

LEQ: What are the three branches of the United States Federal Government?



This image of the United States Capitol is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



This image of the White House's Truman Balcony is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



This image of the west front of the United States Supreme Court was taken by Robert Housch facing east on July 2, 2009.

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Legislative



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Executive



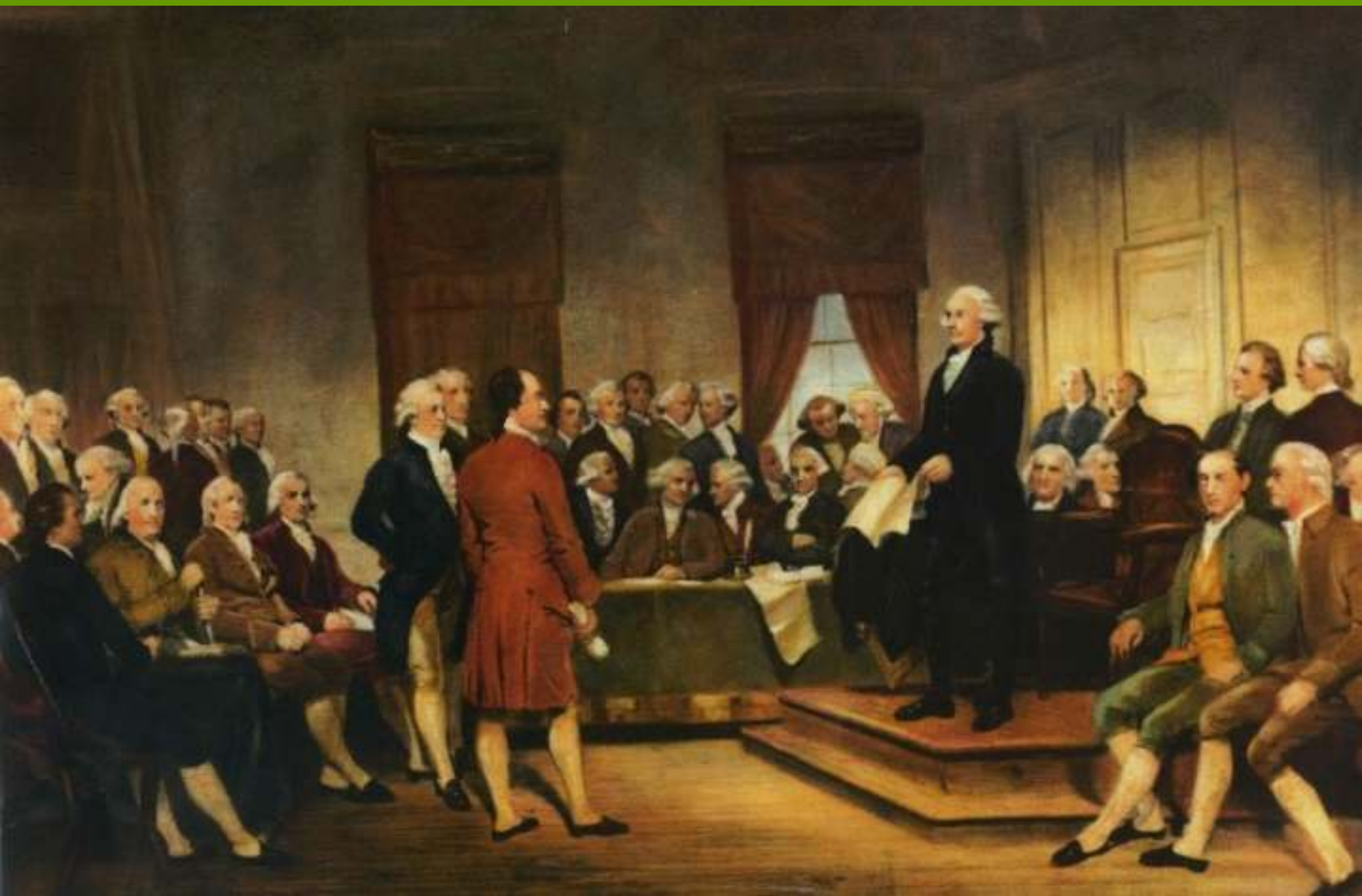
This image of the White House's Truman Balcony is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Judicial



This image of the west front of the United States Supreme Court was taken by Robert Housch facing east on July 2, 2009.

The Constitution



This image is titled: *Washington as Statesman at the Constitutional Convention*. This image was painted in 1856 by Junius Brutus Stearns (1810-1885). It is courtesy of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

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55 delegates from 12 states (not Rhode Island) met in the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall) during the summer of 1787.



The Philadelphia State House (Independence Hall) was constructed from 1732-1756. This image by Robert Housch was taken facing southwest at approximately 9:30 AM on Thursday, July 30, 2009.

The document that they created has outlived every other constitution in the world, clearly standing the test of time.



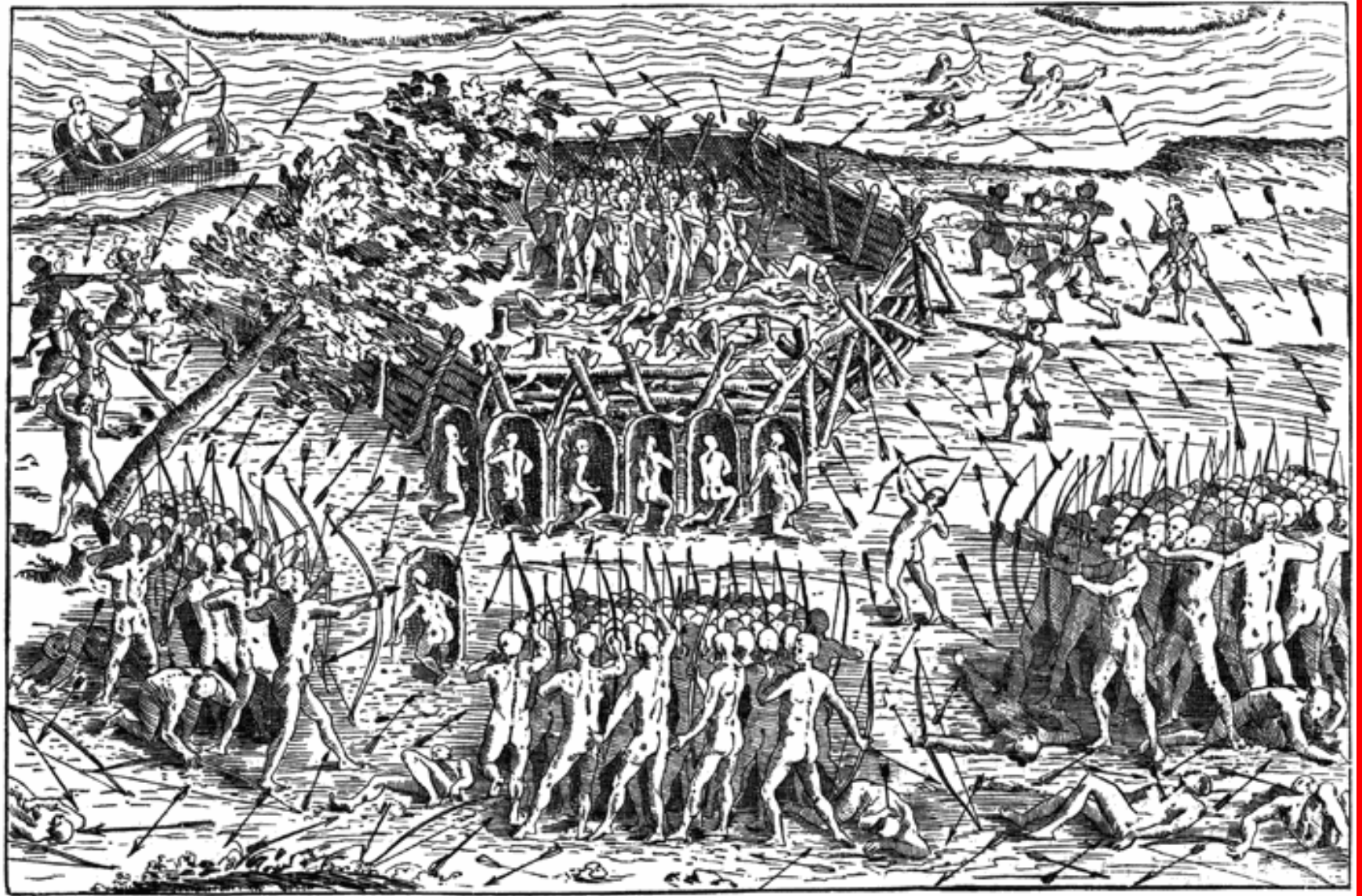
This image titled *Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States* depicts George Washington standing on the right and Ben Franklin seated in the center. This image by Howard Chandler Christy (1873-1952) was created in 1940 and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

As the delegates began to write the new Constitution, they drew from a variety of sources.



