

A photograph of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, a large brick building with a prominent clock tower and a steeple. The building is surrounded by green trees and a clear blue sky with a few clouds. An American flag is visible on a pole to the right of the building. The text "THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1787" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font with a black outline and a drop shadow effect.

# THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1787



# THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

## WEAKNESSES OF AMERICA'S 1<sup>ST</sup> GOVERNMENT

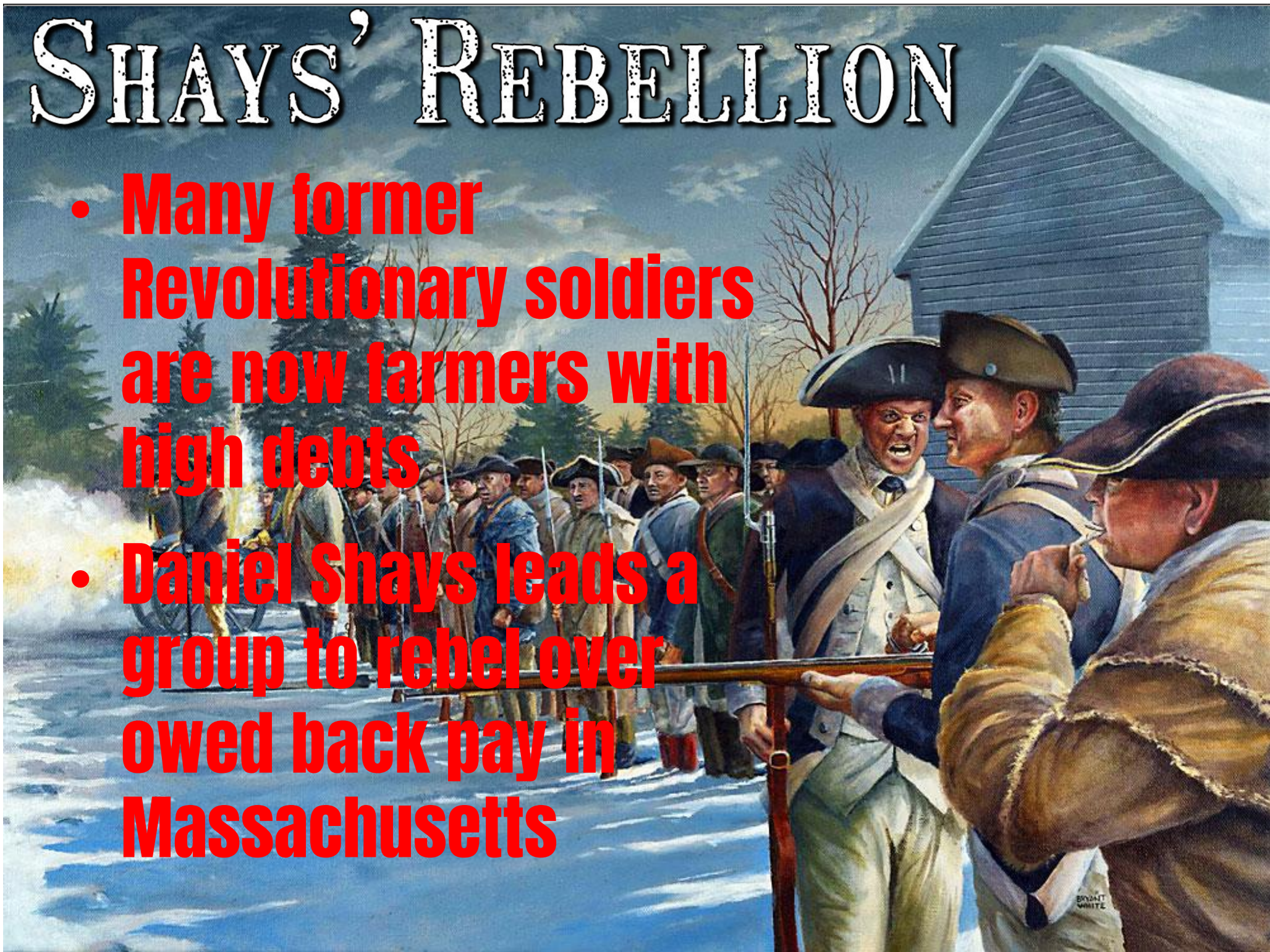
1. Each state has 1 vote in Congress, regardless of size
2. Congress no power to tax
3. No executive branch
4. No national court system
5. Amendments required a unanimous vote
6. States printed their own currency





