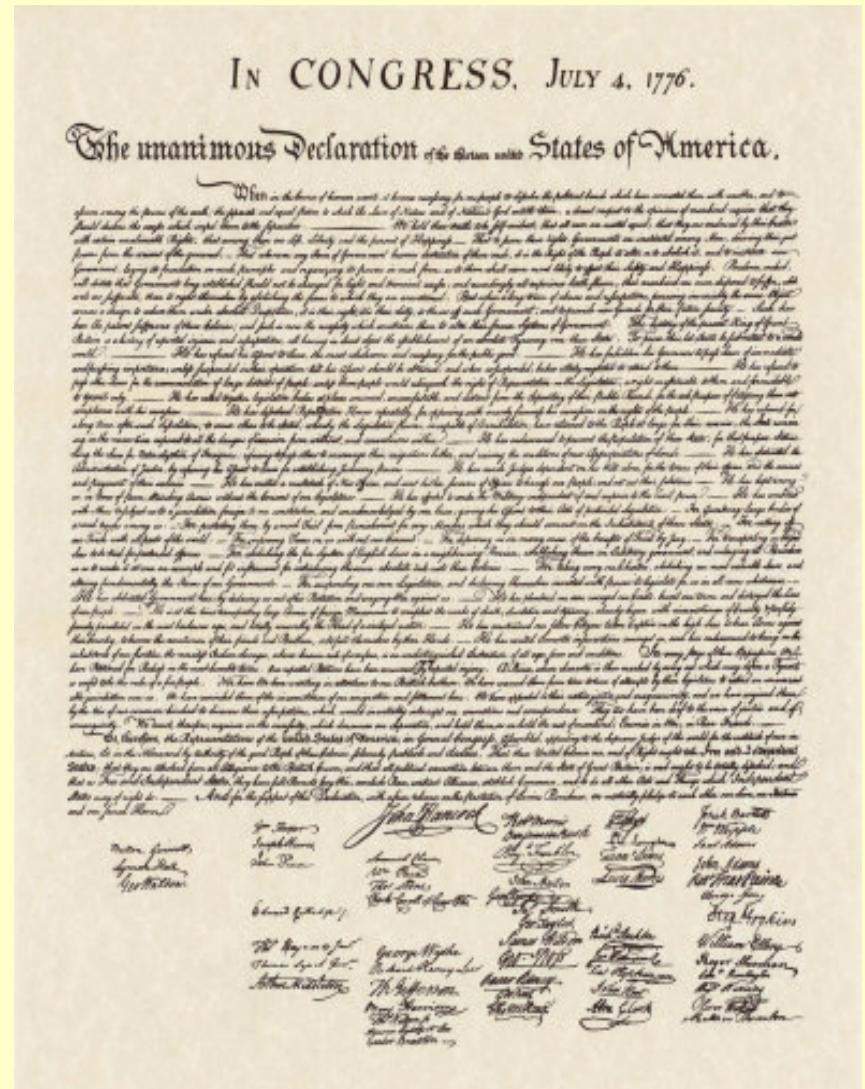
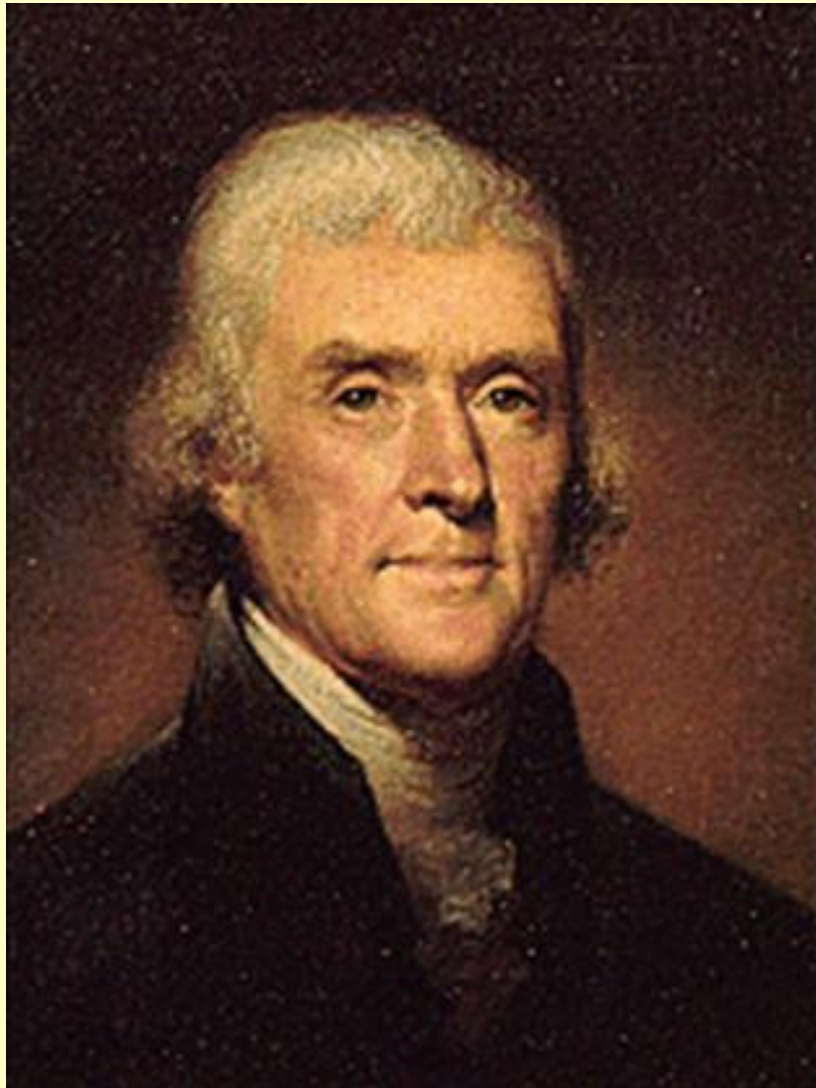
John Locke

