

The Framing and Ratification of the Constitution- Stuart (11:00AM Saturday)

- I. Introduction
 - a. Centralized Government vs. Decentralized Government- miracle to get constitution ratified (3 fold miracle); Hard to create strong centralized government against those who did not want that;
 - b. Our first constitution was the Articles of Confederation – which led by one body “Congress” and Articles were not effective; called a convention to propose something new; “paper revolution”; individual states called for constitutional convention as did Congress; different calls with diff agendas
- II. The Federal
 - a. Profile of the Delegates:
 - i. Pennsylvania State House; RI was not in attendance; all white men; all wealthy; all young 43 being the average age; age 45 Washington; Franklin was 81; despite youth..they were experienced
 - ii. Shared a sense of crisis; aware of their opportunity; willing to compromise and had common goals- strengthen federal government and majority to rule and minority to be protected (religious minorities and property minorities, not i racial minorities); create 3 branches of government. In the end constitution will be compromise and deals
 - iii. Secrecy- kept deliberations a secret so people can speak freely until whole package was complete
 - iv. Father of Constitution- James Madison (Montpelier house- now a museum)
 - a. Found a mouse’s nest and in it were fragments of wallpaper and newspaper and letter he wrote to his mom – when did renovations of the house
 2. The VA Plan – biggest contribution by Madison
 - a. Became the starting plan for the Convention
 - b. Significance- replace a government of states and now operated directly on the people
 - c. Greatest accomplishment- kept a record (diary/notes) Madison took it upon himself to write/recorded everything in short hand and then wrote it to long hand (700 page book)every night while it was fresh in his mind
 - d. The notes don’t get published until last member dies (due to secrecy) and he is last one to die
- III. Conflicts and compromises
 - a. Big vs. little states- Great Compromise- July 16; small states love that; big states want to change it; bicameral based upon state population; large getting more votes as they have more people and deserve more representation
 - i. Small states want unicameral legislature- every state is equal; VA would have too much power; small states threatened to go home if they did not get their way; “fighting words” were exchanged about ‘allying with Europe’ things got ugly and a minister was asked by Franklin to come in to make peace; in end the big states give in; and agree to Great Compromise (aka Connecticut Compromise)
 - b. People vs. States- resolved by the Great Compromise
 - i. GA, SC, NH-little states that voted BIG
 - ii. NY- big that voted with little states
 - iii. New Federal government will be party by the people and part by the states; elected by the people; senate elected by state legislatures; Senate gives states a “check” on fed gov; protects
 - c. North vs. South
 - i. 3/5 compromise- slaves- do they count?

- ii. 800,000 slaves in American south; 1 seat for every 30,000 people- so the South really made out well with this 3/5 compromise – South gets 16 seats
- iii. 106 members of Congress – 16; 90; 45 in the North and 45 in the South in Congress; 61 in South and 45 North
- iv. President is elected by electoral college – add up senators and representatives; 3 = DE and 50+=CA; all early Presidents were from VA (Southern) and what it does to the electoral college
- d. “Negro President” Implications- Jefferson over Adams
 - i. 1800 election (if you take away the 3/5 compromise away president T.J. would not have been)
- e. Executive vs. Legislative vs. Judicial – needed a balance; debate over presidency
 - i. Designing a presidency
 - 1. What powers; Single person or board; Serve multiple years;
 - 2. Delegates voted 60 times b4 they could figure it all out and agree
 - ii. George Washington’s Role
 - 1. Office is designed with Washington in mind; Washington does not say much/nothing at all; he can’t say anything and not appropriate for him since he will be the future presidency; shapes it without saying a word; plan was one 7 year term and elected by Congress; last minute: 4 years; people; electoral college
 - 2. Went in circles as ‘what came first...chicken/egg’ discussion over what powers- can’t know until we know the role
- f. Who wrote the Constitution? “Guevernor” (pronounce Gooovernor) Morris; man with wooden leg in photos; womanizer; story about him getting into car and legs falling off
- g. Town Tavern:
 - i. Sept 15, 1787 (just about the last day)
 - ii. Tavern- final bill was read (much alcohol, food, cigars, musicians) grand total of 85 pounds sterling- about \$10,000 in today’s standards!

After break:

Adjournment: Ben Franklin’s Rising Sun