


A.P. GOVERNMENT

Unit 1
Foundation of American Government


**“Declaration of Independence
to
Articles of Confederation”**


Mr. Ahlberg Notes #3



A.P. GOVERNMENT Theories in Practice


- Revolutionary War
 - American colonists were in rebellion against a King who had failed to respect and protect their natural rights
- Declaration of Independence
 - Written to justify the rebellion
 - List of complaints against the English Government
 - Birth of a new nation






A.P. GOVERNMENT Locke’s influence on the US

- “A state also of equality, wherein all the power and jurisdiction is reciprocal, no one having more than another...”
- “...life, liberty, and property...”
- John Locke, *of Civil Government*
- “We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal.”
- “...life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness”
- Thomas Jefferson, *Declaration of Independence*




A.P. GOVERNMENT Declaration of Independence

- When asked for the purpose of a Declaration, Thomas Jefferson replied:
 “To place before mankind the common sense of the subject, in terms so plain and firm as to command their assent.”

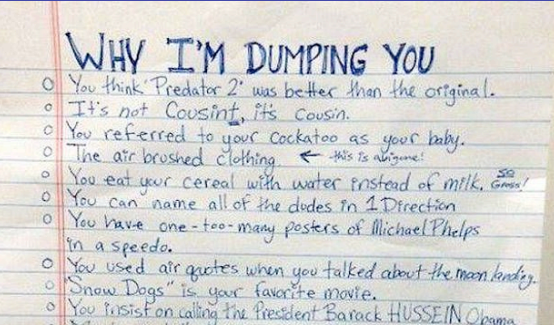


A.P. GOVERNMENT Parts of the D.o.I.

- Preamble
 - States the purpose and reason behind the document
- Statement of Natural Rights
 - “...all men are created equal”
 - ...life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness...”
- List of Grievances
 - 27 complaints stated
 - Many aimed directly at the King
- Announcement of Independence
 - Statement to gain legitimacy from the rest of the world



A.P. GOVERNMENT The Ultimate Break-Up



WHY I'M DUMPING YOU

- You think Predator 2' was better than the original.
- It's not Cousint, its cousin.
- You referred to your cockatoo as your baby.
- The air brushed clothing ← this is abigame!
- You eat your cereal with water instead of milk. ^{So gross!}
- You can name all of the dudes in 1 Direction
- You have one-too-many posters of Michael Phelps in a speedo.
- You used air quotes when you talked about the moon landing.
- Snow Dogs" is your favorite movie.
- You insist on calling the President Barack HUSSEIN Obama

A.P. GOVERNMENT **British Colonial Rule**

Unitary System – all power flows from one central government

A.P. GOVERNMENT **Articles of Confederation**

Confederate System – power concentrated in political subunits (states) with a weak central government (typically unite for a common goal)

A.P. GOVERNMENT **Articles of Confederation**

- United States’ first form of Government
 - 1781-1787
- Designed specifically to be “Non-British”
 - Limited Central Government
 - State powers not threatened
 - Created Equality among the States (1 vote per State)
 - No executive (they hated kings)
- Confederacies are typically...**U S A L ! !**
N T B E !

A.P. GOVERNMENT **Articles of Confederation**

- Successes
 - Won the Revolutionary War over a superior foe
 - Negotiated a favorable treaty with Britain
 - Established the Northwest Ordinance
 - Rules for new states to be added to the union
 - Set the precedent for Federalism

A.P. GOVERNMENT **A of C – Weaknesses**

- “State retain sovereignty, freedom, and independence” Gov’ t has no control
- Unicameral Congress with one vote per state
 - Supermajority (9 of 13) to pass a law
 - Supermajority (13 of 13) to amend
- No Executive/President (could not enforce laws)
- No Federal Judiciary (could not settle disputes)
- No power to levy taxes
 - Had to beg states for money
 - Couldn’ t pay off war debt
- Could not raise an army (draft soldiers)
- No National currency

A.P. GOVERNMENT **Shays’ Rebellion**

- To pay for war debts, some states raised the taxes on farmers
- Farmers in Massachusetts were arrested and foreclosed on for not paying these taxes
- Daniel Shays
 - was a farmer and a officer in the Continental Army
 - Rebelled against judges and government officials
- Fear spread that the rebellion would spread
- **Showed that Gov’ t under AoC was weak**