

The Constitutional Convention



The Constitutional Convention



Written: 1787

Ratified: 1788

The Virginia Plan

The New Jersey Plan

The Great Compromise

The Other Compromises

The Federalists

The Anti-Federalists

The Constitutional Convention

- C.C. met in Philadelphia in May, 1787
- 55 delegates representing every state but Rhode Island
- George Washington selected to act as presiding officer
- Agreed to keep all discussions and decisions secret
- At first, the goal was to fix the A.O.C.



Two Competing Plans

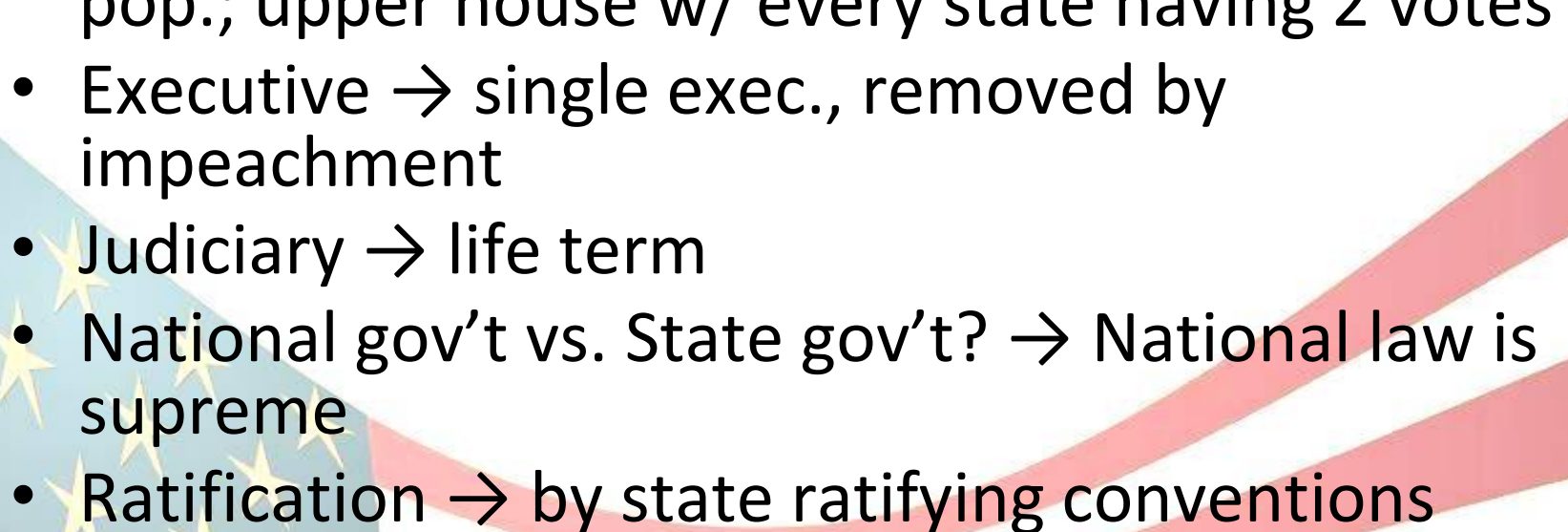
Virginia Plan

- Drafted by James Madison → designed to benefit large states (VA, Penn., Mass.)
- Bicameral legislature → both houses based on pop.
- Executive → elected and removed by Congress
- Judiciary → serve life terms
- Ratification → by the people

New Jersey Plan

- Drafted by William Paterson → designed to benefit small states (Conn., R.I., Delaware)
- Unicameral legislature → each state w/ one vote
- Executive → more than one, removed by state majority
- Judiciary → no power over states
- Ratification → by the states