- many of the ideas found in the Declaration of Independence were borrowed from the English philosopher in his “Two Treatises of Government”

-Locke's ideas:

- Humans have natural rights
- Government must be built on the consent of the governed
- Government should be limited



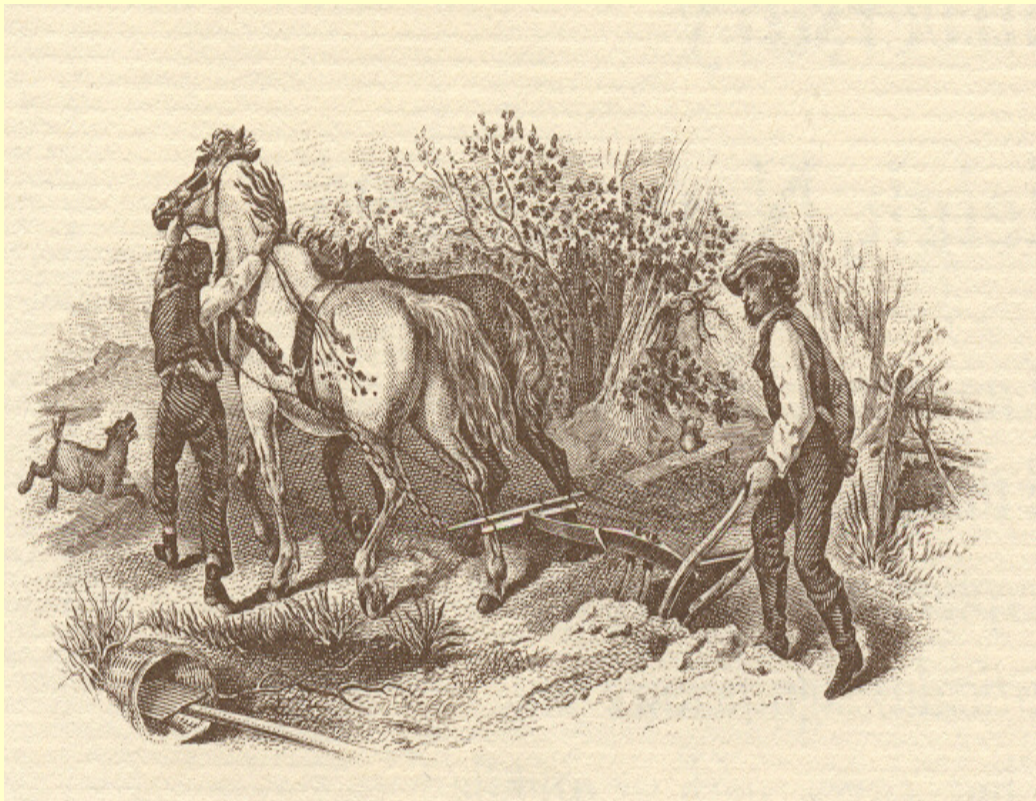


-Adopted on July 4, 1776, the Declaration was a polemic, announcing and justifying a revolution



