

## Important Items about Underpinnings of U.S. Government

You need to begin familiarizing yourself with these terms.

|                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Anti-Federalists            | Judicial Review       |
| Articles of Confederation   | Limited government    |
| Bill of Rights              | Marbury v. Madison    |
| Checks and balances         | Natural rights        |
| Connecticut Compromise      | New Jersey Plan       |
| Consent of the governed     | Republic              |
| Constitution                | Separation of powers  |
| Declaration of Independence | Shays' Rebellion      |
| Equal Rights Amendment      | U.S. Constitution     |
| Factions                    | Virginia Plan         |
| Federalist Papers           | Writ of habeas corpus |
| Federalists                 |                       |

# UNDERPINNINGS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT



## **Essential Questions (you should be able to answer these by the time we finish the Unit)**

1. Explain why the Constitution is sometimes called the “higher law.”
2. Outline the events that led early Americans to declare independence from Britain.
3. Review the basic philosophy that underlies the Declaration of Independence.
4. Summarize the parallels between Locke’s writings and Jefferson’s language in the Declaration of Independence.
5. Explain how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation laid the groundwork for the Constitution.
6. Describe what Madison meant by “factions” and how he proposed to solve the problems presented by factions.
7. Evaluate how the Constitutional Convention dealt with issues of equality.
8. Summarize the major compromises of the Constitutional Convention.
9. Explain why economic issues were high on the agenda at the Constitutional Convention and how the framers tried to strengthen the economic powers of the new national government.
10. Demonstrate what we mean by the “Madisonian model” and how it is incorporated within the Constitution.
11. Understand why critics claim that the Madisonian model actually reduces efficiency in the operations of government.
12. Describe the major issues between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists in the debates over ratification of the Constitution.
13. Ascertain how constitutional changes, both formal and informal, continue to shape and alter the Madisonian system.
14. Examine the Constitution in terms of the theme of democracy that runs throughout this chapter.
15. Identify factors that have led to a gradual democratization of the Constitution.
16. Understand how the Constitution affects the scope of government in America.