

Essential Question

What are the basic principles of government outlined in the US Constitution?

Why You Should Care

The US Constitution is the supreme law of our country. It defines how our government is formed and your rights within it. There is no other document we will study that more directly affects your life and future.

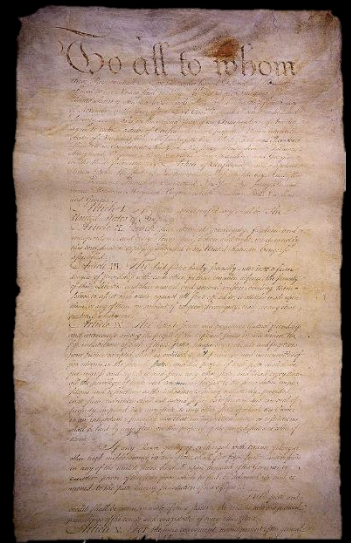


Creating The Constitution

We the People

The Articles of Confederation

- The first attempt at a ruling document for states
- Very limited powers for the central government- most powers remain with the states.
- Didn't even call it a government – called it a “firm league of friendship.”
- So weak that Virginia's state navy was larger than the one for the whole country.





**Dude. Not cool. We
ain't got no cash.
We're poor farmers
man.**



Great job winning
the war, you should
pay your debts now.
And only cash this
time. No trades.



AA2011

...

Well, I guess we'll just
destroy the government
again then.

Now, now, let's be fair.
We'll just raise taxes on
these farmers. That will
help pay off the debts.

Haha, no problem
young man. I can
just take your entire
farm instead!

