Study Guide – Chapter 5

* Models for American government
  + State constitutions
  + Declaration of Independence - important – states reasons we left Britain and formed a basis for limited government and Bill of Rights
  + Magna Carta
  + John Locke philosophy
  + Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom
* Articles of Confederation
  + Developed by Second Continental Congress
  + First National government of America
  + Created a single branch of government with limited powers
  + Created very weak central government
  + Many weakness and dealt with many challenges
    - Troubles with Britain
    - Trade troubles with Britain and Spain
    - Economic problems – trade between states, inflation, weak economy
* Northwest Territory
  + Land Ordinance of 1785 set up a system of surveying and dividing lands
  + Northwest Ordinance of 1787 established process for bringing in new states and established basic civil rights
* Shays Rebellion
  + Caused by taxes causing farmers to lose their farms
  + Tried to close courts to stop foreclosures
  + Highlighted weakness of the Articles of Confederation and their failure to protect ideals of the American Revolution
* Creating the constitution
  + Compromise over determining representation in the new government
    - Virginia Plan, New Jersey Plan and the Great Compromise
  + Compromise over counting slaves
    - Three-fifths compromise
  + Created a federalist government – federalism – sharing of power between states and the national government
  + Popular sovereignty – Political authority belongs to the people
  + Created three branches of government
    - Legislative makes laws
    - Executive carries out the law
    - Judicial branch interprets laws
    - Checks and balances created to make sure no one branch is too strong
    - Federal government has certain powers like foreign policy, declare war, maintain armed services
    - Shared duties with local governments like courts, taxation
    - Certain powers to the states like education
  + Ratification
    - Passed by delegates September 1787
    - Needed to be approved by states
      * Nine in Constitution, but all states needed to ratify
    - Federalists and Anti-federalists
  + Antifederalists
    - Constitution should not have been written
    - No individual rights guarantees
    - Central government was too strong
  + Federalists
    - Proper balance between state and local governments
    - Federalists Papers
  + Bill of Rights
    - First amendments (ten) to the Constitution
    - Ensured protection of individual rights and liberty
    - Protects ideals of Declaration of Independence
  + Constitution has been flexible to meet changing needs of the nation