

After declaring independence, the United States were ruled by the second continental congress under the authority of the Articles of Confederation which came into official force in 1781 after the process of ratification.

The Articles set up an ineffective National government which the states addressed by replacing the Articles with the Constitution in 1789.

The constitution established 3 branches of the National Government (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial) with limited sovereignty over the states.

The purpose of the document was explained in its Preamble

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America