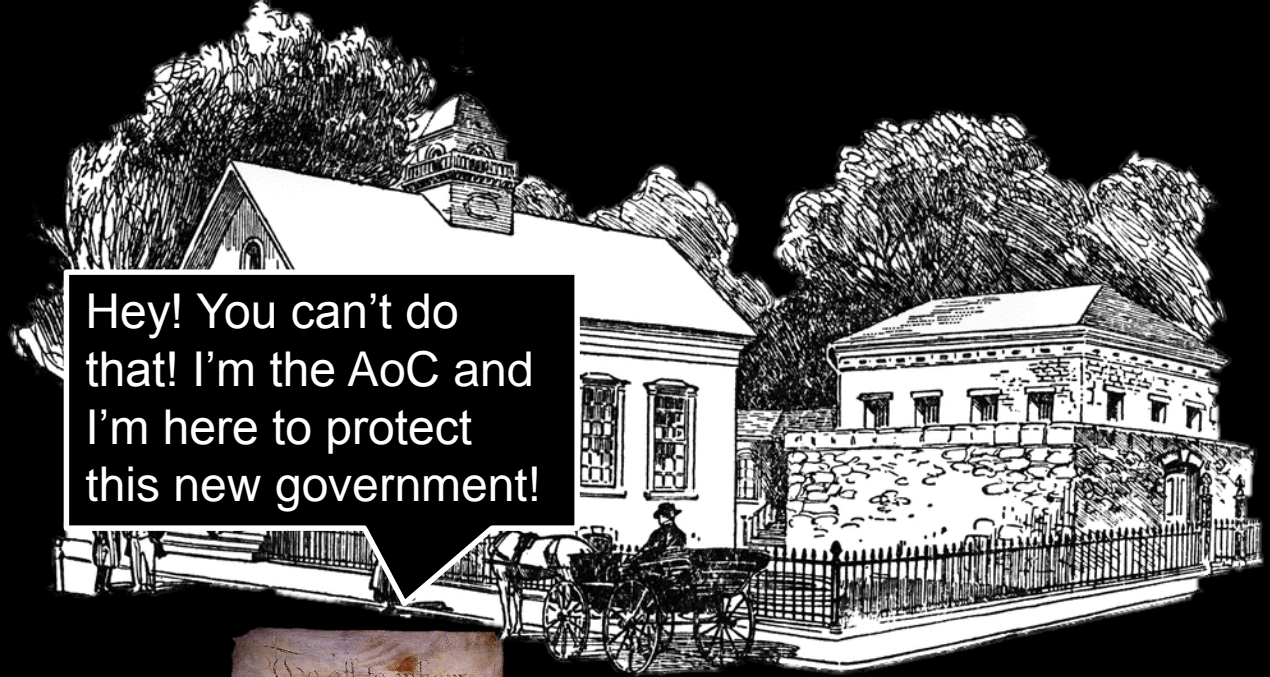


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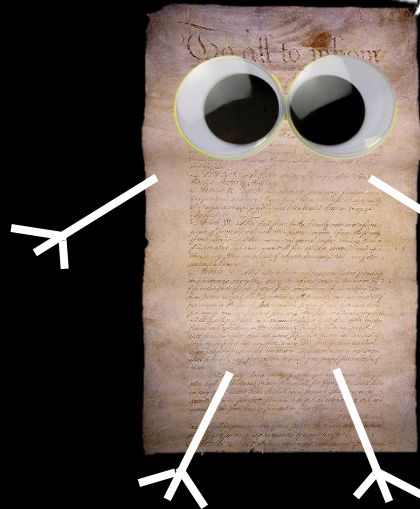
**Yeah? You and
what army?**



**Hey! You can't do
that! I'm the AoC and
I'm here to protect
this new government!**



Oh... um. Dang.
Good point.
Man, I'm worthless.



We the People

The Constitutional Congress



We the People

The Constitutional Congress

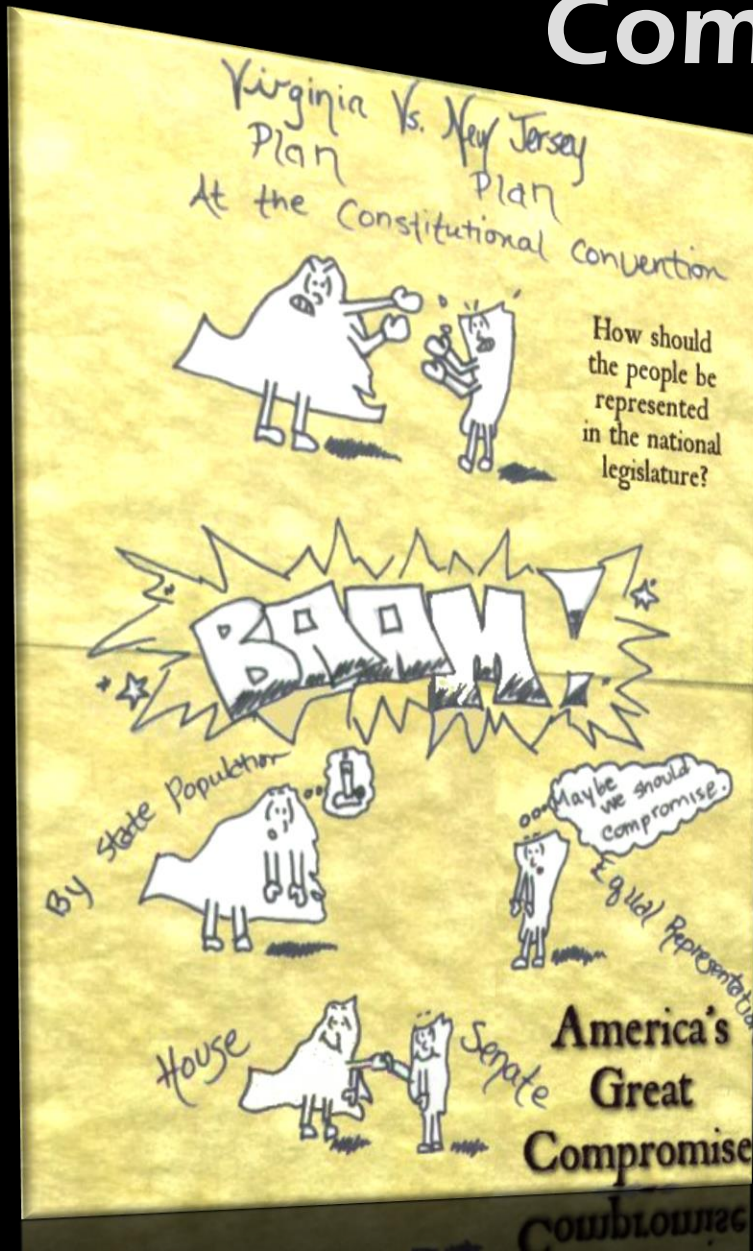


- Goal: Fix the Articles of Confederation.
- Met in secrecy and had to swear not to talk about what happened inside.
- They ultimately decided the Articles needed to be abandoned and started over with a new document.

