A compromise is defined as an agreement in which each side is granted some of their demands but must also grant some of the other side's demands .

To explain a compromise, the following must be described:

* the issue,
* who takes positions
  + and what their positions are,
* and finally the agreement that grants some of each sides demands.

At the Constitutional Convention, the delegates disagreed on how best to address three issues.

Below find three charts that will help you organize the key components of these three compromises.

**Notes based on Class Discussion**

**The need to design a legislature gave rise to the Great Compromise.**

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| **The Issue**   * How many votes should each state get in the legislature? | | |
| **Who was on one side**   * States with a larger population * (Large states) | | **Who was on the other side**   * States with a smaller population * (Small states) |
| **What this side's position was**   * The number of votes a state got in the legislature should be based on population. * The more people in the state the more representatives the state should get. | | **What this side's position was**   * Each state should have the same number of votes in the legislature. |
| **The Final Agreement**   * The legislature would have two houses.   + It would be bicameral.   + Every law had to pass both houses! * In the House of Representatives,   + the number of votes was based on population * In the Senate,   + each state would have two seats. | | |
| **What did one side get?**   * States with a large population got   + The House of Representatives –     - The number of votes each state got was based on population. | **What did the other side get?**   * States with a smaller population got   + The Senate –     - Each state would have two seats. | |

If the number of votes a state got in the house was based on population, the South was concerned about whether slaves would count as part of their population.

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| **The Issue**   * Would slaves count as population for deciding how many votes each state gets in the House of Representatives? | |
| **Who was on one side?**   * South | **Who was on the other side?**   * North |
| **What this side's position was**   * Slaves should count when determining how many votes each state got in the House   Because   * 1/3 of its population are slaves * And its population is very low because   + It is rural and thus has a low population density | **What this side's position was**   * Slaves should not count as part of the population when determining how many votes a state got in the House of Representatives * Slaves were not treated as citizens   + For example, they could not vote |
| **The Final Agreement**   * Three-fifths of the total slave population of a state would count as part of the population of the states when determining the number of votes that state got in the House of Representatives.   + Thus 500 enslaved people would count as 300.   + Note – You should not say that a slave would count as 3/5ths of a free man.     - This is offensive, as it implies that the Constitution and thus the nation considered African Americans to be lesser human beings, and it does not accurately represent the mathematics used to figure the part of the slave population that would be included in the overall population of the state. * But those slave would also be counted as population when determining taxes owed by the state. | |
| **What does one side get?**  Side – South   * The South got more representation, as at least 60% of their slave population would count. | **What does the other side get?**  Side – North   * The South stayed in the Union. * The states with slaves would pay a greater amount of taxes based on this additional population. |

Add - Hurts African Americans

* Preserves slavery in the new Constitution
* Makes “free persons” and “all others” separate

This compromise concerning slaves upset some people in the North who believed slavery was wrong. They knew they could not end slavery or the South would not join the new nation, but they wanted to at least put an end to the more people being enslaved.

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| **The Issue**   * Should the slave trade (the importing of captured people from Africa) continue? | |
| **Who is on one side?**   * Some people in the North who believed slavery was wrong | **Who is on the other side?**   * South |
| **This side's position was**   * The importation of captured Africans into the states to be sold as slaves should be banned. | **This side's position was**   * Importing slaves must continue.   + They said that banning the importation of captured Africans into the states would ruin their economy.   + White plantation owners needed the labor of the slaves to make a profit. |
| **The Final Agreement**   * The importing of captured Africans could continue for another 20 years, until 1808.   + At that time, Congress could vote to stop the trade.   + Note – The slave trade INSIDE the United States was NOT affected slaves, so slaves and the children of slaves could still be bought and sold | |
| **What did one side get out of this?**   * Side – Some people in the North   + There at least was a certain end date to the importing of captured African people.   + People who did not like slavery were able to send the message that slavery was wrong. | **What did the other side get out of this?**   * Side – South * Southern states were able to continue to import slaves for 20 years, so they could   + get more labor   + plan for the time when the trade would end |

**Notes based on Book – Ch 7 Sec 2, pp.214-5**

The Great Compromise

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| The Issue  How many votes should each state get in the legislature? | |
| Who is on one side  Large states | Who is on the other side  Smaller states |
| What this side's position is  Should be based on population  The people in the state the more representative the state got | What this side's position is  Wanted each state to have the  same number of votes |
| The final agreement  A Two House Legislature (Add term - Bicameral) – Add – Every law must pass both houses!  Lower house – House of Representatives  based on population  Voted in by people  Two year terms  Upper house – the Senate  Each state would have two seats  Appointed by state legislatures  For six year terms  What does one side get? Side - Large States  Lower house – House of Representatives  based on population  Voted in by people  Two year terms  What does the other side get? Side – Small states  Upper house – the Senate  Each state would have two seats  Appointed by state legislatures  For six year terms | |

The Compromise concerning whether slaves would count as population

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| The Issue  Will slaves count as population for representation in House? | |
| Who is on one side  South | Who is on the other side  North |
| What this side's position is  should count | What this side's position is  since can’t vote, shouldn’t count |
| The final agreement  Three Fifth’s Plan  Three-fifths of the slave population would count  Thus 500 enslaved people would count as 300  What does one side get? Side - South  got more representation  What does the other side get? Side - North  agrees to keep the South in the Union  Add - Hurts African Americans   * Preserves slavery in the new Constitution * Makes “free persons” and “all others” separate | |

The Slave Trade Compromise

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| The Issue  Should the slave trade (the importing of captured people from Africa) continue? | |
| Who is on one side  North | Who is on the other side  South |
| What this side's position is  Some Northern states wanted to ban importation of slaves  ADD – Other Northern states are the ones importing slaves – the merchants | What this side's position is  South said it must continue,   * as stopping it would ruin their economy |
| The final agreement   * Import slaves for another 20 years – until 1808   + At that time, Congress can vote to stop the trade   Add - Slave trade INSIDE the United States NOT affected – can still buy and sell slaves  What does one side get? Side - North   * There at least was a certain end date to the trade * People who did not like slavery were able to send this message   What does the other side get? Side – South   * Were able to continue to import slaves   + Able to get more labor   + Able to plan for the time when the trade would end - | |