Changes in the States

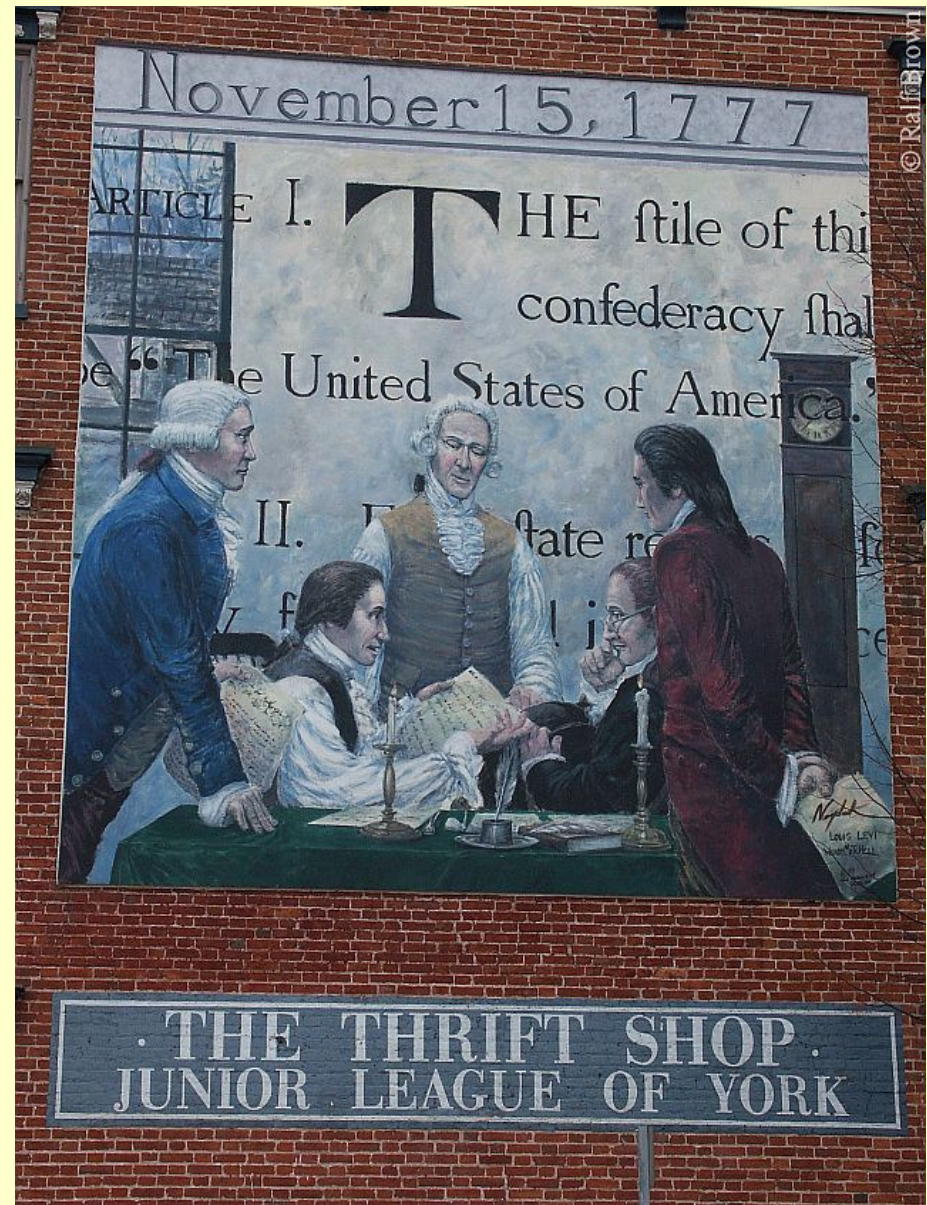
The states were experiencing a dramatic increase in democracy and liberty. Many adopted bills of rights, liberalized voting requirements, and state legislatures were more responsive to the people.