We the People

Compromises

- The Great Compromise – split congress with half divided by population (House of Representatives), half divided evenly (Senate).
- The 3/5s Compromise – Slaves count as 3/5s of a person in terms of counting population.



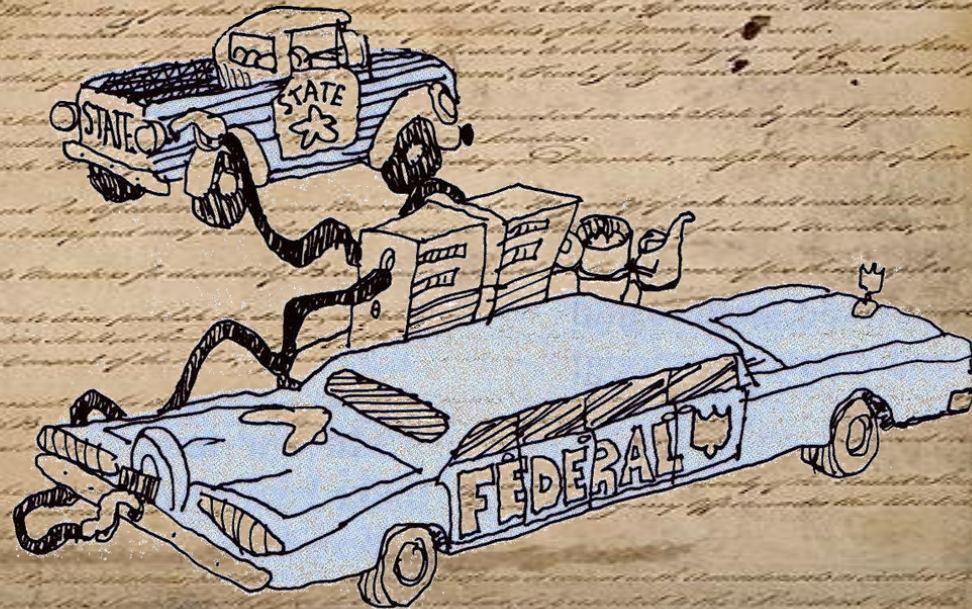
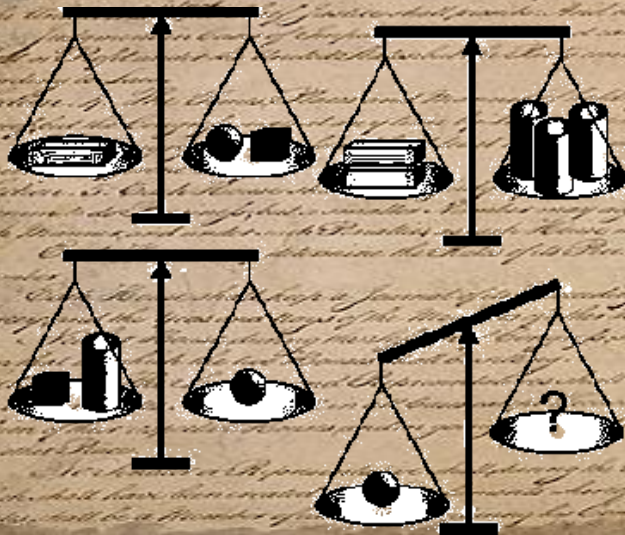
**The Big Question:
Where do we draw
the line between
liberty and security?**



