

CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION
TOPIC GUIDE

Yuki Nakano
Alexander Xu
Chairs

Chair Letters:

Hello delegates,

Welcome to AMUN XXIV! My name is Yuki Nakano and I am proud to be chairing the Specialized committee. I am currently a senior studying Engineering and I was born in Yokohama, Japan. My Co-Chair in this committee is Alex Xu, who is a senior studying science.

My MUN journey began in freshman year, when I joined BCA's MUN club. This will be my first time serving as a chair in a MUN conference so please cut me some slack! MUN is very interesting because it connects real problems to a variety of fields that you will potentially be studying in the future. There are so many MUN topics that can relate to everyday life and even potentially interest you enough for you to want to study more. You also meet so many new and interesting people at different conferences and I am excited to meet all of you this February! Here at BCA, I enjoy being a part of the MUN club and find it to be a very enjoyable experience.

As your chair, I will be moderating the committee sessions and I look forward to seeing what all of you will come up with throughout the conference. I hope it will be a memorable learning experience for everyone and I am more than happy to answer your questions before, during, and after the conference. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and I'd be happy to help you out. Looking forward to an awesome AMUN!

Best,
Yuki Nakano
yuknak23@bergen.org

To the Specialized Committee Delegates of AMUN XXIV,

My name is Alexander Xu and I, alongside my co-chair Yuki Nakano, would like to welcome everyone to AMUN XXIV. This conference will also be the first conference where I am serving as a chair, so please feel free to provide feedback throughout the course of your time here at AMUN.

MUN has always been of great interest to me, as it provides an opportunity to discuss/debate relevant global issues alongside your peers, something that I find to be very thought provoking. Just like real life politics, you will encounter delegates who have differing opinions on both the severity of a problem and the potential solutions. Trying to argue your points or attempting to play devil's advocate to tear down someone else's can be quite engaging, but being able to finally reach a general consensus is what makes MUN truly special. During heated debates, we often forget that the goal of the committee is to fight the problem, not each other. Keep an open mind throughout the discussions and perhaps you may find that you have more in common with your fellow delegates than at first glance.

Both of the topics that you will be discussing under this conference have been long standing issues throughout American history and have even persisted into our modern world. There will be major points of contention, but I look forward to seeing how the resulting discussions play out, along with a hopefully satisfying compromise. Best of luck to everyone and I hope that you will find this conference to be both enjoyable and memorable. Once again, if you have any questions, thoughts, comments, etc, feel free to contact me through email or during the conference itself and I will help you to the best of my ability.

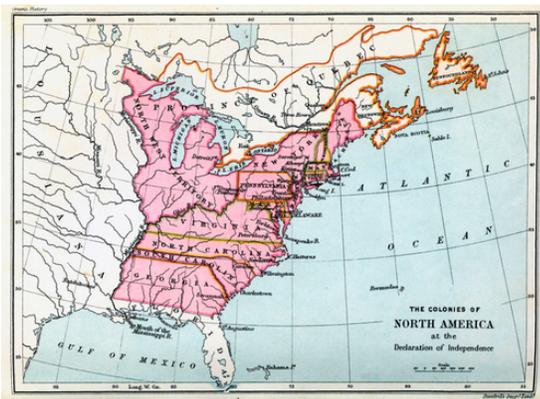
Sincerely,
Alexander Xu
alexu23@bergen.org

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Topic A:

State vs. Federal Powers



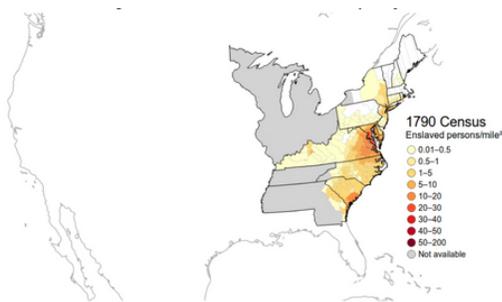
Introduction

The power struggle between individual states and the federal government has been an ongoing clash throughout the entirety of American history. A prominent message of the American Revolutionary War was that the people will not stand for a tyrannical government which rules without their consideration. Yet, it is impossible to form a successful country without a successful government either. This led to the main point of contention, which was exactly how much power the government should have at the federal level. Unfortunately, this issue has never been truly resolved even to this day, and was the sparking point of the deadliest war in American history: The Civil War.

