Constitution Study Guide

Articles of Confederation

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Power under the Articles of Confederation | More power was given to the State Government than to the Federal (National) Government, which made the Federal Government weak |

Constitution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Purpose of the Constitutional Convention | Fix the Articles of Confederation, give more power to the Federal Government |
| Virginia Plan | Supported by the big states that called for three branches of government (Executive, Legislative and Judicial). Legislative Branch would be one house and representation would be based on the number of people living in the state (population) |
| New Jersey Plan | Supported by the small states that called for three branches of government (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial).Legislative Branch would be one house and representation would be equal (2 representatives from each state) |
| Great Compromise | Deal reached that would make the government three branches (Executive, Legislative and Judicial).Legislative Branch would be a two house (bicameral) Congress.Senate where representation would be equal for each stateHouse of Representatives where representation would be based on the state's population |
| Preamble | “We the PEOPLE” Shows the power belongs to the people |

Federalist and Antifederalist

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Federalist | Those who supported the Constitution |
| Antifederalist | Those who did not support the Constitution |
| Federalist Papers | Written to gain support for Ratifying (Approving) the Constitution  |
| Bill of Rights | Antifederalist would not ratify the Constitution unless a Bill of Rights were included to protect the people from Government power |
| Slavery and Constitution | Slavery was continued under the new Constitution because without it the Southern States would not have agreed to ratify the constitution  |

Powers

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Federalism | Power is divided between the National and State Government |
| Reserved Power | Power that only the states have the right to control..Marriage, driving laws |
| Delegated Powers | Powers that only the National government have the right to control...Declare war, sign treaties |
| Concurrent | Powers that BOTH the National and State government have the right to control….Collect Taxes, set up courts |
| Elastic Clause | Allows for congress to add laws to the Constitution to changing circumstances in history. Constitution is a living document, never finalized |
| Checks and Balances | Power is not within one branch of the government.Each Branch checks on one another so that not one branch becomes too powerful.ExampleCongress (Legislative Branch) passes a Bill, Bill gets sent to the President (Executive Branch) for his approval or veto (deny of law), then to the Supreme Court (Judicial Branch) to make sure the Law in constitutional  |