Article 1



Constitution Basics



U.S. GOVERNMENT



**Popular
Sovereignty**



Federalism

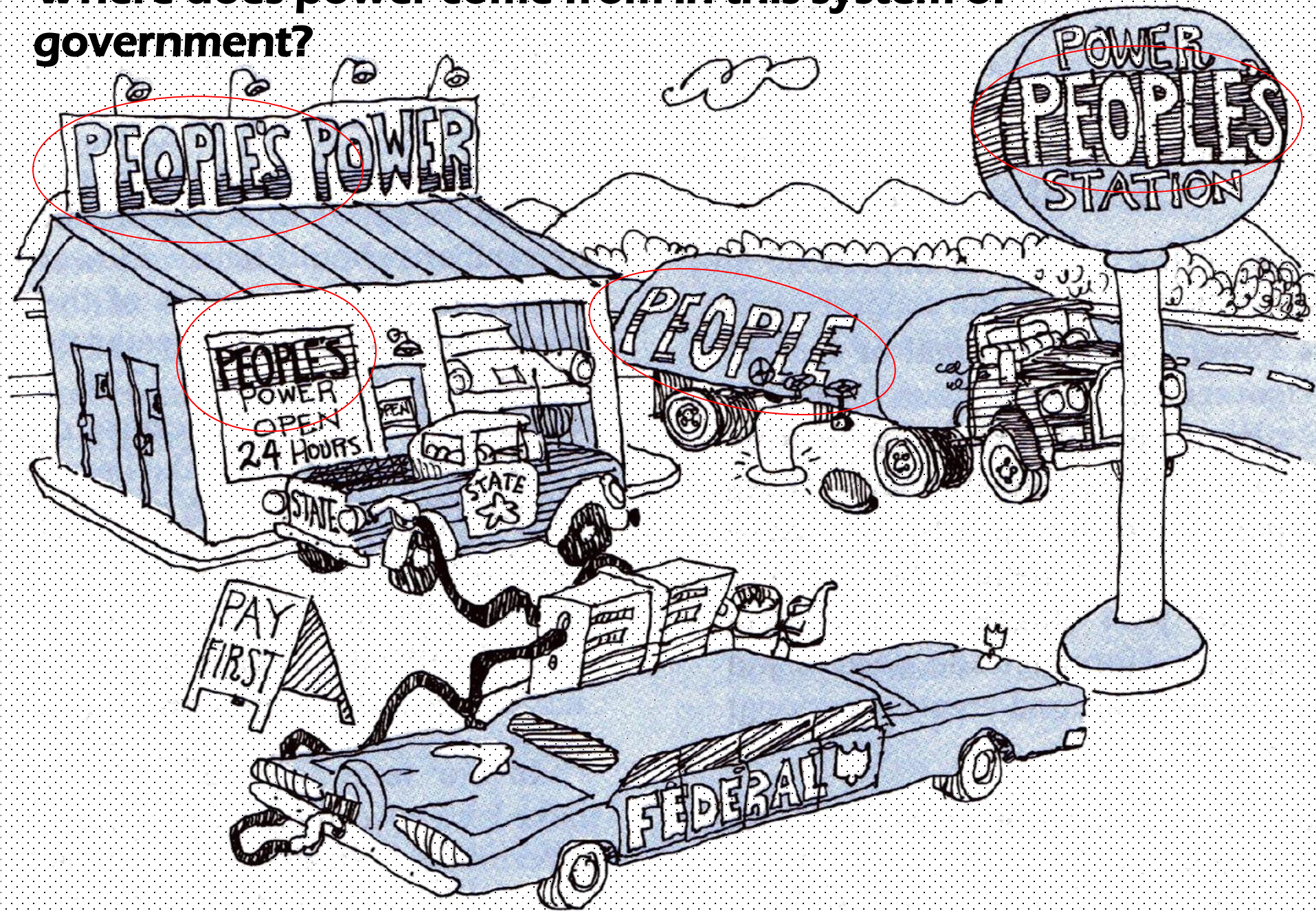


**Separation
of Powers**

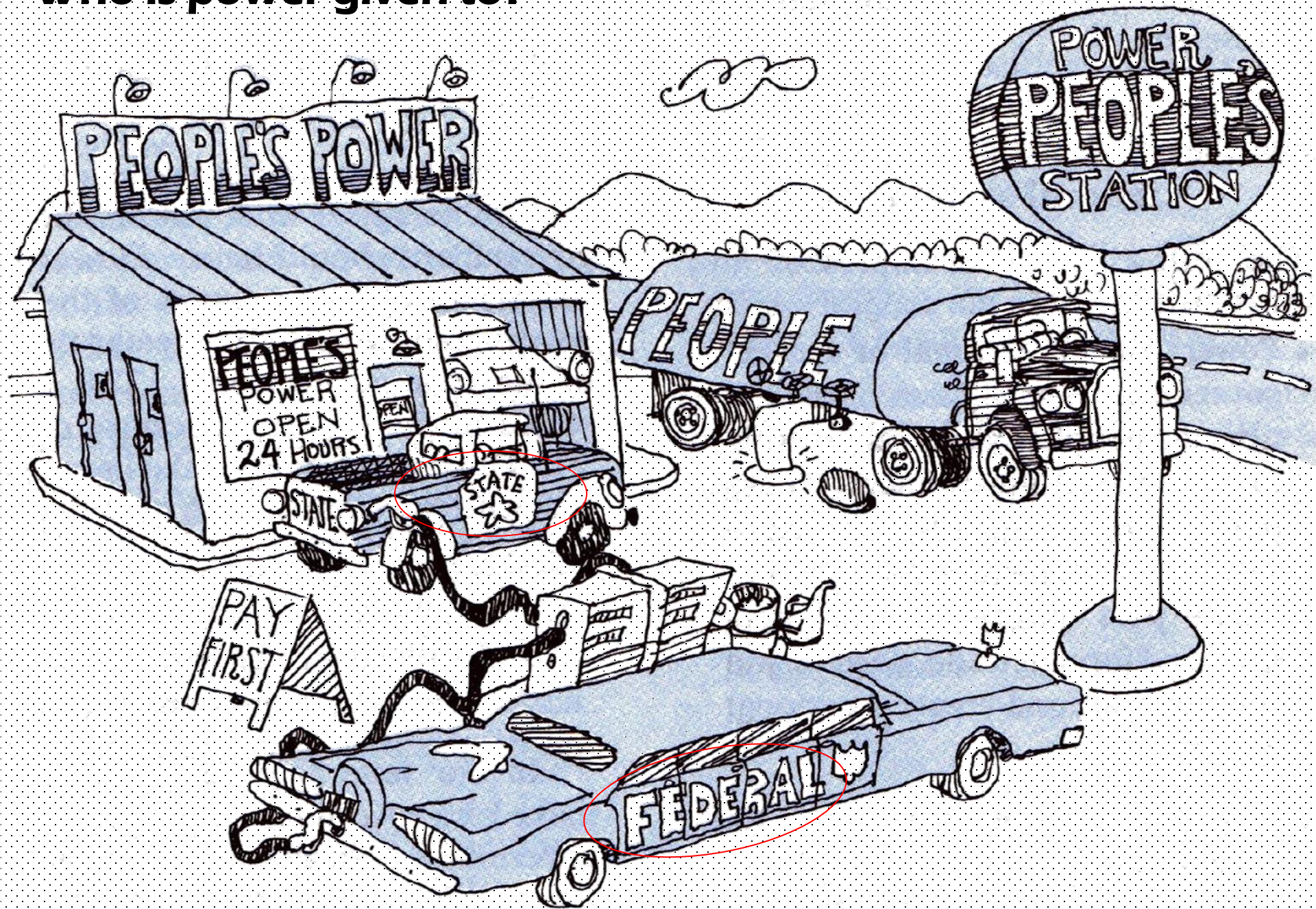


**Checks &
Balances**

Where does power come from in this system of government?



Who is power given to?



POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY



- “We the People” - the government is powered by the people.
- The people express their power by voting for their political representatives.
- Decisions are made based on the will of the majority – not the will of one ruler.

