

1 **Creating the Constitution**

2 **Constitutional Convention, 1787**

■ The Articles of Confederation were intentionally weak in order to protect state & individual liberties

– But, the inability of the national gov't to tax & unify the states led to problems like Shays' Rebellion

– A Constitutional Convention was held in Philadelphia in 1787 to discuss ways to strengthen the power of the national gov't

3

4 **The Philadelphia Convention**

■ In May 1787, 55 delegates met in Philadelphia, but instead of revising the Articles of Confederation, they replaced it with the Constitution

■ The new Constitution was very different from the AOC:

– It gave more power to the national government

– It had 3 branches of gov't, rather than 1 weak congress

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7 **Representation in Congress**

New Jersey Plan:

– A unicameral (one-house) congress

– States are equally represented just like the AOC

– No president

8 **The Great Compromise**

■ The Great Compromise resolved the differences between the large & small states by creating a bicameral Congress:

– Senate: Each state has 2 reps who serve 6-year terms

– House of Representatives: Number of reps is determined by each state's population

9

10 **The 3/5 Compromise**

- Northern & Southern states could not agree whether or not to count slaves towards population size
- If slaves are counted, Southern states would have more reps
- The Three-Fifths Compromise settled the issue:
 - Three of five slaves would be counted toward representation in the House of Representatives

11 **Compromising with Slavery**

- Many Northerners wanted to use the Constitutional Convention to end slavery, but Southerners threatened to leave the USA anytime slavery was discussed
- As a compromise for the South, the slave trade could continue for 20 more years & runaway slaves would be returned to slave masters

12

13 **Closure Activity**

- Examine the 3 compromises from today's notes:
 - “Great Compromise”
 - “Three-Fifths Compromise”
 - “Slavery Compromise”
- Rank order these compromises from most important to least important & explain why