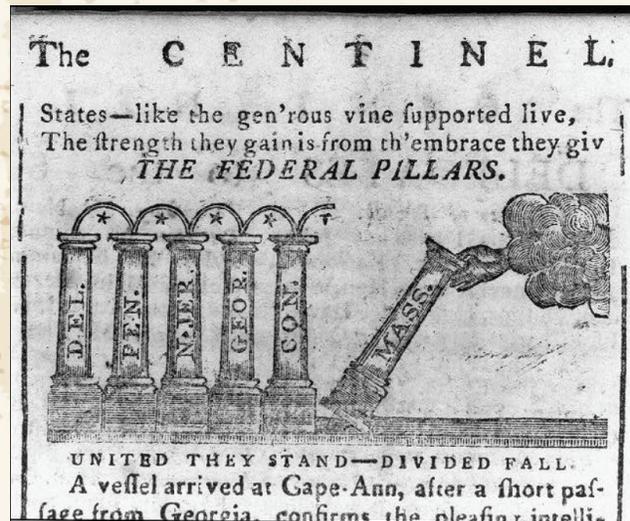


THE CONSTITUTION

“STATES ARE RISING”

On the 17th of September in 1787. Oh, what a day to celebrate. A day with great significance and yet lost to many. After 4 months of debating during a hot Philadelphia summer, the delegates have reached consensus. They now have the arduous task of returning back to their State legislative bodies to educate and discuss the merits of this new Contract, between the States. If approved by each of the States they will give birth to a new Federal Government that will be holden to “We The People” and the States that have authorized its creation. Included within this contract or Compact, is direction on how they will govern the affairs of state and ensure the rights and freedoms that the Patriots believed they had fought for and won. Key elements include:¹

1. Clear recognition that “We The People” have united to grant to our governmental system limited authority. **“We the People” are the source of government power**, recognizing that Natural Law entitles “The People” to such a clear understanding.
2. **This government is to be a republic**, emphasizing that “The People” are to participate in government and to be active in performing their civic duty.
3. **This government is to be limited**, with clear limitations placed on any Federal Powers as granted and approved by the States. All other powers are retained by “The People”.
4. There is to be a **separation of powers**, between the Legislative, executive and judicial branches of government.
5. There is to a system of **Checks and Balances** between each branch of government, ensuring a balance of power.
6. The **concept of Federalism, then ensures** that while there is a centralized government, we are not to forget that government is best served as it is localized to the individual needs of “We the People”, with **the States being in control**.



However, the story was not complete, now the delegates needed to return to their States to Ratify what had been signed. The imagery of the Federal Pillars **“United they stand-divided fall”**, published in The Massachusetts Centinel, 1788, Jan 16, provides a good representation of what was ahead if the States did not reach needed ratification by at least 9 of the States.²

Early on, the States recognized their supreme role in managing the affairs of this country, for no rights can be granted, without the agreement of 2/3 of the States.

¹<https://www.archives.gov/legislative/resources/education/constitution>. Also 2:30 video by the National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2010/nr10-145.html>

²<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004676796>