

Constitutional Convention of 1787 (May – September)

- Each state, except Rhode Island sent a delegation to Philadelphia in 1787
- The 55 delegates became known as the “Founding Fathers”, who represented the “upper class” or privileged Americans. There was no one to represent the interests of the small/middle-sized farmer, which was the majority of the population.
- The farmers were not invited because the elite class of Americans did not trust the lower classes to become involved with the government.
- The convention lasted 4 months because there were several disagreements about key issues such as:
 - A). representation in government
 - B). counting of slaves
 - C). the tariff issue
 - D). who should elect the president?

The delegates represented several “special interest” groups who were determined to “get their way.”

- A). large states vs. small states (political power)
- B). Southerners vs. Northerners
- C). Northern merchants vs. Southern planters (tariffs)
- D). Elitists vs. Moderates (presidential election)

***All of these differences required the use of compromise to complete the task of fixing their government. ***

Why was the Constitutional Convention known as a “bundle of compromises”?

Compromise – when each side gives up something that they want in order to come to an agreement.

Constitutional Convention Compromises to know:

A). Representation in government

New Jersey Plan – favored by small population states – equal voting for all states

Virginia Plan – favored by large population states – voting depends on population

****Compromise = The Connecticut Plan = The Great Compromise = Congress (2 house legislature - Senate and the House of Representatives****

Small population states plan → New Jersey Plan → Senate

+ Large population states plan → Virginia Plan → House of Representatives

Connecticut Plan (The Great Compromise) → United States Congress

B). Three-fifths Compromise - Representation in the House of Representatives:

North – don't count the slaves

South – count the slaves

****Compromise = Three-fifths Compromise = every 5 slaves count as 3 people for purposes of representation in the House of Representatives *** (about 60%)

C). Electoral College – Who should elect the president?

The people or the members of Congress?

Compromise – Create a special group of electors who make up the Electoral College. The people would be allowed to vote for electors in their state. The electors then vote for the candidates from either party. This is considered an **indirect** election of the president by the people. You must win a majority of electoral votes to become president.