However, a postwar depression left small farmers without the ability to pay their debts and states printed worthless paper money to help the debtors.

The Articles of Confederation

- a “social contract” is a document that outlines the relationship between the government it establishes and the people that establish them.
- The Second Continental Congress created a new social contract when it agreed to the Articles of Confederation on November 15, 1777 in York, Pennsylvania



-the Articles of Confederation established a system of government that the American founders believed would avoid the problems faced by the colonies under British rule

Weaknesses of the Articles:

- Government dominated by the states
- No executive
- No national court system
- Congress had no power to tax or to regulate trade between states
- No national currency

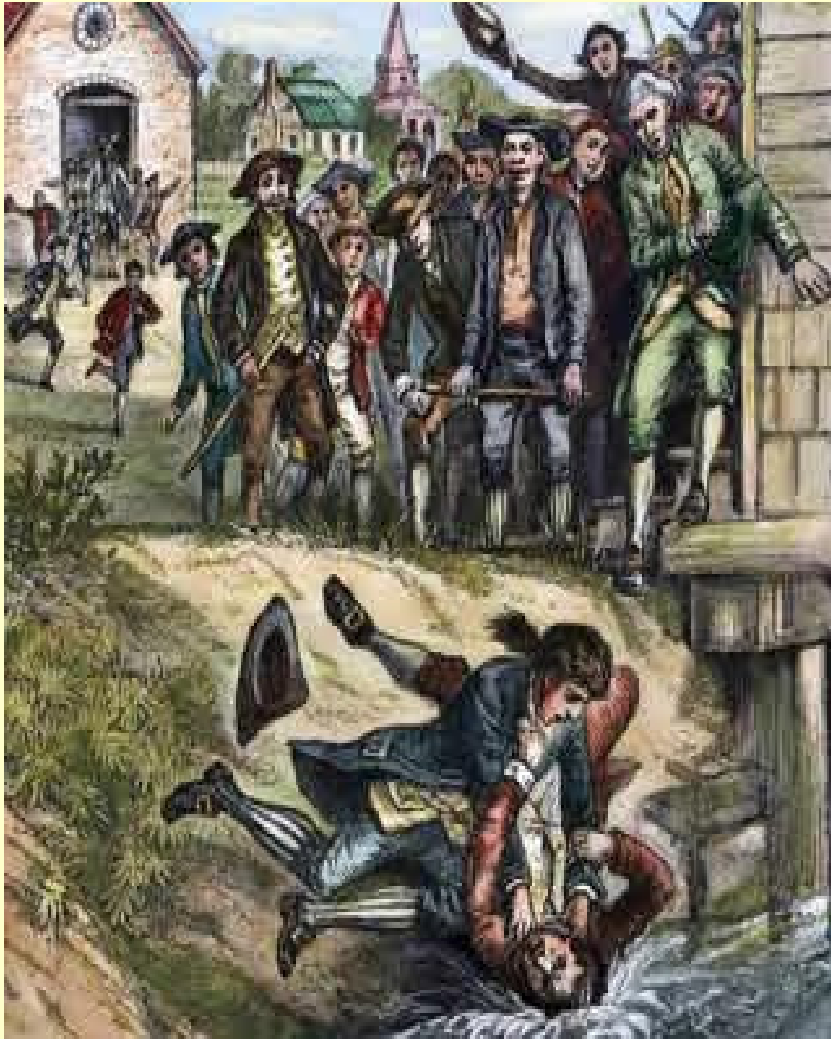


Mount Vernon Compact - 1785



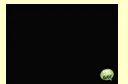
Delegates from Virginia and Maryland, meeting at Washington's home in 1785, drew up the Mount Vernon Compact, providing for free trade on the river. Virginia and Maryland legislators ratified the compact and then invited all 13 states to send delegates to a convention in Annapolis in 1786 "to consider how far a uniform system in their commercial regulations may be necessary to their common interest".

Shay's Rebellion



In 1786, a small band of farmers in Massachusetts rebelled with a series of attacks on courthouses to prevent judges from foreclosing.

Neither Congress nor the states could stop the rebellion, which further illustrated the weakness of the Articles.



Annapolis Convention - 1786



In 1786, continental leaders met in Annapolis to discuss the Articles of Confederation. Although the meeting failed, they called for a meeting of the states in Philadelphia to discuss the constitution.

