

Before the Constitution	Creating the Constitution	Three Parts of the Constitution	Principles of the Constitution
<p>The nation's first constitution, the Articles of Confederation, created a central government that was too weak to run the country after the American Revolution.</p>	<p>Many men who had been colonial leaders met at the 1787 Constitutional Convention to work out compromises and write what became the U.S. Constitution.</p>	<p>The Constitution has a Preamble stating the goals of the government, seven articles giving details about how the government will be set up, and 27 amendments describing changes and additions that have been made, including the Bill of Rights.</p>	<p>The five key principles of our government set out in the Constitution are popular sovereignty, limited government and the rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism.</p>