# SHAYS' REBELLION

- Many former Revolutionary soldiers are now farmers with high debts
- Daniel Shays leads a group to rebel over owed back pay in Massachusetts





# SHAYS' REBELLION



- **Federal government unable to help**
- **Local militia raised to put down the rebellion**
- **Shows that Articles are too weak and a new government is needed**




# THE PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION

- Meets in 1787
- State representatives decide to create a new government rather than fix Articles







# Key Figures of the Constitutional Convention




I'm Alexander Hamilton. I'm from NY and argued for a strong national government.




Hi! I am George Washington! I led the convention as president but kept quiet.




I'm James Madison from VA. I am "the father of the Constitution" because I wrote most of it.



I'm Ben Franklin from PA – I say states must hold more power!



I'm Roger Sherman of CT. I think small states should not be overlooked!



I'm George Mason – we must not forget a Bill of Rights!



# PLANS FOR THE CONSTITUTION

## **The Virginia Plan**

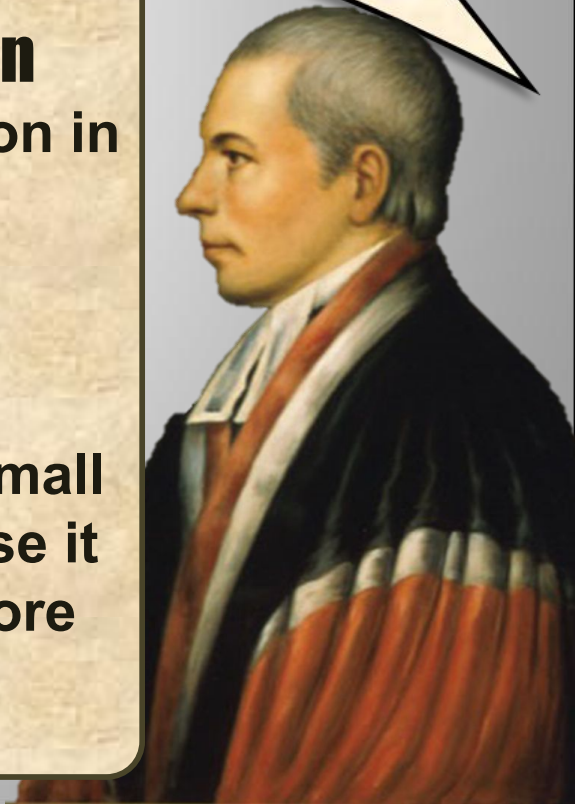
Based  
representation in  
Congress on each  
state's  
population.

Favored by large  
states because it  
gave them more  
power.

## **The NJ Plan**

Representation in  
Congress is  
equal for all  
states.

Favored by small  
states because it  
gave them more  
power.



**The Constitution**  
We the People of the United States...

We the People of the United States...