America's newfound freedom meant that the common enemy of Great Britain, which had once united all 13 colonies, was now gone. With every state having a unique culture, peoples, economic interests, and more, there were bound to be difficulties in keeping the United part of the United States of America. Proponents of states rights argued that the American Revolution's goal was to bring power back to the people on a local level, and establishing a strong federal government would go against that. Lawmakers from a state's own population were bound to be better at serving the interests of their own people. On the other hand, proponents of federal rights thought that a strong central government was indeed necessary to keep all 13 colonies together as one nation. In their eyes, the United States needed to stay united... as a Divided States of America would quickly fall into ruins. Regardless of where you stand, it is up to you to weigh the concerns and advantages of both positions and strike a meaningful balance that will satisfy every party.

Topic B:

Commerce and the Economy



Introduction

Geography directly influences a state's economy. The American South is quite well suited for agriculture, and unsurprisingly, results in an agrarian economy that exports raw materials, and imports finished goods. On the contrary, the American North could not grow cash crops, and had to rely on heavy industry as their main source of economic means. This difference would play a vital role in the American Civil War, but let's not go there quite yet, it's equally as important to dive into the origins of this divide as well.

The Constitutional Convention highlighted some of the difficulties of passing policies that would only benefit half of the nation. The more industrialized North would like to see greater tariffs, as that would allow them to better compete against the industrial juggernauts of Europe, such as Great Britain. However, as mentioned before, the agrarian South relied on the imports of finished goods from the same industrialized nations like Great Britain. Additionally, what little finished goods the South did export would never be able to compete against the North taking unfair advantage of these tariffs. Slavery is also an issue that is directly tied to the economy of the South, as they needed slaves to do the hard labor of planting and harvesting. Northern states opposed slavery, but could not negatively impact the slave trade, as that would greatly anger the South and increase tensions between the two. It is up to you to navigate the waters of international trade along with the slave trade to reach a satisfactory compromise.

Topic History:

Topic A: State vs. Federal Powers:

As a part of the British Empire, the 13 colonies of America were able to maintain a certain degree of autonomy, but were still largely subject to the whims of the king. A colonial legislature was elected by men who held property, but the governors of each colony were directly appointed by the king. The governor had almost complete authority, but the colonial legislature was in control of his salary, which in theory should help align his goals with those of the colonists. However, the most lacking portion of this government was that colonial citizens had no representation in the British parliament, leading to a lopsided balance of power.

All colonial economies operated under the idea of mercantilism, a system where the colonies existed for the sole purpose of increasing the wealth of their mother country. Due to this school of thought, the British heavily regulated the American colonies' ability to conduct free trade.

They were forbidden from trading with other European nations, and England maintained the right of taxation without representation. Unfortunately for the British, enforcing both trade and tax regulations on the colonies was difficult, and an informal agreement quickly emerged. The crown would regulate trade, while the colonies could levy their own taxes, which would continue to work until the French and Indian War in 1754.

After the war in 1763, Britain was stuck with tremendous debt, which they passed onto the colonies, as they saw the war as an act of good will to protect America. The slogan "no taxation without representation" rose as a rallying cry against British rule as a result of this. American colonists were fed up with the inability to voice their grievances in the British parliament, as they had no representation there. Many felt that these taxes were both unfair and unjustified. After all, why should a king be able to dictate American colonists when he is living in a palace across the Atlantic Ocean and has never set foot on American soil? There was nothing worse than an out of touch ruler making unfair laws from afar, and these tax policies ended up being the final straw that broke the camel's back.

Current Situation:

Topic A: State vs Federal Powers:

The Articles of Confederation were able to establish a loose alliance between the newly independent 13 states, but an official central government is yet to be established. Being newly freed from British rule, it is not advisable to return back towards an authoritarian government. The concept of states rights revolves around the idea that individual states are much better at protecting the interests of their own citizens than a government located further away, which would be more out of touch. On the other hand, proponents of a strong central government argued that it is necessary to keep the 13 states united as one and properly sort out inter-state conflicts.