The delegates met in the Assembly Room where the Declaration of Independence had been adopted in 1776. This image by Robert Housch was taken facing southeast at approximately 11:30 AM on Thursday, July 30, 2009.

In the Native Americans' Iroquois League, member nations governed their individual affairs but joined together for defense.



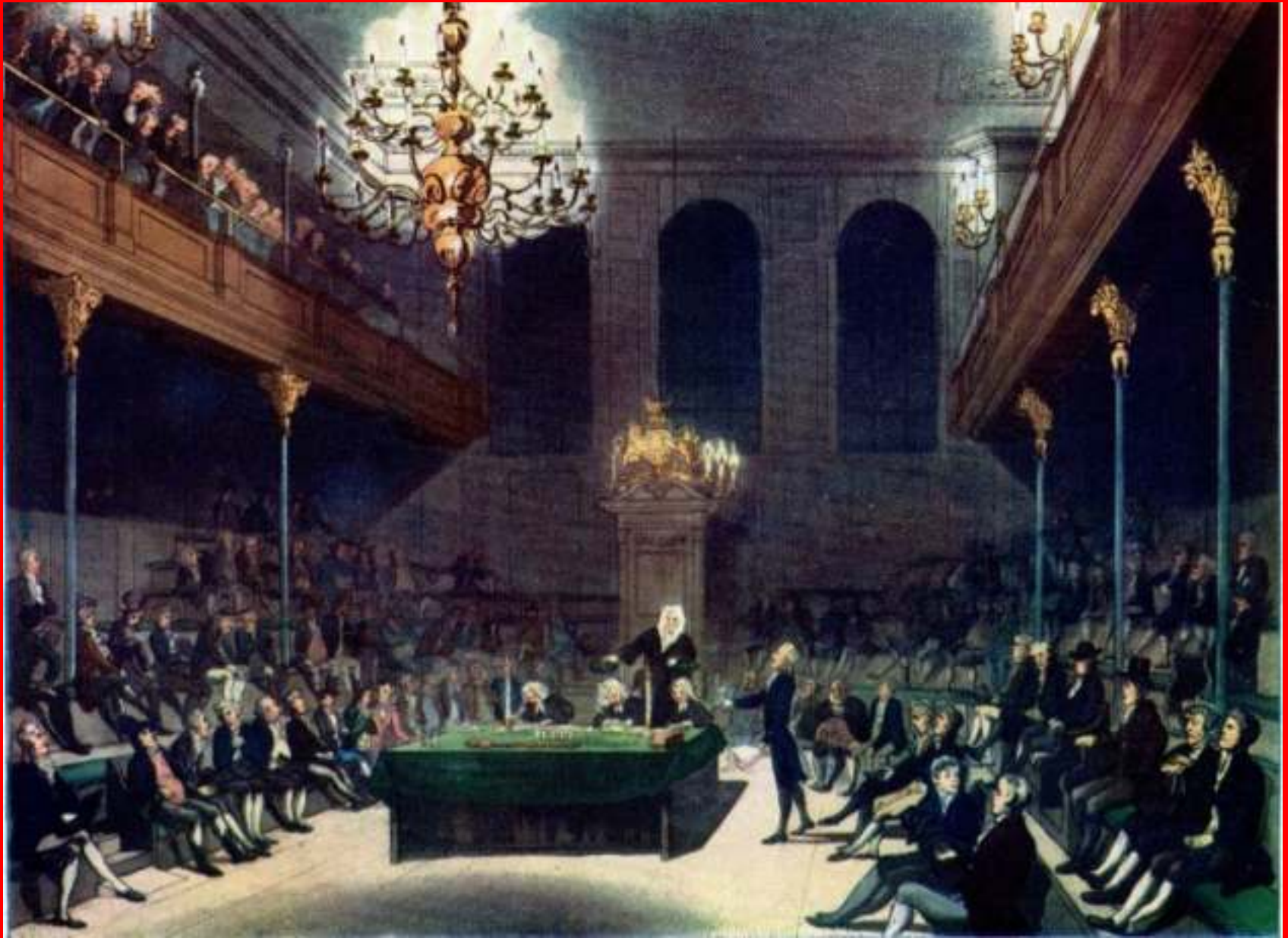
An Attack on an Iroquois Fort. This image is from Benson Lossing's *Harper's Encyclopedia of United States History* published in New York by Harper & Brothers Publishers in 1912.

The idea of limiting the power of a ruler was taken from England's Magna Carta of 1215.



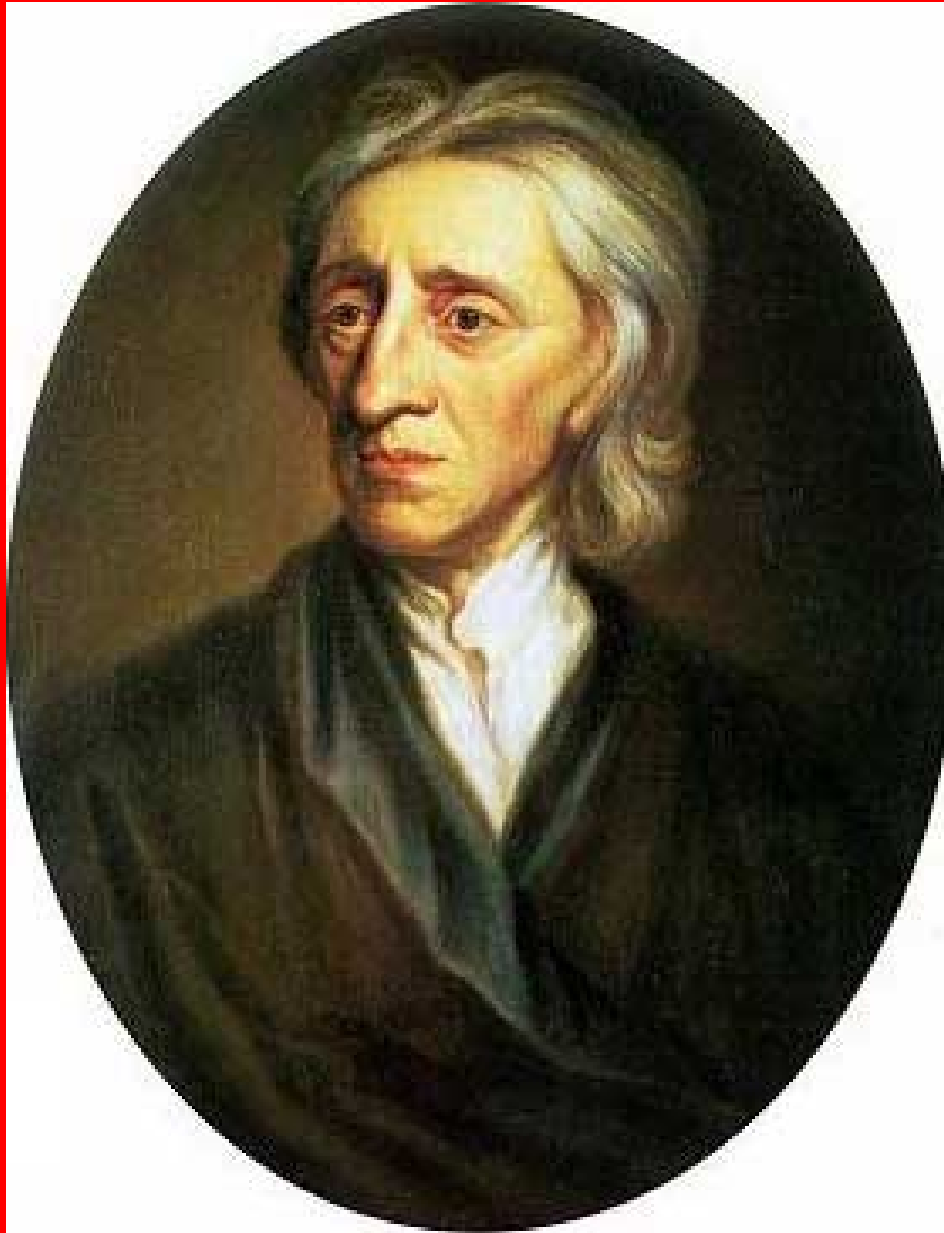
The Magna Carta (originally known as the Charter of Liberties) of 1215 was the first document to limit the power of an English King by his subjects. It was written in iron gall ink on parchment in medieval Latin, using standard abbreviations of the period, authenticated with the Great Seal of King John. The original wax seal was lost over the centuries. This document is held at the British Library and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The idea of representative government also came from England.



