

The Constitutional Convention and Debates over Ratification

Theme: Politics and Power

Learning Objective 3.I: Explain the differing ideological positions on the structure and function of the federal government.

Constitutional Convention

KC-3.2.II.C.i: Delegates from the states participated in the Constitutional Convention and through negotiation, collaboration, and compromise proposed a constitution.

- Convention called after failure to improve Articles at _____
- 12 of 13 states sent delegates
- Constitution based primarily on Madison's _____ with 3 branches of government
- _____
 - Settled issue of representation with bicameral legislature
- Creation of _____ to maintain importance of states in Presidential elections

Compromises on Slavery

KC-3.2.II.D: The Constitutional Convention compromised over the representation of slave states in Congress and the role of the federal government in regulating both slavery and the slave trade, allowing the prohibition of the international slave trade after 1808.

- Southern states ask for protections
 - _____ - counting method to determine representation
 - _____ in Article IV guaranteed return of runaways across state lines
 - Delay in banning _____

Ratification Debates

KC-3.2.II.E: In the debate over ratifying the Constitution, Anti-Federalists opposing ratification battled with Federalists, whose principles were articulated in the Federalist Papers (primarily written by Alexander Hamilton and James Madison)...

- Anti-Federalist argument
 - Central government was too strong
 - State sovereignty _____ would be infringed
- Federalist argument
 - Central government needed to be stronger to improve economy and defense
 - _____ and separate branches ensured against tyranny
 - _____, written by Madison, Hamilton, and Jay, printed across the states to garner support

Ratification Debates

KC-3.2.II.E: ...Federalists ensured the ratification of the Constitution by promising the addition of a Bill of Rights that enumerated individual rights and explicitly restricted the powers of the federal government.

- _____ added in the first session of Congress, written by James Madison
 - First ten _____ to the Constitution
- Only 9 out of 13 states needed for ratification
- Ratification achieved in June 1788, _____ last to ratify in May 1790

Recap

- Constitution's final draft came out of many compromises
- Southern states won protections on slavery
- Federalists and Anti-Federalists emerged as the two sides in the ratification debate
- Ratification was assured with the promise of a Bill of Rights

Part II

Short Answer

Answer each prompt using at least THREE sentences.

1. Explain the differing ideological positions on the structure and function of the federal government.

Ratification of the US Constitution in New York, 1788

Retrieved from: <http://ap.gilderlehrman.org/resource/ratification-us-constitution-new-york-1788?period=3>

Excerpts

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE US CONSTITUTION TO CONGRESS, PAGE 1.

In Convention, September 17, 1787.

SIR,

WE have now the honor to submit to the consideration of the United States in Congress assembled, that constitution which has appeared to us the most advisable. . . .

It is obviously impracticable in the federal government of these states; to secure all rights of independent sovereignty to each, and yet provide for the interest and safety of all—Individuals entering into society, must give up a share of liberty to preserve the rest. The magnitude of the sacrifice must depend as well on situation & circumstance as on the object to be obtained. It is at all times difficult to draw with precision the line between those rights which must be surrendered, and those which may be reserved; and on the present occasion this difficulty was increased by a difference among the several states as to their situation, extent, habits and particular interests. . . .

That it will meet the full and entire approbation of every state is not perhaps to be expected; but each will doubtless consider, that had her interests been alone consulted, the consequences might have been particularly disagreeable or injurious to others; that it is liable to as few exceptions as could reasonably have been expected, we hope and believe; that it may promote the lasting welfare of that country so dear to us all, and secure her freedom and happiness, is our most ardent wish.

1. What Enlightenment idea is Washington describing in the second paragraph?
2. Why would New York be hesitant to ratify the U.S. Constitution?
3. Provide an Attribution to this document.
4. Provide 2 sentences of analysis from one category of HAPP for this document.