Representation is a recurring issue when it comes to creating a central government. Large states such as Virginia wanted representation in whatever legislature to be proportional to population, thereby giving themselves more power. Smaller states like New Jersey wished to have equal representation in legislature for every state no matter of population size to protect their own interests. The Virginia plan created by Madison and the New Jersey plan by William Paterson support these contrasting viewpoints respectively.

States were also divided by geography as well, with the North promoting heavy industry and therefore tariffs, while the South was primarily agrarian, and wanted to keep import costs low. Southern states also wanted their slaves to count towards their total population, while Northern states thought that this was unfair, as slaves did not have the rights of a free person and therefore should not count. Due to the various conflicting interests between states, the formation of a strong federal government will be met with challenges, as every state fears that the government will not side with their own interests. However, the same federal government will be needed to create compromises and allow the nation to remain united.

Topic History:

Topic B: Commerce and the Economy:

As a former colony to Britain, America never really had a centralized economy and instead had different regions and groups such as the Puritans in Boston, Pilgrims at Plymouth Plantation, Quakers in Philadelphia, Dutch in New Amsterdam (New York City), and Scots in the Chesapeake which were all part of the early colonial American merchant establishment.

While the British settlers in all their diversity came to dominate colonial commerce, the Dutch, who arrived early in New Amsterdam, helped pioneer that triangular trade. Dutch colonists began arriving in numbers as early as 1624 and dominated not only what became New York City but also the Hudson River valley as well. Beginning in 1663, the Navigation Acts, which were acts of Parliament intended to promote the self-sufficiency of the British Empire by restricting colonial trade to England and decreasing dependence on foreign imported goods, defined the limits imposed on colonial commerce. They succeeded in constantly reminding American merchants, trades people, and artisans of the profit-squelching restrictions and second-class status under which American trade operated. They failed through lack of enforcement to actually improve British trade profits and did not hamper American economic growth. So even as the American colonies prospered, the perception grew in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that parliamentary restrictions were choking colonial economic growth. The reality was that major American port cities grew and prospered. Ultimately 80 percent of the American population in the thirteen colonies lived, worked, and farmed along the Atlantic seaboard. The American Revolution started out as commerce-based grievances. The goals were to free commerce from the stultifying repressions of the Crown, the Board of Trade, and Parliament. Commercial questions morphed into political questions of who controlled the colonies, what were the colonists' responsibilities to the Crown, and to what extent did political rights under the Magna Carta and Parliament accrue to the former English subjects who became Americans in the New World.

Current Situation:

Topic B: Commerce and the Economy:

]America won the Revolutionary War and is now holding a Constitutional Convention to discuss the many issues present in the Articles of Confederation. We'll be talking about the economics and commerce of new-born America and the problems that come with it. The North is industrializing while the South stays agrarian and is reliant on slave trade. There are also issues such as how trade and tariffs would work, and if trade between the colonies should be more unified. There are many delegates from different states who put great emphasis on their own colonies and how their debts should be settled. There are also delegates such as Alexander Hamilton who propose things such as a national bank and the government assuming state debts to try to centralize and create a strong national currency. Delegates such as James Madison and Thomas Jefferson from Virginia opposed such propositions as they viewed that it would be unfair to states with much less debt. As you can see a lot of the conflicts resolve issues involving individual states versus government, and the pros and cons of having a strong national government and economy versus leaving it more to the states. The North and the South also have many opposing viewpoints. First of all, the North holds a majority of the debt in the nation while the South has paid off most of their debt. Due to the debt being different in different states and regions, some states like Virginia would oppose a national bank to shoulder all the debt as their debt is mostly paid off while states like New York would favor one as they still have a lot of debt to pay off. The North also wants to focus on industrialization as opposed to agriculture and slavery in the South.

There also is the issue of slavery and determining who counts as a person. Slavery is a great part in the South's income so it'll be hard to balance the economic needs of the South while also maintaining morality as a newborn country. There are many delegates who are against slavery like Rufus King from Massachusetts while there are also people who owned slaves like James Madison from Virginia. As there is a lot of tension between each delegate and state, you must carefully but resourcefully navigate this problem to help America be a strong nation.