The Great Compromise

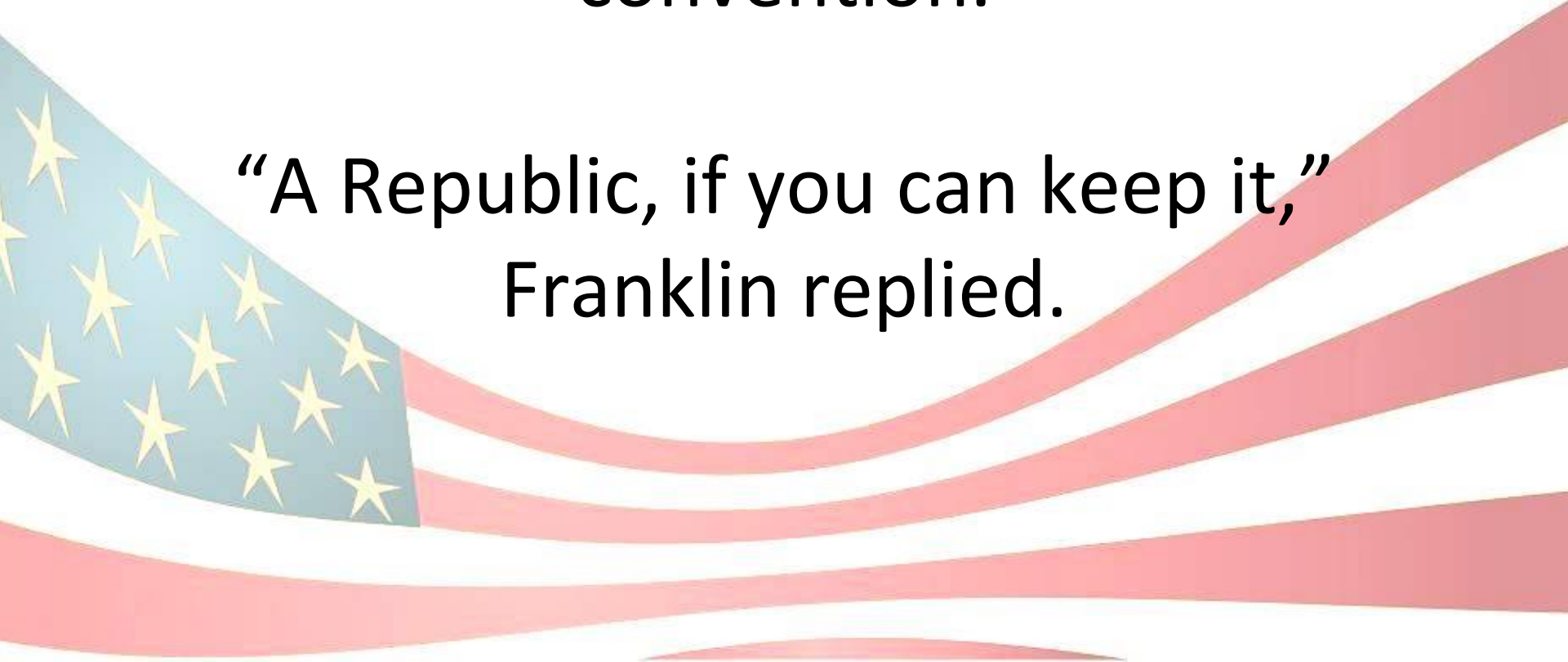
- Drafted by Roger Sherman of Conn. → designed to appease both big & small states
 - Bicameral legislature → lower house based on pop.; upper house w/ every state having 2 votes
 - Executive → single exec., removed by impeachment
 - Judiciary → life term
 - National gov't vs. State gov't? → National law is supreme
 - Ratification → by state ratifying conventions
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- A decorative graphic of the American flag is positioned in the bottom-left corner of the slide. It features a blue field with white stars and red and white stripes, curving upwards and to the right.

Other Compromises

- Three-fifths Compromise → for every five slaves, states would receive 3 “persons” in their pop. count (to appease southern states)
- Trade Compromise → southern states feared Congressional regulation of trade would disrupt slavery → agreed slave trade not be ended before 1808
- Trade Compromise → southern states feared northern regulation of tobacco & cotton → required 2/3 majority of the Senate to ratify treaties

“Well, Doctor, what have we got - a Republic or a Monarchy?” asked a woman after the last session of the convention.

“A Republic, if you can keep it,” Franklin replied.