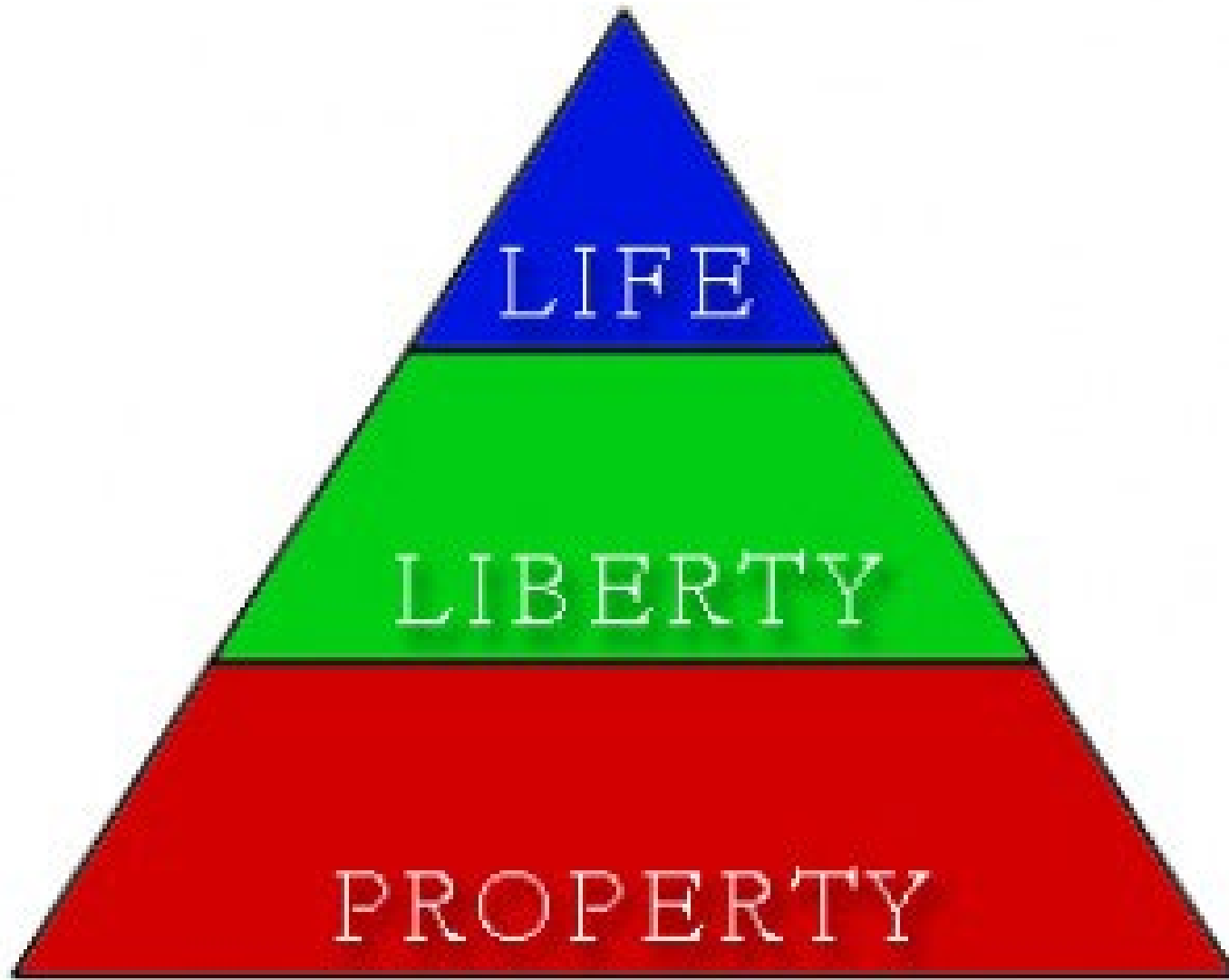
This image of Great Britain's House of Commons was produced for Rudolph Ackermann's the *Microcosm of London* which was produced in three volumes from 1808-1811. This image is courtesy of austenonly.com.

Enlightenment thinkers believed that people could improve society by using reason.



John Locke (1632-1704) was one of the most influential Enlightenment thinkers. This image was painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723) in 1697. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Locke believed all people had natural rights to life, liberty, and property.



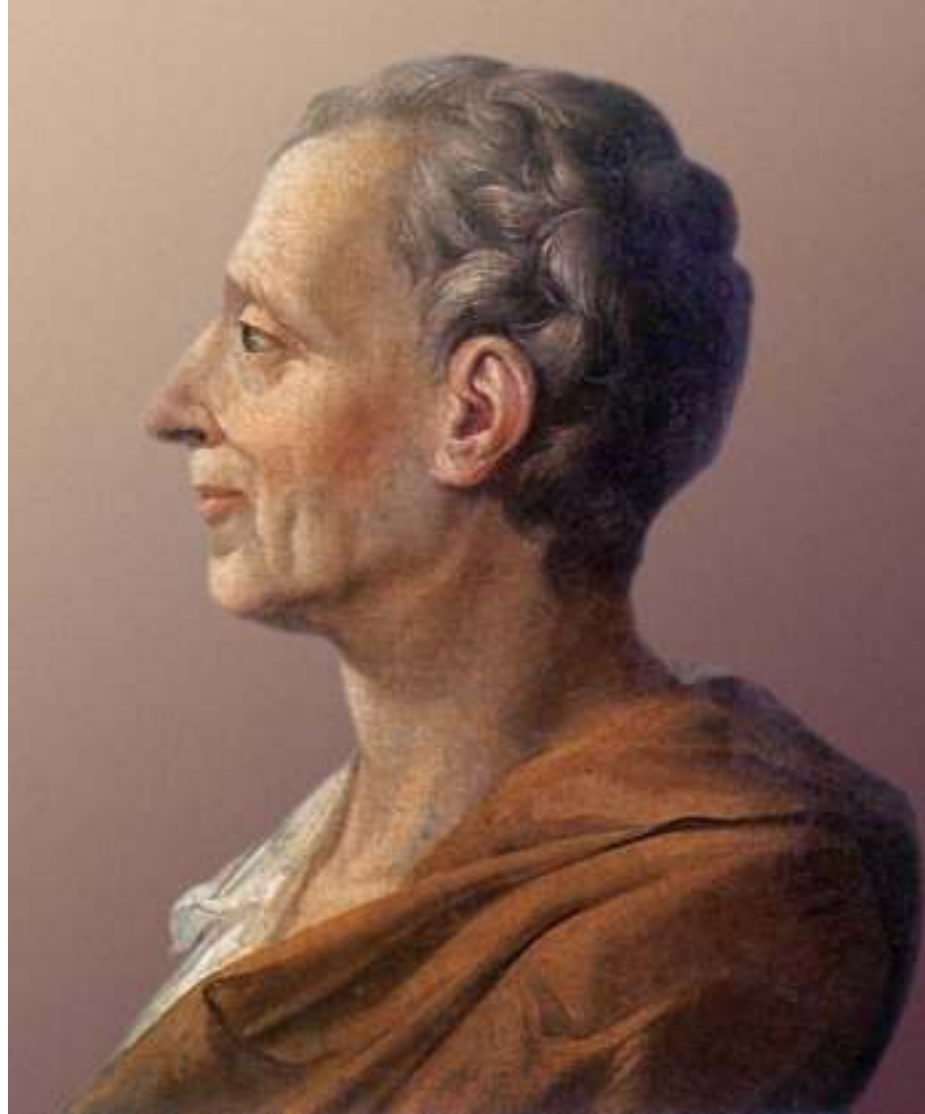
This pyramid shows that life is the most important of these “natural rights.” This image is courtesy of nathankey.com.

Locke also believed that government should function as a contract between ruler and the ruled.



