

The Constitutional Convention

Main Ideas

- Fifty-five delegates from 12 states met in Philadelphia in 1787 to revise the Articles of Confederation.
- The delegates kept their discussions secret.
- The delegates wrote a new constitution.

U.S. Constitution: Plans and Compromises

- New Jersey Plan:** unicameral legislature with one vote for each state
- Virginia Plan:** bicameral legislature with representation in both houses proportional to state population
- Great Compromise:** bicameral legislature with proportional representation in the House and equal representation in the Senate
- Three-Fifths Compromise:** three-fifths of enslaved population counted for representation in Congress

Main Ideas

- Federalists wanted a strong central government and supported the Constitution.
- Anti-Federalists wanted to protect individual rights and state power and opposed the Constitution.
- The promise to add a bill of rights helped ensure ratification of the Constitution.