

Section 2

The Constitutional Convention

The Constitutional Convention Begins

- **Aims of the Convention**

- -many of the nation's leaders were in
-

- -did not have true authority to
-

- -delegates wanted debates to stay

- super hot- windows and
doors stayed shut

The Constitutional Convention

- **The Delegates**
- -55 delegates from 12 states (none from RI)
- -GW voted _____
- - _____ - oldest- 81
- -most were in their 30s
- - _____ took notes on convention- published after his death- how we know what happened

The Virginia Plan

- **Three Branches of Government**

- -3rd day- _____ (VA) proposed plan for strong central government (mostly written by Madison)
- -3 separate branches:
 - 1. _____ branch- Congress
 - 2. _____ branch- carry out laws
 - 3. _____ branch- system of courts to interpret laws
- -also said _____ appointed by Congress to serve jointly as _____ (thought one person could never be trusted)
 - -debated- three people could not act swiftly in urgent times
 - -delegates votes to have one executive called President

The Virginia Plan

- **A Two House Legislature**
- -VA Plan called for Congress to be made of _____,
a lower and an upper
- -some wanted both houses to be elected by _____
- -Roger Sherman (CT)- people should have as little to do
with it as possible bc they _____
- -James Wilson (PA)- warned about not including the people

The Great Compromise

- **New Jersey Plan**
- -The VA Plan called for Congress representation based on _____ by state
- -in other words, bigger population = _____
- -small states had a beef with that- wanted every state to have same # of votes
- - _____ (NJ)- new plan
- -Congress would have 1 house- equal votes per state
- -Congress had more power- raise money and regulate commerce
- -delegates were divided over this issue- some felt the convention would fail bc no one would agree

The Great Compromise

- **Terms of the Compromise**
- - _____ came up with a compromise
- -7/16/1787- barely passed- know at _____ (or CT Compromise)
- -2 house Congress
- -lower house, House of Representatives- based on _____ - chosen by ppl to serve 2 year terms
- -upper house, Senate- _____ chosen by state legislatures (changed)- 6 year terms

Debates over Slavery

- **Three-Fifths Compromise**
- -Southern states wanted to count _____ to determine representation in Congress
- -Northern states said no bc slaves _____
- -Compromise- each slave counted as _____ (ex: 500 slaves = 300 people)
- -gave the South more seats in the House
- -bad for slavery- made a distinction in the Constitution between “free persons” and “all other persons”

Debates over Slavery

- **The Slave Trade**
- -some delegates wanted to completely ban

- -South protested that it would ruin

- - Compromise- 20 years of slave trade could continue- in 1808 Congress could ban *importing* of slaves

A New Constitution

- -debate continues for weeks
- - _____ was appointed to write the final draft
- -Preamble mostly written by _____
- -shows the states as one- “We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union”
- -last day- Ben Franklin (sick) has a speech read
- -basically said, with all its faults, this Constitution was as good as it was going to get
- -after speech, the Constitution was signed