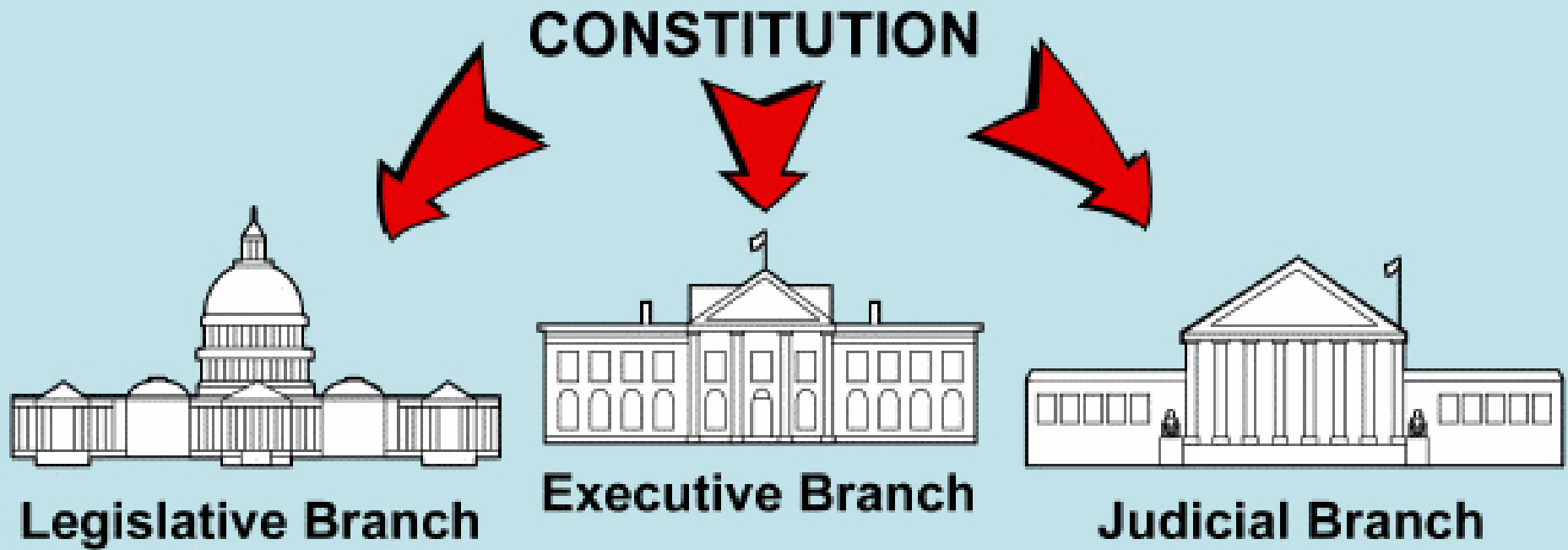
If the government broke that contract, the people had a right to rebel. This image is courtesy of touregypt.net.

The concept of “separation of powers” came from a French enlightenment philosopher, Baron de Montesquieu.



Charles-Louis de Secondat, Baron de La Brede et de Montesquieu (1689-1755) was a French lawyer and philosopher. This painting was created by an unknown artist in 1728. This image is courtesy of the Palace of Versailles and of Wikimedia Commons.

Baron de Montesquieu thought that a government's power should be shared among three branches— legislative, executive, and judicial.



The Constitution of the United States divides power among the three branches of the federal government. The Legislative Branch is the Congress. The Executive Branch is headed by the President. The Judicial Branch is controlled by the Supreme Court. This image is courtesy of alton.k12.mo.us.

The division of power between the national government and state governments is called federalism.



A map of the United States showing the 50 states. Only the District of Columbia is abbreviated. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The powers of the federal government include the power to declare war, to issue money, to regulate trade with other countries and among the states, and to make treaties.



President Woodrow Wilson (center) and American Peace Commissioners at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. At the conference they and other countries would sign the Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I. This image is courtesy of [wikimedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org).

According to the Constitution, powers not specifically given to the federal government nor denied to the states are reserved to the states or the people.



On August 28, 1963, Civil Rights organizers led the “March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.” The speeches were held at the Lincoln Memorial where the camera is positioned. In the background is the Washington Monument and the Reflecting Pool. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Under the Constitution, the state and federal governments share some powers.



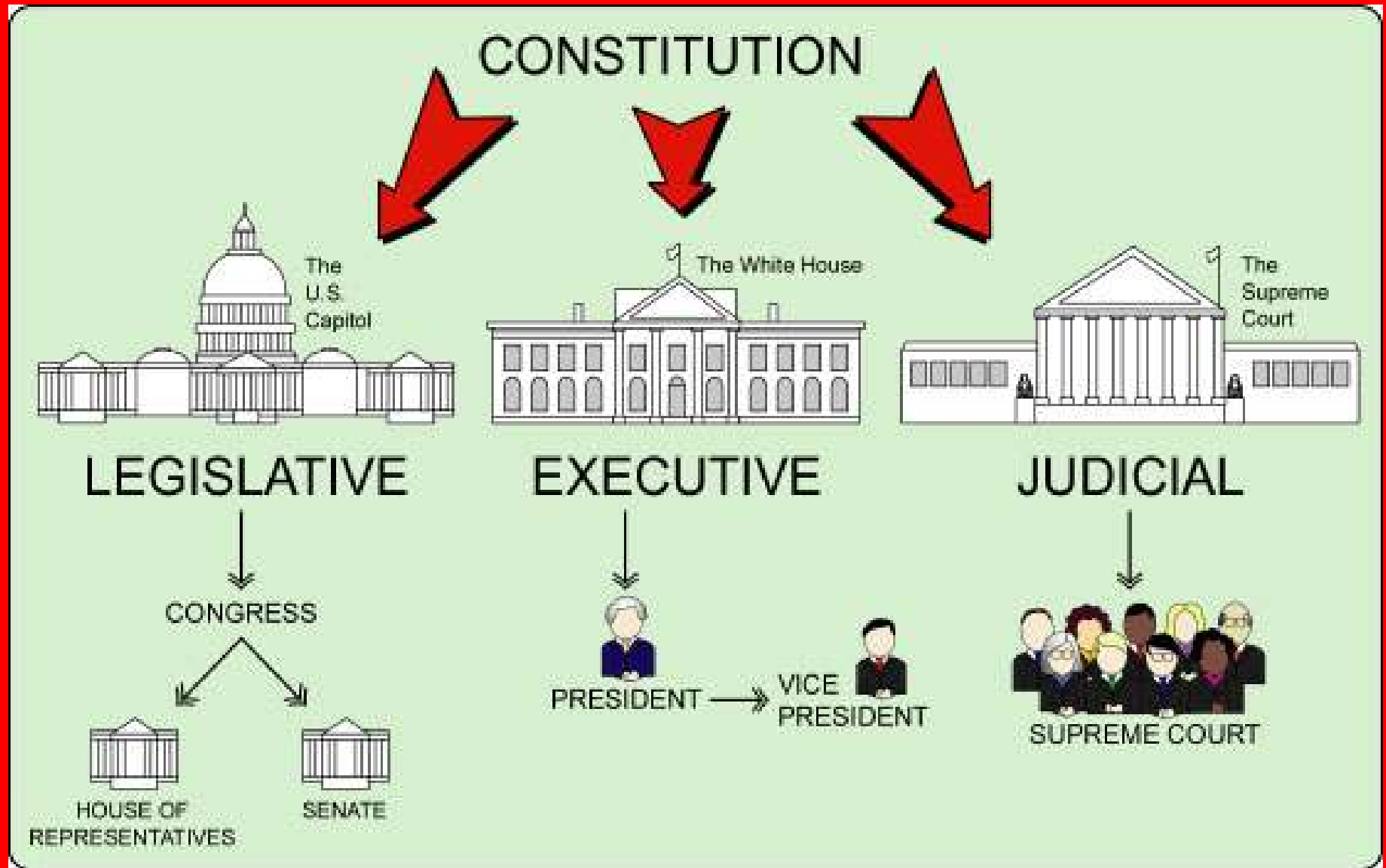
Both the national government and the state governments build roads. This image was taken at the junction of the Mummasburg Road (right to left) and Howard Avenue at Gettysburg National Military Park. This view by Robert Housch was taken facing east at approximately 4:30 PM on Tuesday, May 12, 2009.

The national government has more power than the state governments.



This is the east front of the United States Capitol. The Senate meets in the wing on the right (north wing). This image by Robert Housch was taken at approximately 2:15 PM on July 2, 2009.

The founding fathers did not believe a single body should make the laws, enforce the laws, and interpret the laws.



The Founding Fathers believed that there should be a separation of powers within the federal government. This image is courtesy of constitutionalfights.blogspot.com.

