

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR TWO KINDS OF LAWMAKERS IN CONGRESS: **SENATORS** AND MEMBERS OF THE **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**.*

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A **BICAMERAL SYSTEM**: TO HAVE TWO **CHAMBERS OF CONGRESS**.

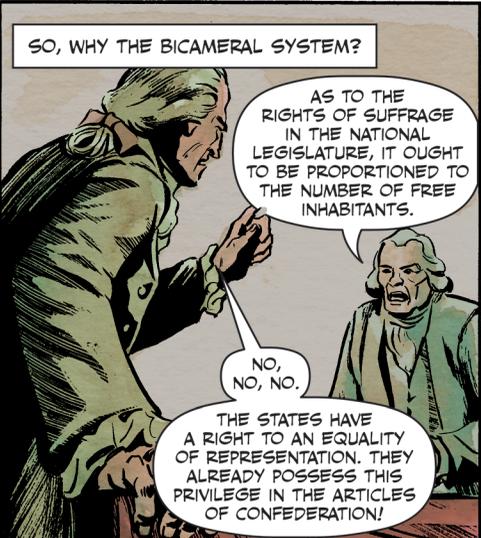
*OFTEN JUST CALLED "**CONGRESSPERSONS**" FOR SHORT.



"BICAMERAL" HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH POLITICAL PARTIES. POLITICAL PARTIES, LIKE REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS, WERE A LATER INVENTION—NOT SET UP BY THE CONSTITUTION.

IN FACT, MANY OF THE FRAMERS DID NOT APPROVE OF POLITICAL PARTIES.

SO, WHY THE BICAMERAL SYSTEM?



AS TO THE RIGHTS OF SUFFRAGE IN THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE, IT OUGHT TO BE PROPORTIONED TO THE NUMBER OF FREE INHABITANTS.

NO, NO, NO.

THE STATES HAVE A RIGHT TO AN EQUALITY OF REPRESENTATION. THEY ALREADY POSSESS THIS PRIVILEGE IN THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION!

IT WAS THE RESULT OF THE **GREAT COMPROMISE**, THE ONLY WAY THE FRAMERS COULD BREAK A DEADLOCK BETWEEN LARGE AND SMALL STATES.

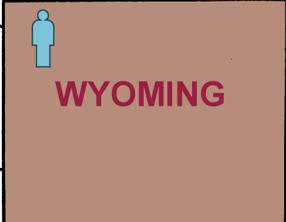
UNDER THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION, THE STATES WERE ALREADY LIKE SEPARATE COUNTRIES. GETTING THEM TO GIVE UP THAT KIND OF INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE A DOGFIGHT!

IT WAS ASSUMED THAT EVERY STATE WOULD SEEK AS MUCH POWER AS IT POSSIBLY COULD UNDER A NEW FEDERAL GOVERNMENT...

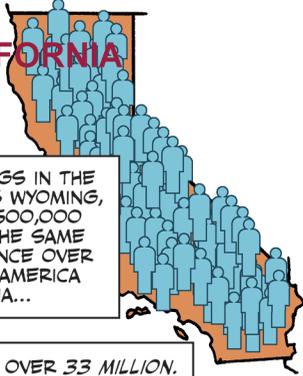
...ESPECIALLY THOSE STATES WITH SMALLER POPULATIONS.

THE SOLUTION: BALANCE POWER SO NO STATE HAD TOO MUCH.

TO BALANCE OUT POWER, EVERY STATE HAS TWO SENATORS.



WYOMING



CALIFORNIA

SO AS FAR AS THINGS IN THE SENATE GO, TODAY'S WYOMING, WITH JUST OVER 500,000 RESIDENTS, HAS THE SAME AMOUNT OF INFLUENCE OVER WHAT HAPPENS IN AMERICA AS CALIFORNIA...

...WITH OVER 33 MILLION.