

Let us now go back to the Constitution

The following are key definition that one must consider when examining the Constitution

#### Unitary Government

A form of Government in which all of the powers of the government are held by a single agency.

Danger develops when the land area becomes too big in which the governing becomes difficult.

#### Federal Government

A form of government in which powers are shared between a central authority and regional authority.

Example the U.S. – Federalism sharing power between the national and state government

#### Confederation

A form of government in which a weak central government has limited powers over strong state government.

Examples:

Article of Confederation – of the First Continental Congress  
The Confederate State of America during the Civil War

Both failed in the U.S.

#### Parliamentary Government v Presidential Government

Parliamentary- Where the leader (prime minister) is chosen and is responsible to the legislature. There is no separation of power between the executive and legislative branches (ex England)

Presidential- President and legislative branches are separate and function independently (ex USA)

#### Philosophy inspired by Locke

Natural Rights

People have equality (opportunity or results?) / Life, Liberty, Property (pursuit of Happiness)

Consent of the Government

The idea of a social contract—that can be broken if the government does not fulfill their part of the deal.

Bicameral:

Having or consisting of two chambers or houses. The House of Representatives and the Senate.

Unicameral:

Having one chamber of house



**THE VIRGINIA PLAN vs. THE NEW JERSEY PLAN**

The Virginia delegates acted boldly within days of the opening of the Constitutional Convention. Governor Edmund Randolph proposed a plan of government that would replace the Articles of Confederation. The Virginia Plan was challenged by the small states in the New Jersey Plan, proposed by Attorney General William Paterson of New Jersey.

<b>THE VIRGINIA PLAN</b>	<b>THE NEW JERSEY PLAN</b>
The legislature should be bicameral, with a lower house elected by the people and an upper house selected by the lower house from nominees submitted by state legislatures.	The legislative branch should be unicameral with representatives selected by state legislatures.
Representation in each house should be based on population and/or money contributed to the national government by the state.	All states should be represented equally in the legislature.
The executive would be chosen by the legislative branch and could serve only one term. Together with the judicial branch, the executive could veto acts of the legislature.	The executive branch would be made up of several persons and would have no veto power over the legislature.
The judicial branch should consist of judges chosen by the legislative branch.	Supreme Court members should be appointed by the executive branch for life.

Connecticut/ Great compromise

Bicameral legislature – the upper house (Senate) equal number.

-- the lower house (House of Representatives) population

Three-fifth compromise

For the purpose of representation and population States were to count 3/5 of their slaves.

Ratification

$\frac{3}{4}$  of the states—at state conventions

Battle between:

Federalist – support the Constitution

Anti-Federalist – Opposed the Constitution w/o a Bill of Rights