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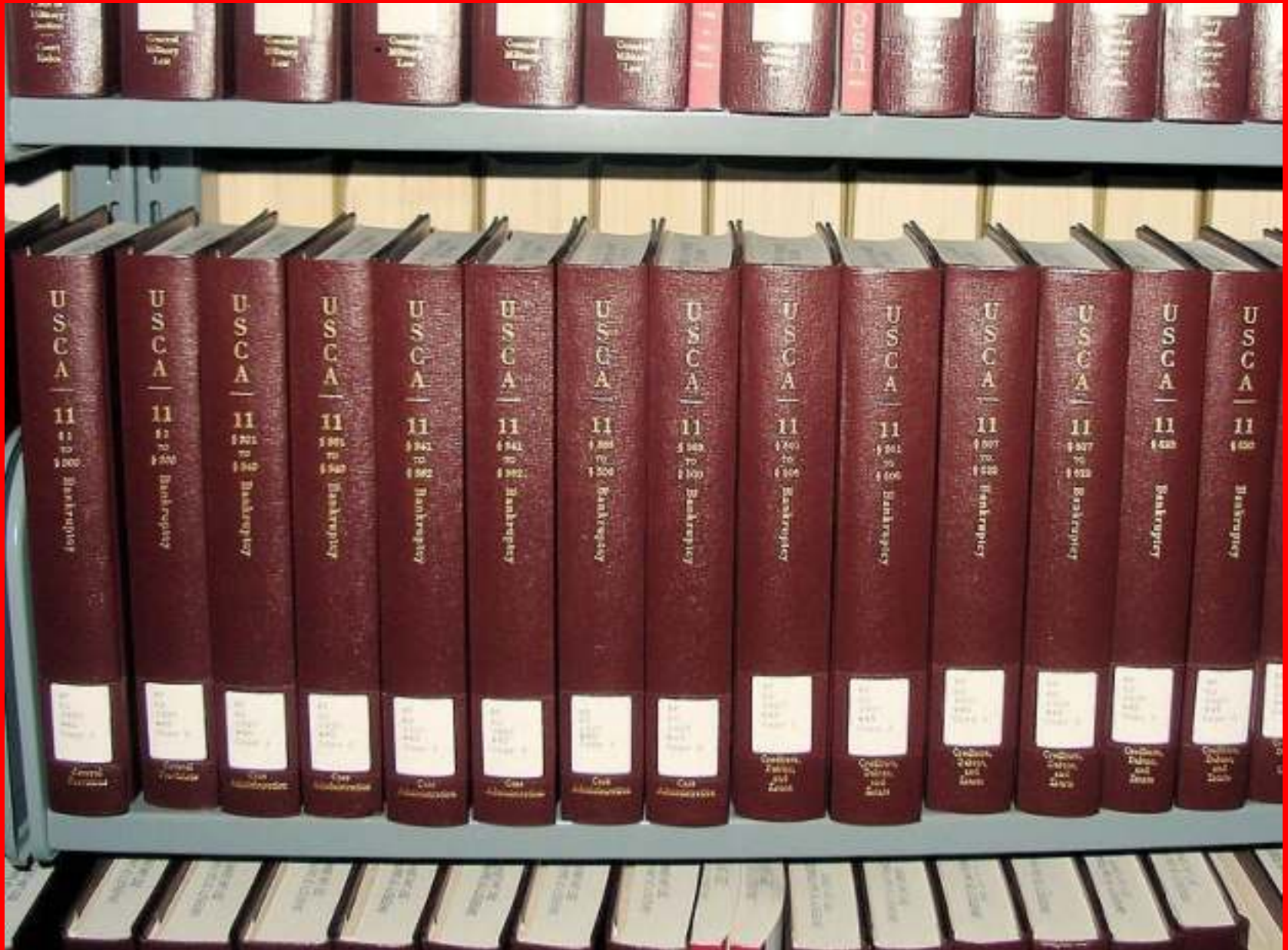
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The main responsibility of the legislative branch is to make laws.



This photograph shows part of Title 11 of the United States Code (the Bankruptcy Code) on a shelf at a law library in San Francisco. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Members of the House of Representatives, frequently called Congressmen, are elected to two year terms.



This photograph shows the House of Representatives Chamber in the United States Capitol. As the Congressmen face the speaker, the Republicans sit on the left and the Democrats sit on the right. President Barak Obama is speaking to a joint session of Congress on health care reform. This image was taken on September 9, 2009 and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

There are 435 voting Congressmen in the United States.

CONGRESSIONAL SEATS

2010
OFFICIAL RESULTS



The number of representatives for each state is based on that state's population. The population of the United States is gradually growing in the western and southern states. This image is courtesy of the United States Census Bureau.

Your congressman is Lloyd Schmucker (R) from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



Lloyd Schmucker (1964-) is the representative (congressman) for Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

You live in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District which includes Lancaster and York counties.



This map shows Pennsylvania's 18 Congressional Districts. Each Congressional District in the United States has an average population of 710,767 people. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Each state has two senators who serve six-year terms.



This is a class photograph of the 111th United States Senate in the Senate Chamber in the United States Capitol. As the Senators face the speaker, the Republicans sit on the left, and the Democrats sit on the right. This image was taken in 2010 and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Your two United States Senators are Bob Casey Jr. (D) and John Fetterman (D).



Bob Casey Jr. (1960-) (left) is from Scranton, Pennsylvania. John Fetterman (1969-) (right) is from Braddock, Pennsylvania. These images are courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Constitution calls for an executive branch to carry out the laws passed by the legislative branch.



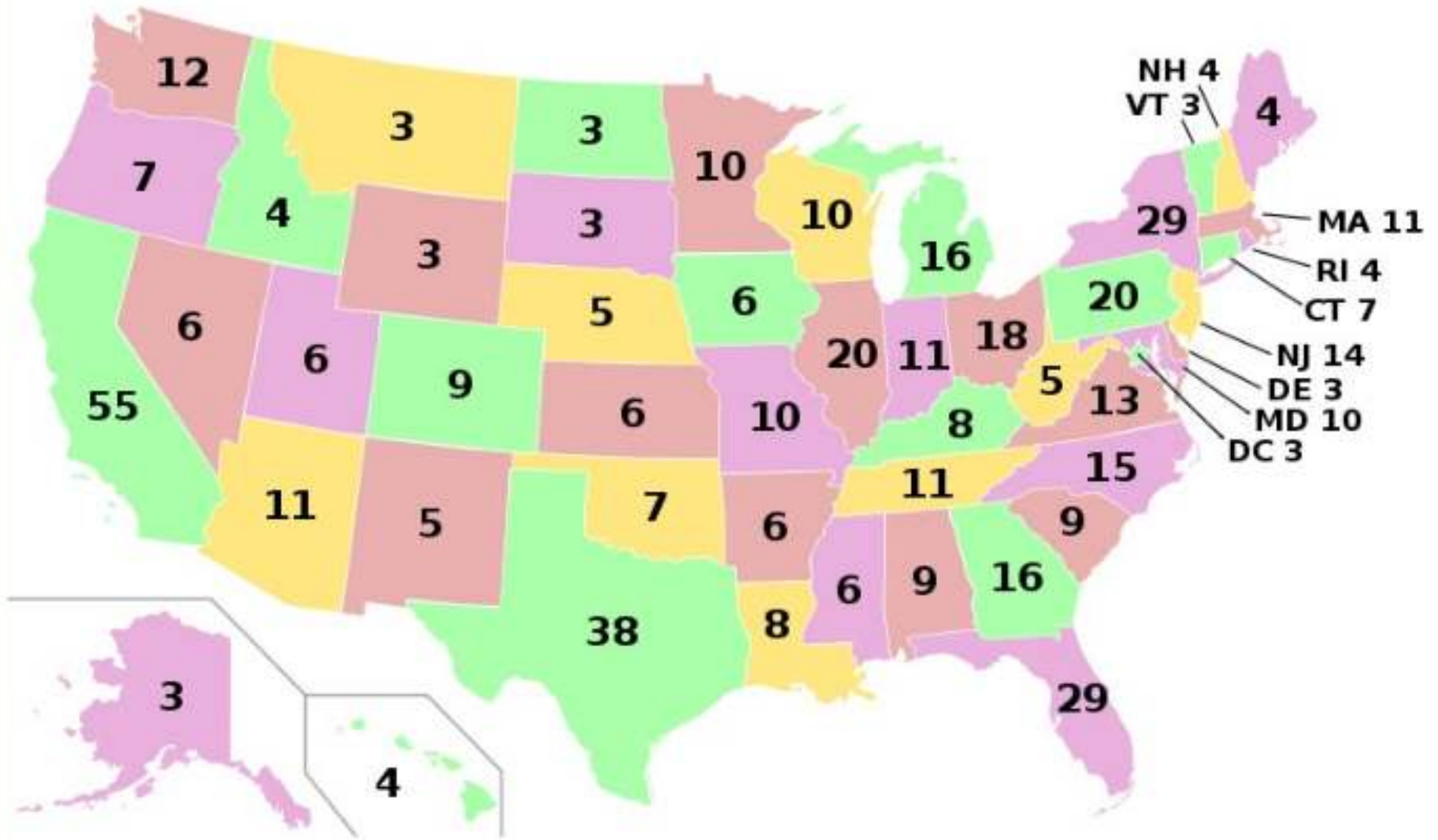
The President of the United States is the head of the Executive Branch. The President lives at the White House where the helicopter Marine One prepares to land on the South Lawn. This image taken on July 1, 1987 is courtesy of the Department of Defense and Wikimedia Commons.

