

A close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The flag is draped over a curved surface, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors are vibrant, with the red stripes and white stars standing out against the blue field.

Constitutional Convention & The Great Compromise

Articles of Confederation Need Work!

- What: Constitutional Convention
- Where: Philadelphia, PA
- When: May-September, 1787
- Who: The Founding Fathers – 55 Delegates from 12 states including Washington, Franklin, Madison and Hamilton
- Why: To improve or change the Articles of Confederation

Independence Hall – Philadelphia, PA



Inside Independence Hall



Definition of Compromise

- An agreement reached after both sides give something up in order to get the most of what they really want



How should the national legislature be structured? Virginia Plan

Legislature – law-making body

- Virginia delegates thought states with large populations should have the most power. The larger the population, the more representatives. Larger states preferred the **Virginia Plan**

**More populated states should have greater representation in government*

**Representatives work to make laws*

How should the national legislature be structured? New Jersey Plan

- NJ delegates thought that the legislature should have one house with equal representatives no matter the population. Small states preferred the **New Jersey Plan**

**Each state should have equal representation.*

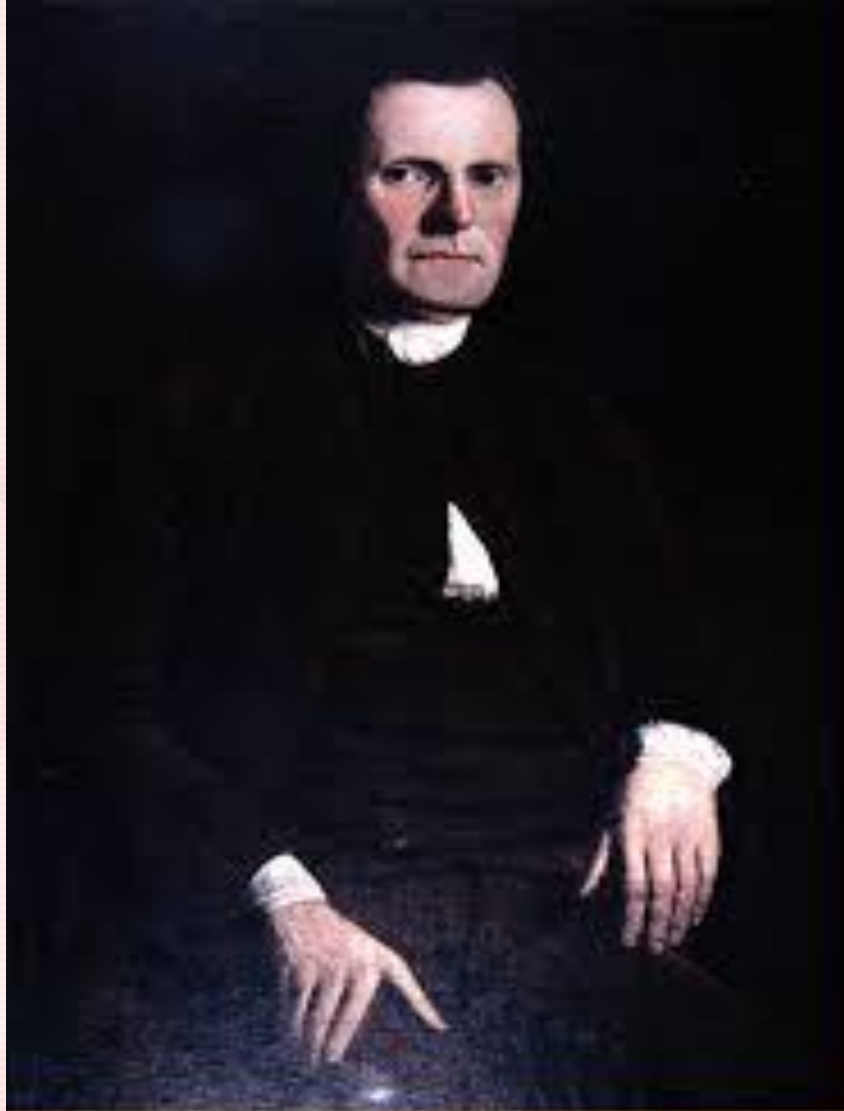
**No state should have more law-making power than another based on population*

THE GREAT COMPROMISE

- Create a TWO House Legislature:
 - The House of Representatives would have representatives based on Population (435 total today)
 - The Senate would have equal representation for all states. Each state will have two Senators (100 total today)
 - Large states had the votes to implement the Virginia Plan, but recognized the importance of honoring small state concerns for the sake of the union and agreed to the Compromise

Roger Sherman (CT)

Architect of The Great Compromise



3/5ths Compromise – Counting Slaves?

- Once population helps determine power, the Big Question between North & South.. Do slaves count as people?
 - South – We want to count our slaves in order to have as many representatives as possible!
 - North – No way – They are not citizens and should not count for representatives but are taxable property!
- *3/5 Compromise: 60% of slaves, or 3/5^{ths} of the slave population will count towards representation and paying direct taxes*
- *Importing of slaves from Africa ends January 1, 1808*

How does this look?

- For Example in South Carolina (9,000,000):
 - 5,000,000 people that are not slaves
 - 4,000,000 people that are slaves
 - $4,000,000 \times 60\% = 2,400,000$
 - South Carolina Population = 7,400,000

Slavery in the Constitution?

- USA would end importation of slaves from Africa in 20 years. This compromise was reached because the Southern states demanded that they needed slavery for their economy.
- Most believed that slavery was a state issue and that the states should decide to keep or abolish slavery.
- There is NO mention of slavery in the Constitution--"free persons" "all other persons"

Branches of Government

- **Legislative Branch** – (Congress) –
Makes the laws.
- **Executive Branch** – (President) –
Enforces the laws.
- **Judicial Branch** – (Federal Courts) –
Interprets or reviews the laws for
constitutionality.

A New Constitution

- Draft was completed in September 1787.
- Only 3 of the 42 delegates refused to sign the Constitution. (It did not include protections of personal freedoms)
- Not a perfect document, but protected the ideas of republicanism.
- James Madison is considered the father of the Constitution.

James Madison (VA) Father of the Constitution

