

How We Choose Our Leaders – Additional Notes

- Three Branches
 - Founding Fathers did not want an abuse of power like King George III (tyrant)
 - At first, the US created the Articles of Confederation (AOC); had only one branch (Legislative Branch); epic failure – federal government too weak to control the states
 - Constitution replaced the AOC; created three branches of government with a system of checks and balances to prevent an abuse of power

- Constitution – The Election Process of the Executive Branch
Determined by the Electoral College; Electoral College = 2 senators and the number representatives the state has in the HOR
 - Great Compromise – House of Rep. based on population (favors the more populated states), Senate based on each state having two representatives (helps the smaller populated states)
 - 3/5 Compromise – enslaved population added to a state's overall population (helps the South)
 - Slave Trade – Importation of slaves into the US will end in 1808 (favors the North)

- Judicial Branch – Federal government
 - Court's role is to "judge" or interpret the law
 - Higher court = Supreme Court
 - 9 members
 - Appointed by the President
 - Approved/Confirmed by the Senate
 - Appointed for life; can be removed by impeachment
 - Hears only cases dealing with the Constitution – this is called judicial review