Virginia Fitzgerald

Ch. 7 Creating the Constitution

Sec. 2 The Constitutional Convention

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| Heading | Paragraph Main ideas and Details | Additions and Corrections |
| The Constitutional Convention Begins | * The Convention met in ***Philadelphia*** in 1787   + Met in ***secret***   + Goal to ***alter or abolish – to fix the old system or create a new one*** |  |
| Aims of the Convention  Who called for the convention and was the meeting called?  Why was the meeting held in secret? | * Meeting had been called by the Articles government to revise the Articles   + Did not have the authority to form a whole new system   + But many delegates thought revising would not be enough * Voted to keep their debates secret   + Nailed windows shut despite high heat   + Posted guards   + Why – Would be going beyond their power | Going beyond their power – will create new government not revise |
| The Delegates  Who sent delegates?  Name some famous delegates and their roles. | * ***12 states sent delegates***   + ***55***   + ***Rhode Island did not send delegates*** * Who were the delegates   + ***George Washington***, VA - quickly elected ***president*** of convention   + ***Alexander Hamilton***, NY –only 32, economic guru   + ***James Madison***, VA – took extensive notes   + ***Benjamin Franklin,*** *PA* ***–*** respected, trusted leader | ADD – ***Madison called Father on Constitution*** – Had read 100s of books on government and had already planned many of the details, including the compromises before the convention |
| The Virginia Plan  What was the first plan introduced? | * First plan to be offered called the Virginia Plan –   + Presented by Edmund Randolph of Virginia   + Plan was really written by Madison   + Debated this plan for one month | ADD - Madison wants to later offer the Great Compromise |
| **Virginia Plan** Three Branches of Government  What two parts of the Virginia Plan were easily accepted? | * ***Three branches***   + ***Legislative – make the laws***   + ***Executive – carry out the laws***   + ***Judicial – interpret the laws*** * Executive branch   + Necessary to correct weaknesses of Articles   + But one person or a group? * Debate over three or one executives   + Three people – more easily win the people’s confidence – OR One – act quickly when urgent action required   + ***Decided on one person called the President*** |  |
| **Virginia Plan** A Two-House Legislature | * Two houses   + Lower house   + Upper house * **Some** wanted the members of the houses to be ***chosen by state legislature***   + Roger Sherman of Connecticut   + ***People*** should have as little to do with selecting reps because they can be ***misled*** * **Others** warn about keeping people out of process   + James Wilson of Penn.   + ***Election of legislature by the people*** is the cornerstone of the whole government |  |
| ~~The Great Compromise –~~  ***Virginia Plan:***  ***The Problem***  What part of the Virginia was argued over? | * One part of the ***Virginia Plan*** tore convention apart – The plan called for ***both houses of the legislature to be based on population***   + The people in the state the more representative the state got   + ***Large states*** supported this |  |
| New Jersey Plan  What plan challenged the Virginia Plan: name it explain it and state who supported it. | * ***Smaller states*** opposed the idea   + ***Wanted each state to have the same number of votes***   + No change from Articles * Plan proposed   + ***One house***   + ***With equal representation*** * As debate ran – emotions high   + Fear convention will fail   + Fear Union will break |  |
| Terms of the Compromise  Explain how issues at the convention were settled.  Name and explain the compromise the settled the issue of representation in the legislature. | * The Great Compromise * ***Compromise – an agreement in which each side gives up something to get what it wants***  * Proposed by Roger Smith * Brings together large states and small states * ***Two House Legislature*** * ***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*** * Vital step – gets small state support |  |
| Debates over Slavery | * Bitter debate over slavery   + North   + South |  |
| Three-Fifths Compromise  Explain ***the argument that led to*** the Three-Fifths Compromise.  Explain the compromise. | * ***Will slaves count as population for representation in House?***   + ***South – should count***   + ***North – since can’t vote, shouldn’t count*** * Three Fifth’s Plan   + ***Three-fifths of the slave population would count***   + ***Thus 500 enslaved people would count as 300***   + South - got more representation   + North - agrees to keep the South in the Union * ***Hurts African Americans***   + ***Preserves slavery in the new Constitution***   + ***Makes “free persons” and “all others” separate*** | ADD – Remember  ***The population of whites in the south is low***   * ***Large plantations*** * ***No big cities*** * ***1/3 of population is slave*** * ***No power in Senate - only 5 of 13 states are Southern*** |
| Slave Trade  Explain ***the argument that led to*** the Slave Trade Compromise.  Explain the compromise. | * Some Northern states want to ***ban importation of slaves***   + South says it will ruin their economy   + ADD – Other Northern states are the ones importing slaves – the merchants * Compromise   + ***Import slaves for another 20 years – until 1808***   + Slave trade INSIDE the United States NOT affected | ADD – Need more workers as number of plantations growing  ADD – Congress can tax the slaves when imported |
| A New Constitution | * Once agree on terms – A Committee of Style is created to write it   + Gouverneur Morris writes the beautiful Preamble * Preamble highlights difference with Articles   + ***We the People*** – means authority is from the people ***not the states***   + ***A more perfect union*** – means better than Articles * Franklin’s advice needed to encourage others to sign   + Had to remain seated as very ill and let another deliver his speech   + Admits faults but accepts it |  |