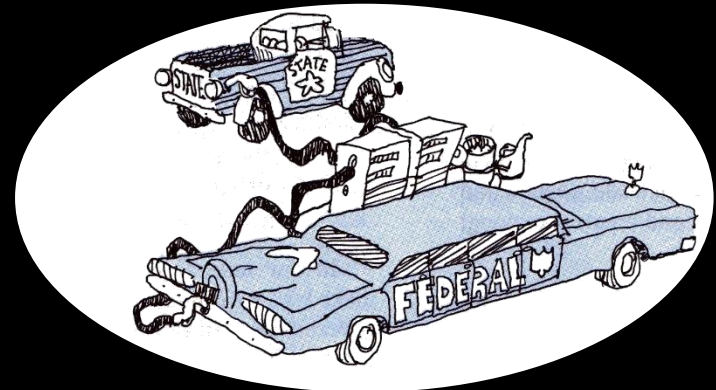


We the People **FEDERALISM**

Dual Sovereignty - power is divided between the...

Federal Government – national government with power over those things that effect everyone

State governments – local govts with power over everything else



SEPERATION OF POWERS



- To further limit them, power is divided within each level too.
- Presidents can't do everything!





We the People

Without Separation

**I AM THE
LAW!!!**



***The King**
The King makes,
enforces, and
Interprets the laws.*

How might it
work without a
king?