The Judicial Branch includes the Supreme Court, which is the highest court in the land.



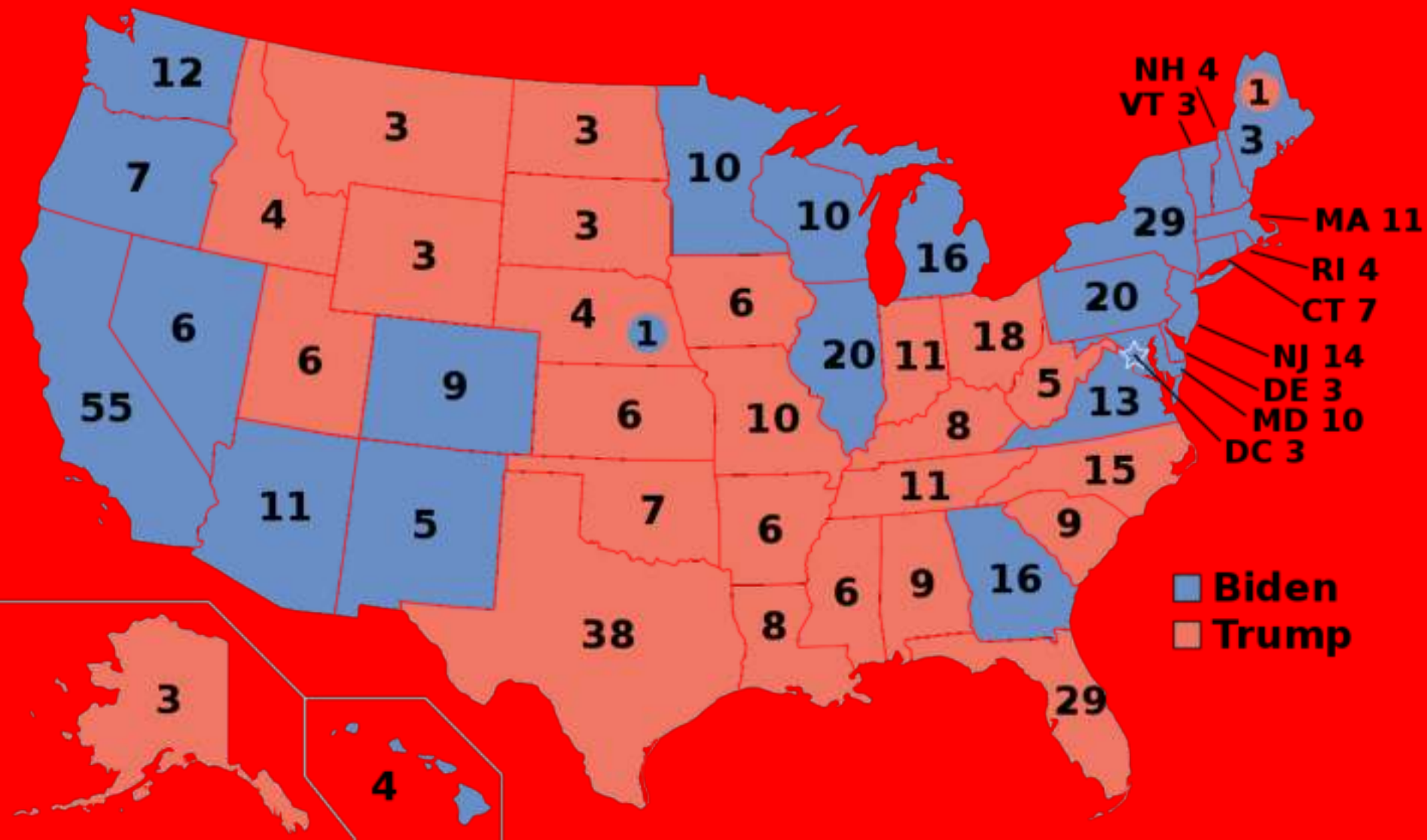
This is the front entrance (1st Street Entrance) to the Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, D.C. This image was taken facing east at approximately 3:00 PM by Robert Housch on July 2, 2009.

Instead of allowing the people to elect the President directly, the writers of the Constitution developed the idea of an Electoral College.

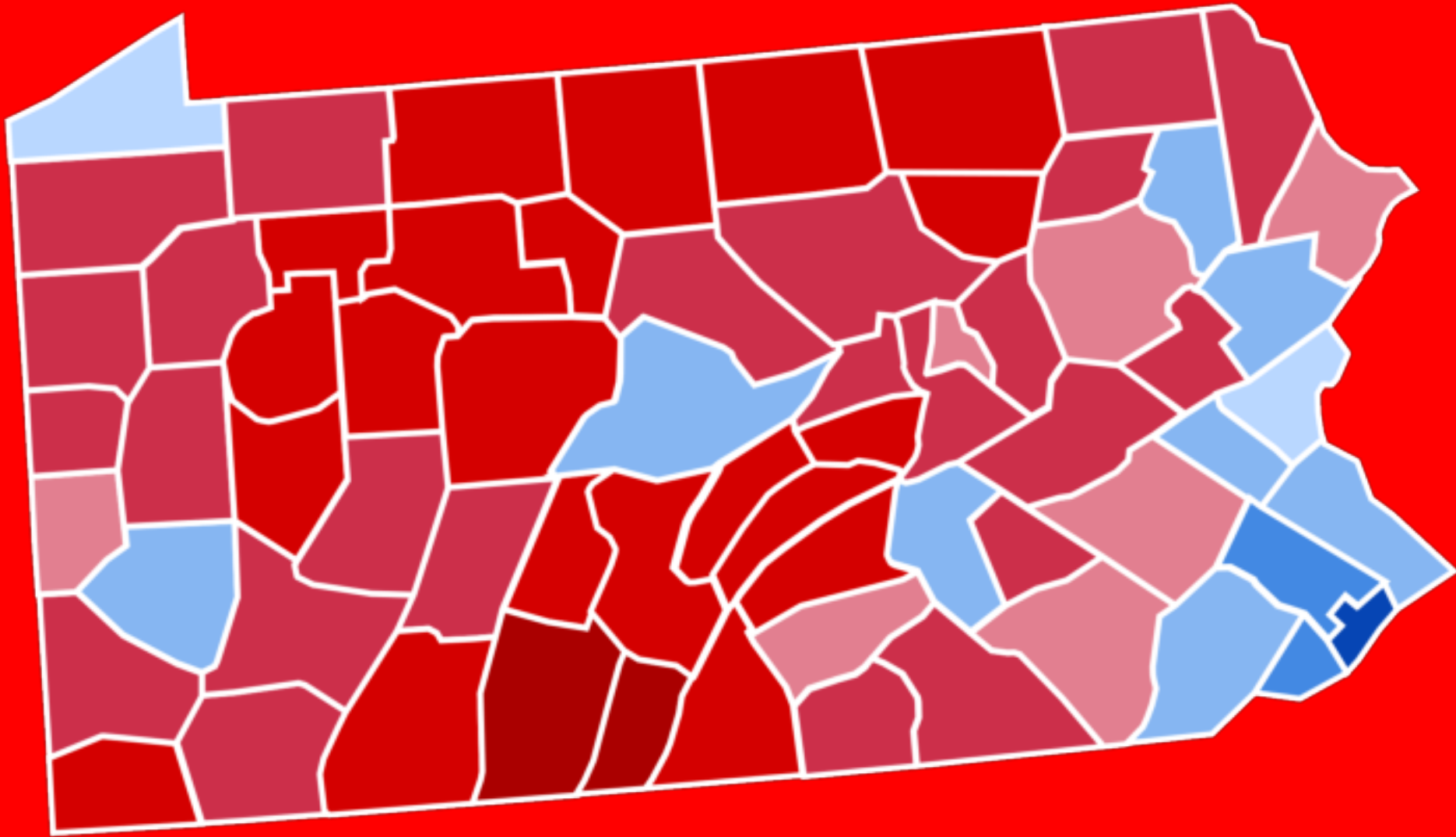


This image shows an Electoral College map for the 2012, 2016, and 2020 Presidential elections. 270 electoral votes are needed to win the election. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Results from the 2020 Presidential Election:



