

Student Study Guide
Chapter 3
Contesting the Constitution: A Lovers' Quarrel

Chapter Overview

This chapter focuses on:

- Debates between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists about the nature of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights
- The leadership of George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin during the Constitutional Convention
- The Great Compromise that established the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Dreadful Compromise that maintained toleration of slavery
- The system of checks and balances created by the Constitution
- Ratification of the Constitution

Major Concepts

Anti-Federalists
bicameralism
Bill of Rights
checks and balances
constitutionalists
enumerated powers
Federalists
Nationality
Natural rights
New Jersey plan
separation of powers
slavery
Virginia plan

Self Test

True/False

Mark "T" if the statement is true, "F" if false.

1. The authors contend that virtually all of the questions that continue to bedevil American democracy were raised during the debates over the Constitution.
2. The Electoral College was designed to be a means of mass participation in politics.
3. The Anti-Federalists supported the proposed Constitution even though it did not adequately expand popular rule.
4. Alexander Hamilton believed a strong executive would disrupt the democratic republic.
5. The Federalists and Anti-Federalists agreed on the danger of tyranny of the majority.
6. The debates in the Constitutional Convention were open to the public to allow maximum deliberation.
7. The checks and balances in the Constitution was a key element of the new science of politics.
8. The Virginia Plan was quite specific regarding executive power.
9. The fugitive slave provision demanded that every state had to return escaped slaves to their owners.
10. Federalism proved critical for a reconciliation of liberalism and democracy.

Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to each question.

1. James Madison argued that a _____ republic was better suited to maintaining liberty.
 - a. small
 - b. large
 - c. liberal
 - d. democratic
 - e. national
2. Madison argued that _____ can preserve the popular government.
 - a. majority rule
 - b. restraint on majority rule
 - c. democracy
 - d. federalism
 - e. none of the above

3. Anti-Federalists believed liberty demanded
- factions.
 - constant vigilance.
 - tyranny of the majority.
 - a small republic.
 - all of the above
4. What are two key political principles that were central to the success of the Philadelphia Convention?
- liberty and democracy
 - leadership and unity
 - democracy and unity
 - leadership and deliberation
 - deliberation and liberty
5. Who stated that “ambition must be made to counteract ambition”?
- Alexander Hamilton
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - John Adams
 - Benjamin Franklin
 - James Madison
6. The rival to the New Jersey Plan was the
- New York Plan.
 - Virginia Plan.
 - New Hampshire Plan.
 - Great Compromise.
 - Electoral College.
7. The Constitutional Convention treated slavery as a _____, not a positive good.
- necessary evil
 - price of democracy
 - economic necessity
 - liberal policy
 - none of the above
8. Anti-Federalists viewed The Bill of Rights as
- a powerful guarantor of free political life.
 - unnecessary.
 - redundant.
 - an opportunity for a powerful national government.
 - none of the above
9. A bicameral legislature consists of
- two houses.
 - a popularly elected Senate.

- c. committees and subcommittees.
- d. an appointed Senate.
- e. two political parties.

10. In Federalist No. 39, James Madison declares that the Constitution is

- a. neither federal or national, but both.
- b. a federal document.
- c. a national document.
- d. a republican document.
- e. a liberal document.

11. Senators have six-year terms in order to

- a. make them more accountable to public opinion.
- b. save the expense of frequent elections.
- c. keep them weaker than the President.
- d. free them from popular pressure.
- e. none of the above

12. The Fugitive Slave provision of the Constitution

- a. outlawed the future importation of slaves into the United States.
- b. required all states to return escaped slaves to their owners.
- c. allowed escaped slaves to live freely in the North.
- d. prevented newly admitted states from legalizing slavery.
- e. none of the above

13. The President's greatest power over Congress is

- a. the veto.
- b. the filibuster.
- c. checks and balances.
- d. Federalism.
- e. none of the above

Critical Thinking

1. Explain how the principles of liberalism and democracy affected the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution.
2. Cite some recent examples of the use of checks and balances in American politics.
3. Discuss the compromises made at the Constitutional Convention on the issue of slavery.
4. Describe the history and role of the Electoral College and its relationship to liberalism and democracy.

5. How does the Constitution of 1787 embody the natural rights tradition?

Further Resources

Films

1776, directed by Peter Hunt (1972)

The Front, directed by Martin Ritt (1976)

Internet

The National Constitution Center--created by Congress through the Constitutional Heritage Act of 1988
www.constitutioncenter.org

National and State Constitutions and commentary by The Constitution Society and a list of national Constitutions
www.constitution.org

The Library of Congress, Documents from the Continental Congress and Constitutional Convention
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov:8081/ammem/bdsds/bdsdhome.html>

American Civil Liberties Union
www.aclu.org

The Federalist Society
www.fed-soc.org

Blogs

Defcon: Campaign to Defend the Constitution
www.defconblog.com

All American Blogger
www.allamericanblogger.com

Publius Pundit
www.publiuspundit.com