James Madison Case Study Constitutional Convention

- James Madison suggested a **Federal Negative** to give congress the authority to veto any law passed by a state legislature (beginnings of checks and balances).
- Charles Pickney called this “the corner stone of an efficient national Government”.
- People didn’t want to give congress too much power over the states or give the large states too much power over the small states.
- Madison claimed the economic and social strife was due to serious issues with the Articles of Confederation.
- Madison proposed an entirely new constitution.
  - Create a strong federal government (with checks on its power)
  - Including the power to veto state laws
- Parliament taxes before the revolution.
  - “no taxation without representation” awarded virtual representation which was not at all the same.
  - no longer a mutually beneficial relationship between colonists and England.
- During the rev, all of the states made their constitutions based on popular sovereignty, it gave all white males suffrage.
- Created the continental army and put George Washington as Commander-in-Chief and 13 state militias.
- Continental congress didn’t have the power to levy taxes.
  - Issued extensive amounts of paper money called “continentals” backed by future tax dollars instead of gold or silver making them practically worthless.
  - Borrowing too much money.
  - Interest rates rose.
  - Most states didn’t tax and relied on paper money to finance the war effort initially then began to impose very high taxes.
- Wanted the authority of the Continental Congress to be written down in a document.
- Inflation worsened.
- Chances of an alliance with France made the need for the authority of continental congress to be written down even greater.
- Articles of Confederation were finally finished in mid November 1777.
  - States would form a “firm league of friendship with each other”.
  - Had the power to declare war, to enter treaties and alliances, to settle disputes between states, regulate weights and measures, to oversee a national postal system and to borrow.