Results from the 2020 Presidential Election:

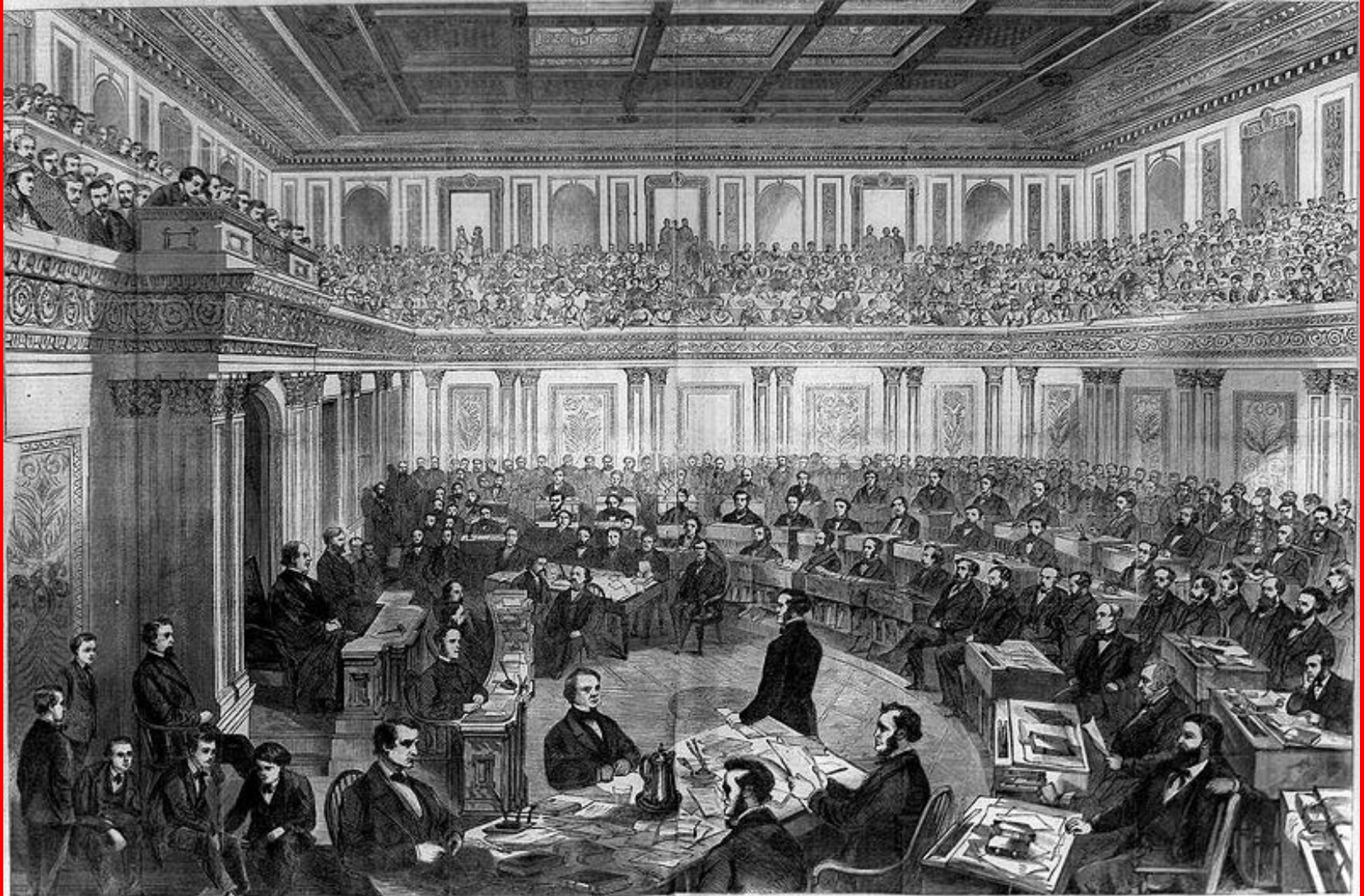


The writers built safeguards into the Constitution to keep each branch from assuming too much authority.



This photograph shows the United States Capitol dome as seen from the United States Supreme Court building. This image is courtesy of Wikipedia Commons.

An impeachment charge may lead to the removal of the President or a federal judge from office.



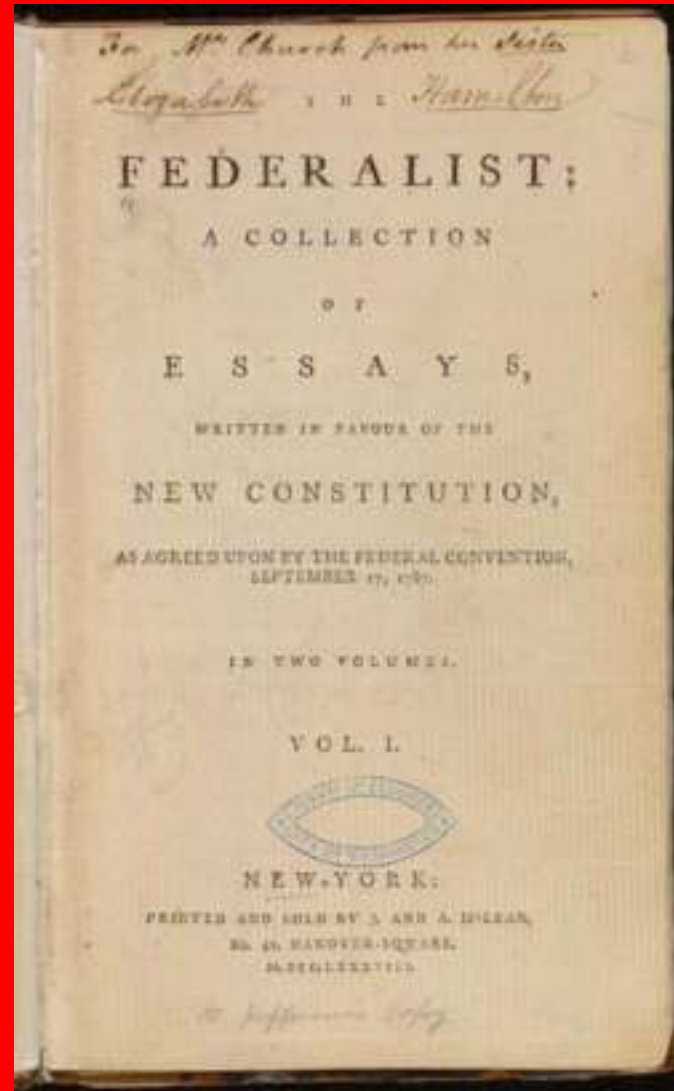
This drawing shows the 1868 impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson in the Senate Chamber in the United States Capitol. The Senate is acting as a Court of Impeachment. This image was created by Theodore R. Davis (1840-1894) for *Harper's Weekly* magazine's April 11, 1868 edition. It is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Federalists favored the Constitution and the strong national government that it created.



