**Honors U.S. History**

**“The Unfinished Nation – A Precarious Experiment – Answers and Notes”**

**Mr. Fernandez**

Answer the following questions as you view the documentary:

1. Who wrote the constitution for the state of Massachusetts?
   1. John Adams – the man who had defended the British soldiers in the Boston Massacre
   2. Had to be ratified by every town
   3. Long process… farmers commenting on the formation of the judiciary
2. Describe the process of making constitutions in the states.
   1. Very democratic… people getting together and writing their considerations about the details of constitutions
3. What were “natural rights?”
   1. Inherent… rights given at the Creation… by God.. inalienable.
4. Why did such ideas make their way into the state constitutions?
   1. Largely because of the language of the Declaration of Independence
5. What were the unsettled, or lingering, issues following the Revolutionary War?
   1. British didn’t evacuate Northwest forts
   2. control over fisheries
   3. British gave no compensation for slaves that had been freed from the South
6. Why did America have to negotiate with Spain?
   1. Secessionist movement in the Southwest… Mississippi… port of New Orleans
   2. U.S. wasn’t getting any respect
   3. What powers did Congress have under the Articles? Not many, or enough
7. What was the paradox of the Articles?
   1. Strong/ good enough for war, but too weak for peace time
8. What was the most significant accomplishment of the Articles in the 1780s?
   1. Resolution of controversy over western lands
   2. Land Ordinance of 1784
   3. Laid out process for statehood… Congress creates grid system for settling western lands
9. Who was the hero under the Articles? Why?
   1. Robert Morris – Secretary of Finance
10. For what did he continually lobby congress out of fear of the government going broke?
    1. Five percent duty on imported goods
    2. All amendments had to be ratified unanimously… so it never passed
    3. Shay’s Rebellion prompted by financial hardship… courts foreclosing on farmland
11. Why was “democracy” a bad word in the 1780s and 1790s?
    1. “mobocracy”
    2. Washington… “perhaps we have had too favorable a view of human nature.”
12. What was the major argument for constitutional reform?
    1. Stability – we need to unite so that the other world powers will take us seriously
    2. The stakes were very high… survival of the nation was at stake
13. Why was it a good thing that Annapolis didn’t succeed?
    1. Only about 12 men from 5 states show up
    2. They propose convention the following May
    3. Encouraged strong nationalists to take the next step
14. What did we learn from the experiment of the Articles?
    1. Recognition that the time has come to save the national government from the states
    2. The need to save the states from themselves
    3. States were going to have to cooperate without a war to bind them together
    4. The Articles were an excellent transition into the Constitution
15. In what way was George Washington’s presence at the convention a risk to his prestige?
    1. If it had failed, his name would have been damaged historically.
16. What was the main concern of the delegates at this meeting?
    1. Virginians write the VA Plan while waiting for others to arrive
    2. Eventually NJ Plan presented… favored small states
17. What was the belief of representatives of large and small states concerning representation?
    1. Large states wanted population – proportional representation
    2. Small states wanted equal representation
    3. Connecticut Compromise – House based on population and Senate equal
18. Who humorously kept falling asleep, but at the same time, oversaw and guided the entire convention?
    1. Ben Franklin… called the group to prayer... ironically.
19. What became the basis of the second major debate?
    1. Apportionment of representation in the House – South wanted credit for slaves
20. Explain how the issue was settled.
    1. 3/5 Compromise
21. In what way was the entire construction of the Constitution a miracle?
    1. So many compromises in one meeting… dealing with heavy issues.
22. What is “separation of powers?”
    1. The idea that three separate branches: Congress, President, and the Supreme Court, under the Constitution, all have specific powers and limitations.
    2. Power is evenly distributed, as much as possible, among the three.
    3. Example: A bill becoming a law. Congress creates the bill, President signs or vetoes, and the Supreme Court interprets the meaning of the law according to the Constitution
23. What is “checks and balances?”
    1. Preventing any one branch from becoming too powerful… example is the President’s power to veto legislation, but Congress’ ability to override that veto with a 2/3 vote.
24. What would always be the product of negotiation in American government?
    1. representation
25. What was the final question once the major issues were resolved?
    1. How to ratify the Constitution
26. What was the most revolutionary clause of the new constitution?
    1. Article VII
27. What were the ground rules for the ratification convention?
    1. All or nothing proposal… in other words, they weren’t seeking advice or commentary from the states… they had to approve it or reject it as a comprehensive plan
28. Of what were the Anti-Federalists afraid?
    1. The new federal government having too many powers
    2. Particularly afraid of the new office of the presidency
29. What were the Federalist Papers? Who wrote them?
    1. Arguments made in support of ratifying the Constitution
    2. Madison, Hamilton, and Jay
30. In what states was there an Anti-Federalist majority?
    1. New York, Virginia, North and South Carolina
31. Upon what was the acceptance of the new constitution contingent in several of the Anti-Federalist states?
    1. The addition of a Bill of Rights
32. For what reasons was the first session of the Congress considered a creative force in our constitutional life as a nation?
    1. They passed the Bill of Rights
    2. They also created the national judiciary with the Judiciary Act of 1789
33. Describe President Washington’s legacy as first president of the United States.
    1. Strength of character
    2. Two term tradition firmly established
34. Describe the roles of Hamilton and Jefferson in President Washington’s cabinet.
    1. Hamilton served as Secretary of Treasury – supported strengthening federal government
    2. Jefferson served as Secretary of State – favored a limited federal government
    3. They significantly represented opposing viewpoints… which President Washington appreciated and felt was necessary in the Cabinet for the presidency.
35. Upon what issues were the two presidential appointees and advisors deeply divided?
    1. The creation of the National Bank
    2. The general direction of the French Revolution
    3. Hamilton favored trade policies which encouraged close ties with Britain
    4. Jefferson favored stronger ties with France