

THE COMPROMISES OF THE CONSTITUTION STRENGTHS

The U.S. Constitution is known as a "bundle of compromises"; here are the These and other weaknesses, along with an increase in national.

Below is a short video discussing the separation of powers: Organizing the Federal Government Article I establishes the legislative branch, Congress. But the rule of secrecy gave to delegates the freedom to disagree, sometimes vehemently, on important issues, and to do so without the posturing and pandering to public opinion that so often marks political debate today. In , slavery in America was in a state of decline, but it remained a significant part of the social and economic fabric in five of the states represented in the Convention. Moreover, the Articles of Confederation failed to provide for a chief executive capable of giving energy and focus to the new central government. That means, for example, even though Wyoming only has three votes in the electoral college, with the smallest population of all the states, each elector represents a far smaller group of people than each of the 55 electoral votes in the most populous state of California. By the time the Philadelphia convention met to forge a new constitution, every northern state except for New York and New Jersey had passed legislation that provided for at least the gradual abolition of slavery in their states New York and New Jersey would do so in and respectively. In the end, the two sides compromised with the creation of the Electoral College, which is made up of electors roughly proportional to population. By granting Congress authority to legislate on slavery when it was a national issue—mainly in regards to the international slave trade and the expansion of slavery into the territories—the Constitution granted Congress antislavery powers that it could use at its discretion, and subject to normal political processes. Do the following: 1. George Washington was elected the presiding officer. Sectional and regional differences perpetually placed the union on the verge of disintegration. Citizens actually vote for electors bound to a particular candidate who then votes for the president. In virtually all of the public opinion polls conducted on the subject, Americans not only express their reverence for the Constitution, but also their strong opinions about its meaning. The territorial clause, in conjunction with the Northwest Ordinance of , contained important antislavery powers. Stopping the Slave Trade A deep disagreement arose over slavery. It also became immediately clear that, however bold and innovative the plan may have been, there were many delegates in the room who had grave misgivings about some aspects of it. No other branch of government existed: no executive or judiciary. How that came to pass involved far more than fifty-five demigods or hypocrites meeting in Philadelphia in the summer of And no state is likely to willingly give up their say in the Senate. At the same time, politicians who supported the Philadelphia convention hoped that a more powerful government would prove able to exact more favorable commercial treaties from European powers. For nearly four months, the delegates attempted to work through, and resolve, their disagreements. Roger Sherman of Connecticut distrusted the notion of democracy. Ketcham, Ralph. Because the conflict between slavery and liberty drives to the heart of the meaning of the United States, questions involving slavery, the Constitution, and the founders continue to generate heated but frequently trite debate. The system ensures power is distributed geographically. Sherman was against enabling any one man to stop the will of the whole. In fact, it provoked controversy in many states. Trial by jury was considered one of many basic rights, and George Mason stood up and proposed including a full bill of rights, listing the basic individual rights that the government could not violate. Because 40 percent or more of the population of the slave states was black and enslaved, this was no idle issue. To protect their economy, the Southern states insisted on two proposals. But nowhere are those limitations more obvious than during the debates relating to the subject of slavery. Only the delegates from South Carolina and Georgia were determined to continue what most other delegates believed to be an iniquitous trade, yet their insistence that the trade continue for at least another twenty years carried the day. Without it, southern states would assuredly have rejected the Constitution in the state ratifying conventions. Discuss what the advantages are to having the Senate as it is. Their responses are predictable. Finally, the Constitution deferred to normal political processes the manner by which the federal government would use its powers regarding slavery. Northern delegates responded by insisting that African Americans should not count at all, given that the laws of southern states recognized slaves as property, not persons. That being said, the fugitive slave clause was so poorly worded and phrased that it left undefined which parties were responsible for its enforcement. The South

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still had an agricultural economy, and still imported many finished goods from Britain. More broadly, the important proslavery victory won by South Carolina and Georgia was tempered by an important antislavery victory that led to a near-consensus agreement from the other states that Congress should act to close the international slave trade as soon such action was constitutionally permissible. One of the major compromises in the Constitutional Convention was between the small states and big states.