**The Constitution**



# Compromises

## Great Compromise

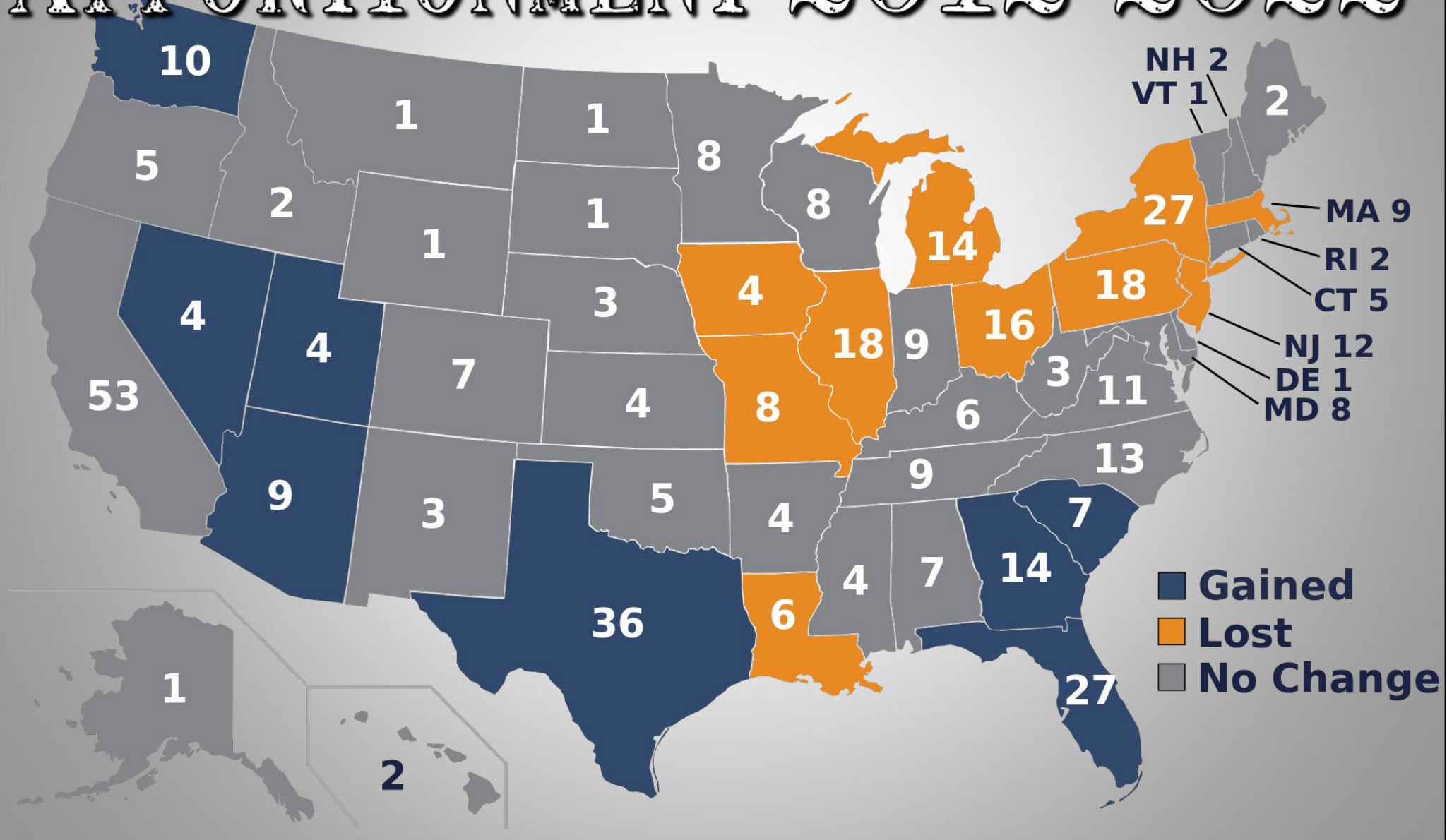
- Solves debate between large and small states
- Senate - 2 per state
- House of Representatives - based on population

## 3/5<sup>th</sup> Compromise

- Placated the Southern states
- Counts enslaved men & women as 3/5 of a person for state population



# CONGRESSIONAL APPORTIONMENT 2012-2022





# Federal Law

- National Laws are the supreme law of the land
- States have power to make laws but can't contradict Federal
- Limits the powers of the government to those in the Constitution





# Checks & Balances

- **Avoids a powerful central government**
- **3 equal branches**
  - 1. Legislative - makes laws**
  - 2. Executive - enforces laws**
  - 3. Judicial - interprets laws**



# Solutions to Confederation Problems

1. Each state has 1 vote in Congress, regardless of size

2. Congress no power to tax

3. No executive branch

4. No national court system

5. Amendments required a unanimous vote

6. States printed their own currency

1. **Great Compromise**

2. **Congress has the power to tax!**

3. **Executive Branch led by President**

4. **Supreme Court & Federal Courts**

5. **2/3 Congress & 3/4 of states**

6. **National currency**