Selling the Constitution

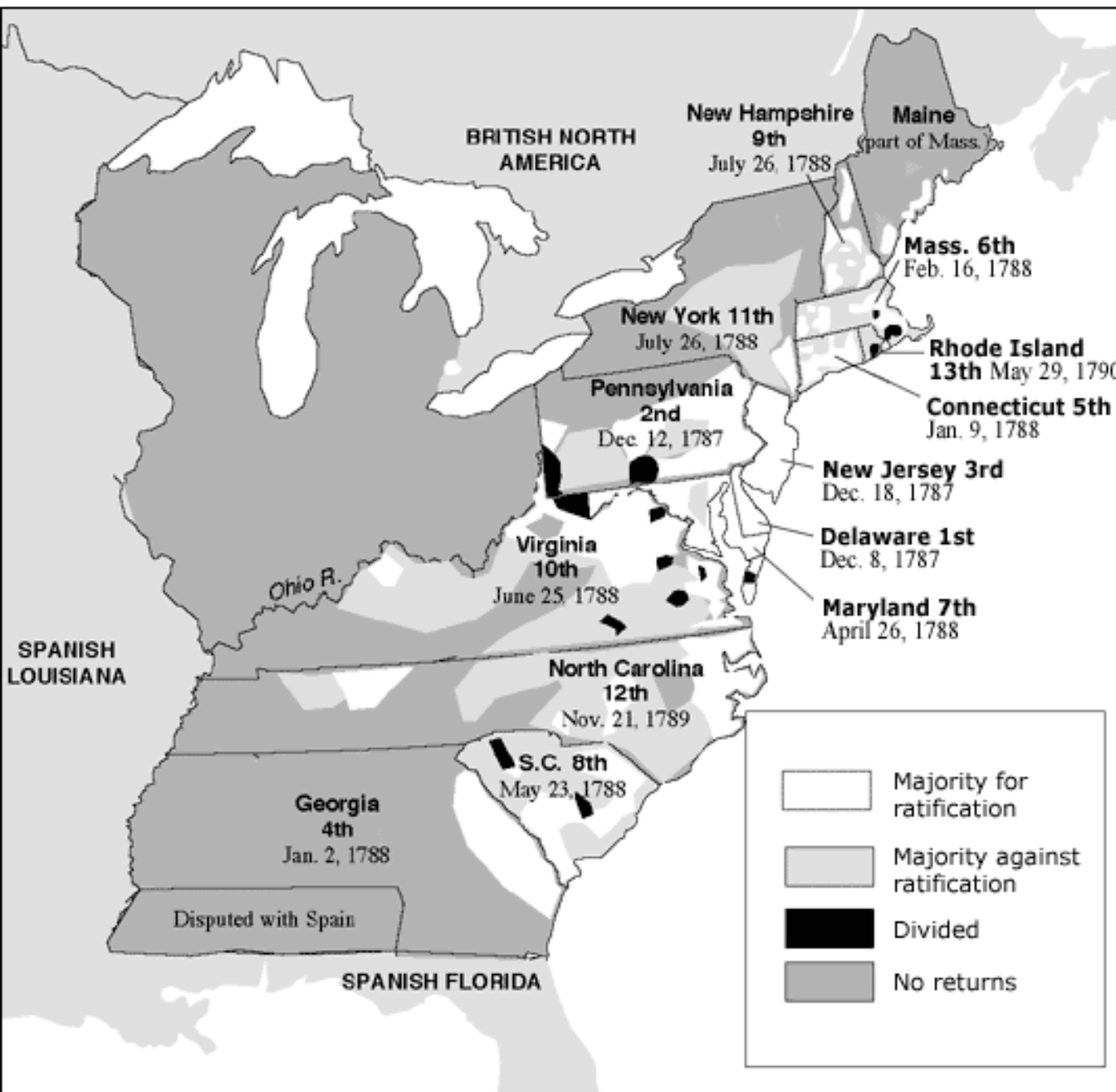
Federalists

- Supported ratification of the Constitution
- Federalist Papers → 85 essays published in N.Y. by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, & John Jay
- #10 → large representative democracy could help prevent majority tyranny
- #51 → we must give gov't power but not too much power → gov'ts traditionally worked on making citizens better → U.S. should work on making gov't better
- June 1788 → 9 states ratified

Anti-Federalists

- Opposed ratification of the Constitution
- How can large gov't know the will of the people → 1 representative in the House represented 30,000
- Worried about strong executive power → calmed by Washington as president
- Individual rights were not listed in the Constitution → Federalists compromised and made the Bill of Rights (1791) the first order of business after Const. ratified

Ratification of the Constitution



Using your Annotated Colonies Map as a reference and this map:

1. Write one paragraph describing what patterns you see in the map "Ratification of the Constitution".
2. Write one paragraph comparing the ratification patterns among the Southern, Middle, and New England colonies.