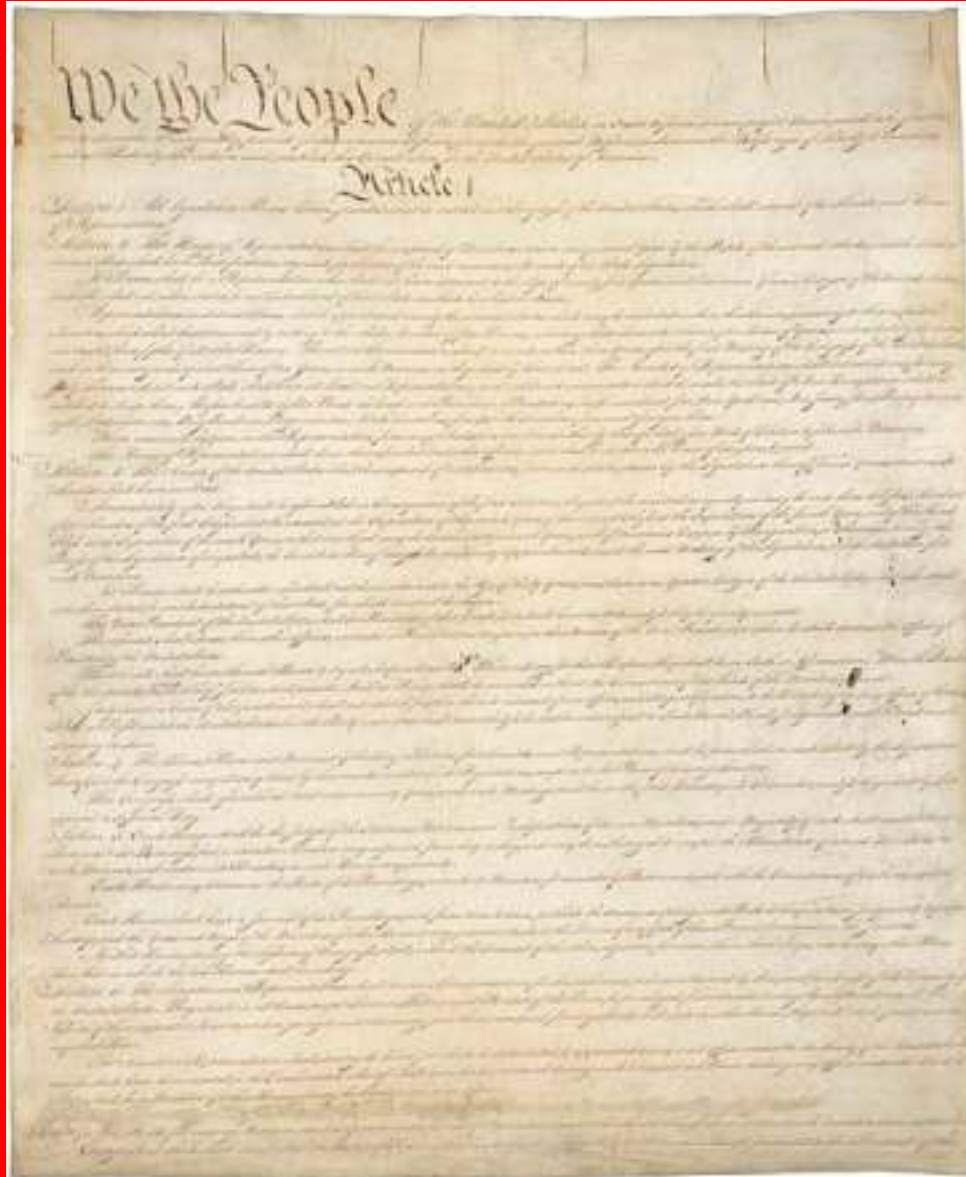
They wanted to make sure that each state approved or ratified this new Constitution so that it could become the law of the land. The most influential Federalists included from left to right: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay. This image is courtesy of americanilliterati.blogspot.com.

Using pen names, the Federalists wrote a series of essays, called *The Federalist Papers*, defending the Constitution.



The title page of the first printing of the Federalist Papers in 1788. The essays, which were part of the collection of the Federalist Papers, were authored by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Federalists promised that if the states ratified the Constitution, amendments, or additions and changes, would be made to provide a bill of rights to protect the people.



There are currently 27 amendments to the United States Constitution. This image is courtesy of Wikipedia Commons.

Ratification of the Constitution was to be decided by special conventions to be called in each state.



This is the first drawing in a series of cartoons depicting the ratification progress among the States that appeared in the *Massachusetts Centinel*, beginning on January 16, 1788. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

New Hampshire ratified the Constitution in June 1788—the ninth state to do so.

The Ninth PILLAR erected !

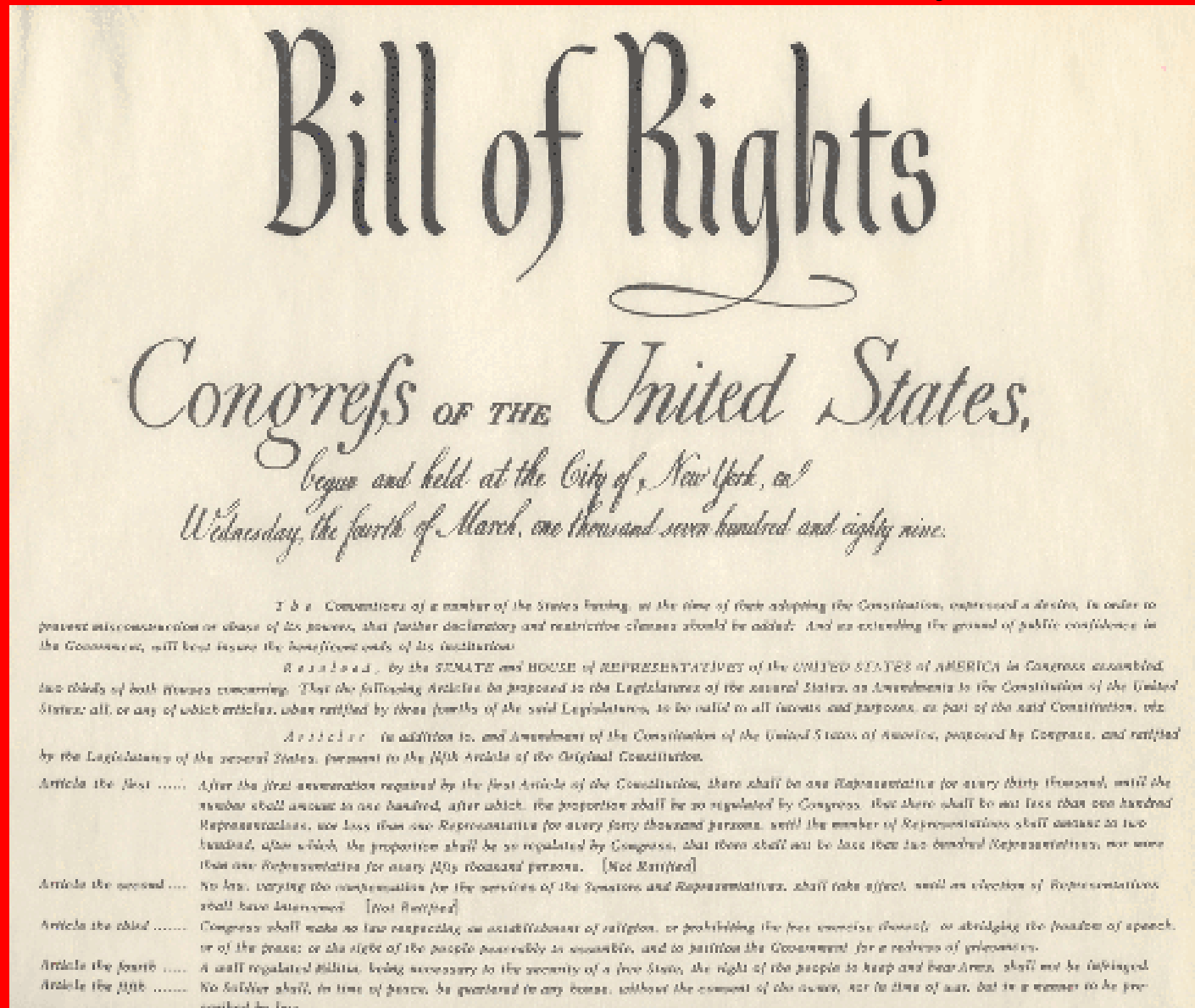
“The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution, between the States so ratifying the same.” *Art. vii.*

INCIPIENT MAGNI PROCEDERE MENSES.



The Constitution now became law. The cartoon from the *Massachusetts Centinel* showing that New Hampshire was the ninth state (ninth pillar) to ratify the United States Constitution. This image is courtesy of teachingamericanhistory.org.

As promised by the federalists, ten amendments were added to the Constitution. We know the first ten amendments today as the Bill of Rights.



The Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution. This image is courtesy of arb.ca.gov.

Rhode Island became the last of the original 13 states to ratify the Constitution, in 1790.



The Great Seal of the State of Rhode Island was first adopted in 1644. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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