

Passage of the Constitution

Framers of the Constitution



Framers of the Constitution

- bankers, lawyers, merchants
- no Farmers or commoners
- multiple slave-owners
- Four Important
 - George Washington
 - Ben Franklin
 - James Madison
 - Alexander Hamilton

Who Wasn't There

- Rhode Island
- Thomas Jefferson
- Sam Adams
- John Hancock
- Patrick Henry
- a large # of delegates-
 - took two weeks to get a quorum (weather)
 - 19 of 74 invited never showed
 - no more than 30 stayed the entire four months
 - only 39 ended up signing it...

Where/When did the Convention Take Place?

- May 25-Sept 17, 1787- Philadelphia
- Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall)



Two Plans for the Constitution

Virginia Plan

- James Madison
- Bicameral
 - two house legislature
- Representation based on population
- Supported by Larger states

New Jersey Plan

- William Paterson
- one-house legislature
 - unicameral
- equal representation in Congress
- supported by smaller states
 - would give them power in a large government

Constitution Compromises

Connecticut/Great Compromise

- Issue- Congressional Representation
- proposed by Roger Sherman
- bicameral legislature
- one house (Senate)- Equal Rep
- one house (HOR)- based on Population

$\frac{3}{5}$ Compromise

- Issue- How Will slaves count towards a state's population

Federalists vs Anti-Federalists

Federalists

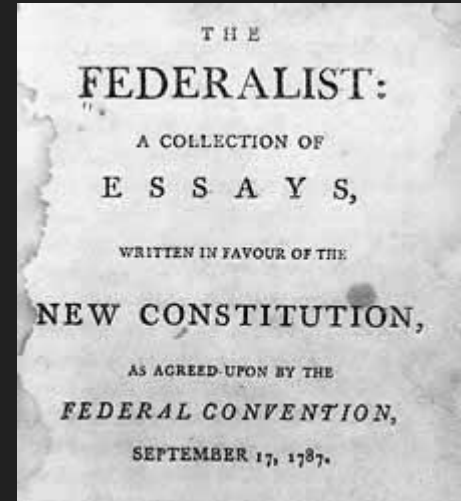
- Favored the Constitution
- Led by Madison, Hamilton, Jay
- stressed weaknesses of the Articles
- We need a strong central government to handle domestic issues
- checks and balances would protect against abuses

Anti-Federalists

- opposed Constitution
- Led by George Mason, Sam Adams
- Wanted strong state governments
- feared a strong national government
- strong executive branch

Federalist Papers

- written by Hamilton, Madison, Jay
- 85 ESSAYS
- written to address all the complaints people had against the Constitution
- they were published as a book in 1788
- didn't have as much influence on opinion then as they do today
- today Judges still use them to interpret the Constitution



Ratification of the Constitution

- 9 of 13 states had to approve
- Constitution would be presented to special Conventions in each state
- the document was approved by the Constitutional Convention on Sep 17, 1787
- It took 10 months for the Constitution to be ratified
- New Hampshire was the 9th to ratify...as a result it became official
- Rhode Island was the last to ratify
- the Anti-Federalists had caused such a great debate that the first major action taken by the new government was the passage of the Bill of Rights (1791)