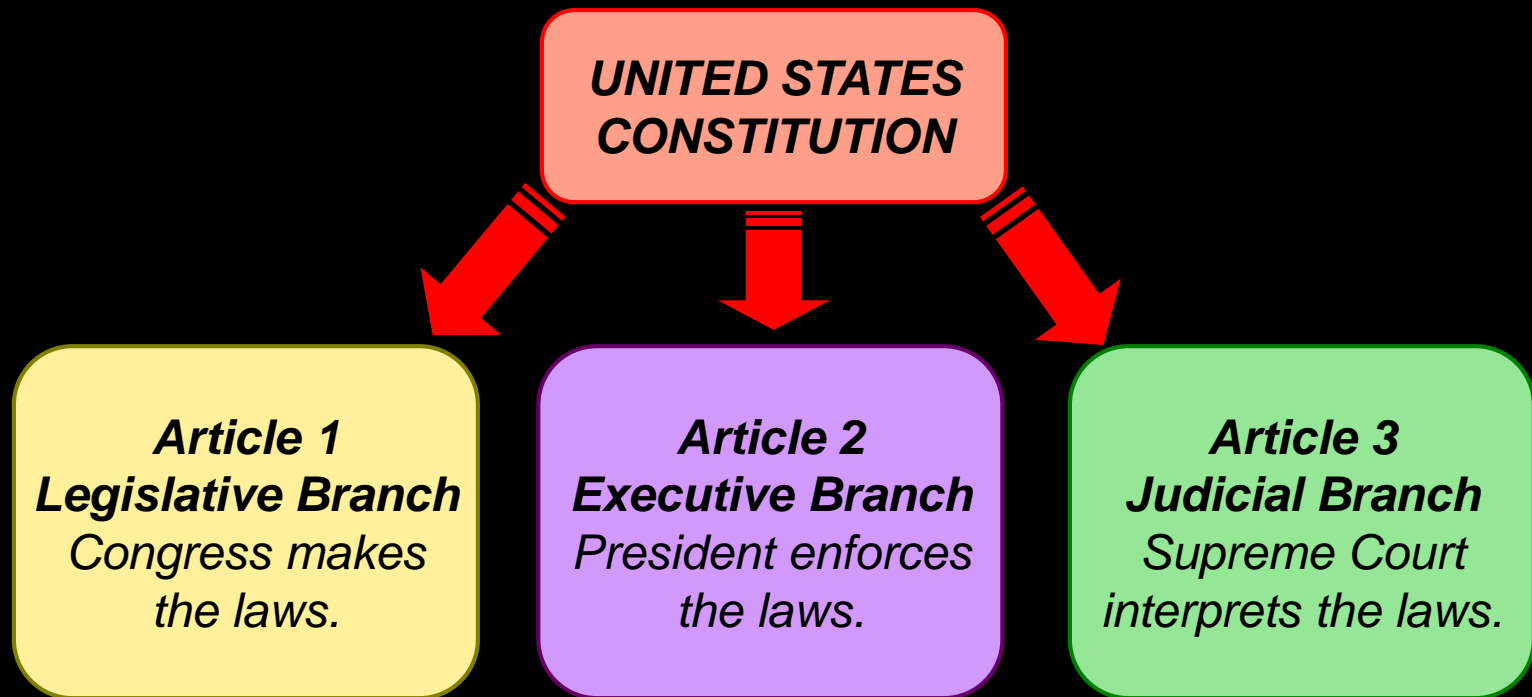
Brain Snack





We the People

With Separation



CHECKS AND BALANCES

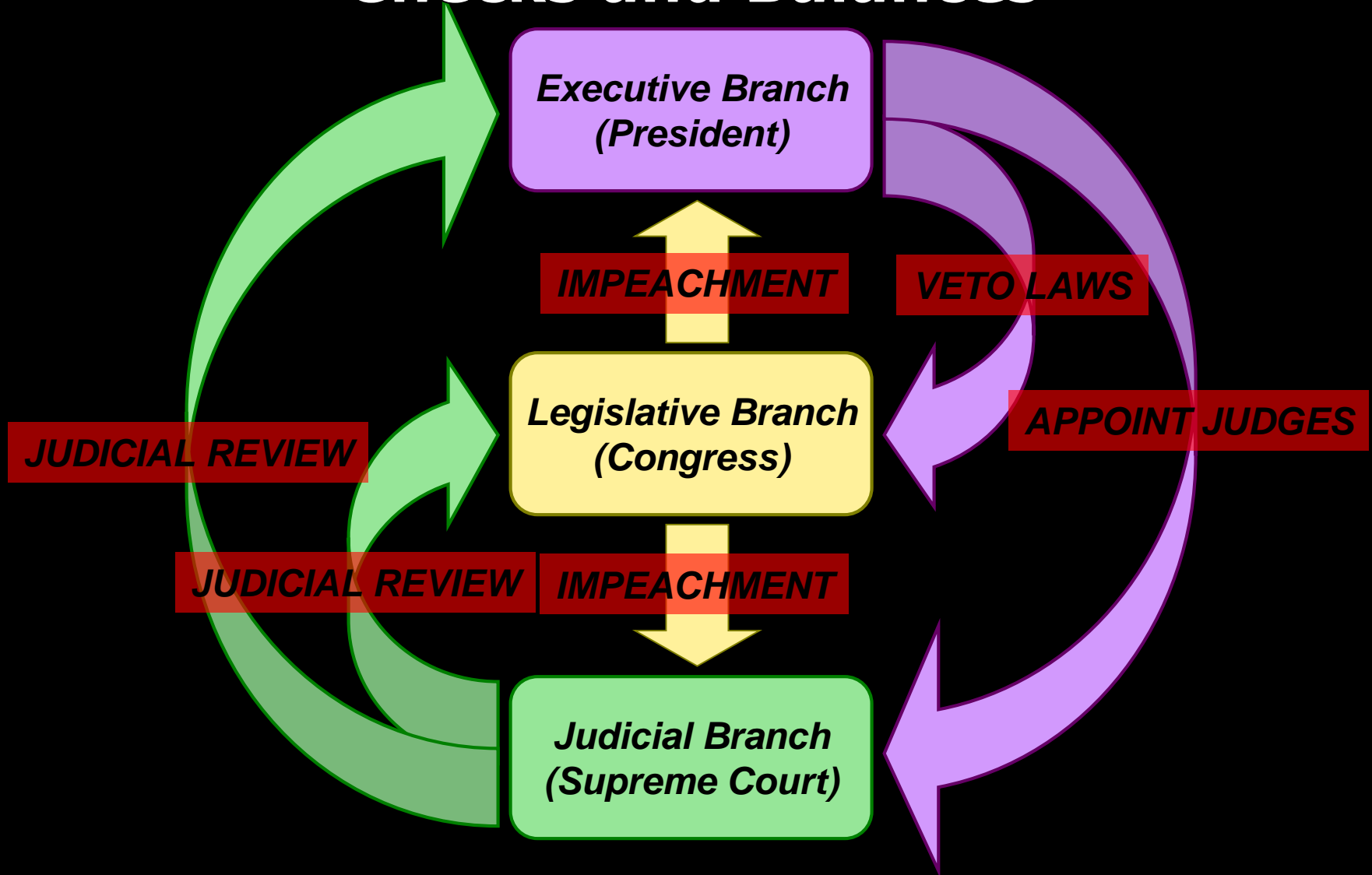


- No one branch should have enough power to control the other branches but...
- Each branch has a way to check (limit) the power of the other branches.



We the People

Checks and Balances



We the People

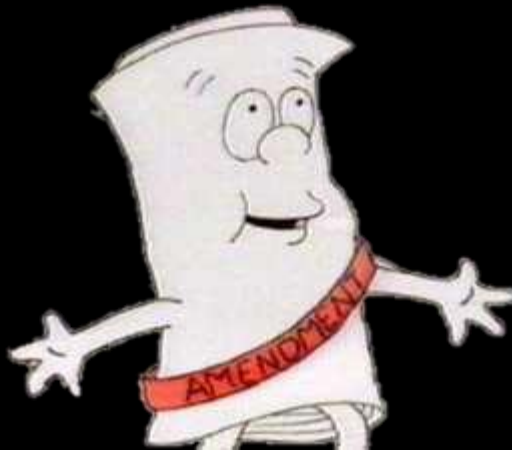
The Amendment Process



We the People

The Amendment Process

- Had a built-in process to make changes if needed.
- “The Constitution is not a suicide pact.”
- Still, it is really hard to do (only 27 Amendments in over 200 years.)



Supreme Law of the Land

**This Constitution, and the
Laws of the United States ...
shall be the supreme law of
the land; and the judges in
every state shall be bound
thereby, anything in the
constitution or laws of any
state to the contrary
notwithstanding.**

**I AM THE
LAW!!!**