Delegate Overview:

Connecticut:

Roger Sherman:

Serving as a longtime and influential member of the Continental Congress, Roger Sherman won membership on the committees that drafted the Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation. Adding onto this list, he also dealt with matters concerning Indian affairs, national finances, and the military. Sherman advocated for higher taxes rather than excessive borrowing or paper currency on both the national and state level. In 1787 he represented his state at the Constitutional Convention, and attended practically every session. Not only did he sit on the Committee on Postponed Matters, but he also helped draft the New Jersey Plan and was a prime mover behind the Connecticut, or Great, Compromise, which broke the deadlock between the large and small states over representation.

He was, in addition, instrumental in Connecticut's ratification of the Constitution. He supported Alexander Hamilton's program for assumption of state debts, establishment of a national bank, and enactment of a tariff.

William Samuel Johnson:

Initially refusing to participate in the First Continental Congress, Johnson was dead set on working for peace between Britain and the 13 colonies, along with opposing the extremist Whig faction. During the Revolutionary War, he attempted to negotiate with British General Thomas Gage, but did not succeed. Although Johnson fell out of favor with radical patriots in Connecticut, his political career came roaring back after the war. In total, Johnson became one of the most influential and popular delegates in the Constitutional Convention, never missing a single session and worked for the ratification in Connecticut. He also espoused the Connecticut Compromise and chaired the Committee of Style. Johnson supported a strong federal government to protect the interests of smaller states such as his home state of Connecticut.

Delaware:

John Dickinson:

Another moderate who wished for a peaceful solution to the American Revolution, Dickinson's position had left him in the minority, but he nevertheless was asked to draft the Articles of Confederation. He did not vote for the Declaration of Independence and did not sign it either. Taking a seat in the Continental Congress, he did sign the Articles of Confederation. When Dickinson represented Delaware at the Constitutional Convention, he missed a number of days and was forced to leave early due to illness. However, he did play a role in engineering the solution for representation called the Connecticut Compromise along with arguing for an end to the Atlantic Slave Trade. Due to his illness, Dickinson was unable to sign the Constitution personally.

Richard Bassett:

Although Bassett attended diligently, he made no major contributions in the form of speeches, positions on committees, or critical votes. He took the back seat at the Constitutional Convention and allowed other delegates to make the major steps instead. Bassett supported the power of the President to remove governmental officers and did not support Alexander Hamilton's plan for the federal assumption of state debts. Because he represented Delaware, which is a small state, he supported the Connecticut Compromise put forth by fellow delegate John Dickinson, which would give all states equal representation in the government.

Georgia:

Abraham Baldwin:

While attending the Constitutional Convention, Baldwin was absent for a few weeks. Although initially inconspicuous, he sat on the Committee on Postponed Matters and helped resolve the large-small state representation crisis. Baldwin at first favored representation in the Senate based on property holdings, but his close relationship with the Connecticut delegates caused him to change his mind, later fearing the alienation of small states. Baldwin was staunchly opposed to Hamiltonian policies and was an ally of Madison and Jefferson.

William Few:

Few was appointed as one of six state delegates to the Constitutional Convention, two of whom never attended and two others of whom did not stay for the duration.

Few himself missed large segments of the proceedings, being absent during all of July and part of August because of congressional service, and never made a speech. Nonetheless, he contributed nationalist votes at critical times. Furthermore, as a delegate to the last sessions of the Continental Congress, he helped steer the Constitution past its first obstacle, approval by Congress. And he attended the state ratifying convention.

Maryland:
Daniel Carroll:

Carroll was an active member of the Constitutional Convention, despite the fact that illness prevented him from attending the early sessions. He was good friends with James Madison and advocated for a strong central government that could regulate both domestic and foreign trade. Carroll spoke out against the payment of members of Congress by the states, as such compensation would sabotage the new government. He wanted governmental power to lie with the people, and as a result, was the one who proposed that the words “by the legislature” be replaced with “by the people”. Being one of 2 Catholics to sign the document, he further forwarded the idea of religious freedom in America at the time.

Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer:

Due to his conservative politics, Jenifer reluctantly supported the Revolutionary movement. Before becoming a delegate for the Constitutional Convention, he served as president of the Maryland council of safety and then as the president of the first senate, along with the Continental Congress. As a conservative nationalist, Jenifer favored a strong and permanent union of the states, and wanted Congress to be granted with taxation power.

He was one of the 29 delegates who attended practically every session of the Convention. Jenifer did not speak much during these sessions, but backed Madison and other nationalists.

Massachusetts:
Rufus King:

From 1783 to 1785 he was a member of the Massachusetts legislature, after which that body sent him to the Continental Congress (1784-86). There, he gained a reputation as a brilliant speaker and someone who spoke up against slavery. At age 32, King was not only one of the most youthful of the delegates at Philadelphia, but was also one of the most important. He numbered among the most capable orators. Furthermore, he attended every session. Although he came to the convention unconvinced that major changes should be made in the Articles of Confederation, his views underwent a startling transformation during the debates. Especially with the rebellion led by the debt-ridden farmers in Massachusetts, King started to believe more and more in unionizing. With Madison, he became a leading figure in the nationalist caucus and fought for national union. He served with distinction on the Committee on Postponed Matters and the Committee of Style. He also took notes on the proceedings, which have been valuable to historians.

Nathaniel Gorham:

Gorham began his political career as a public notary but soon won election to the colonial legislature (1771-75).

During the Revolution, he unswervingly backed the Whigs. He was a delegate to the provincial congress (1774-75), member of the Massachusetts Board of War (1778-81), delegate to the constitutional convention (1779-80), and representative in both the upper (1780) and lower (1781-87) houses of the legislature, including speaker of the latter in 1781, 1782, and 1785. In the Constitutional Convention, he pushed for a central government strong enough to protect interstate commerce, promote international trade, and regulate the use of paper money. To free the new government from passing fads and prejudices, he favored long presidential and senatorial terms. He also wanted to give Congress broad powers, but he urged the appointment of federal judges by the executive. Finally, he wanted a consolidation of military authority through control of the militia by the central government.

New Hampshire:

John Langdon:

In order to participate in the Constitutional Convention, Langdon had to pay for his own expenses and those of Nicholas Gilman, as New Hampshire did not want to pay the fees. As a result, the pair did not arrive until late July, which meant that they had missed quite a lot of important business. Yet, Langdon still managed to make a significant mark and spoke more than 20 times during the debates. He was a member of the committee that struck a compromise on the issue of slavery and supported the strengthening of the national government.

Nicholas Gilman:

In 1787 he represented New Hampshire at the Constitutional Convention. He did not arrive at Philadelphia until July 21, by which time much major business had already occurred. Never much of a debater, he made no speeches and played only a minor part in the deliberations. He did, however, serve on the Committee on Postponed Matters. Additionally, he was also active in obtaining New Hampshire's acceptance of the Constitution and in shepherding it through the Continental Congress. Gilman later became a prominent Federalist politician. As Gilman did not play a very big part in the constitutional convention, he has more freedom in this convention to promote unique ideas. Keep in mind that Gilman had a lot of love for his own state of New Hampshire. At age 49, Gorham attended the Constitutional Convention. A moderate nationalist, he attended all the sessions and played an influential role.. He spoke often, acted as chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and sat on the Committee of Detail. As a delegate to the Massachusetts ratifying convention, he stood behind the Constitution.

New Jersey:

William Livingston:

In 1787 Livingston was selected as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, though his gubernatorial duties prevented him from attending every session. He did not arrive until June 5 and missed several weeks in July, but he performed vital committee work, particularly as chairman of the one that reached a compromise on the issue of slavery. He also supported the New Jersey Plan, created by fellow New Jersey delegate William Paterson.

Coming from a small state, Livingston supported a 1 house legislature in which every state would get equal representation. In addition, he spurred New Jersey's rapid ratification of the Constitution (1787).

William Paterson:

Supported by William Livingston, Paterson's New Jersey Plan asserted the rights of small states against larger ones. Although he missed the last month of the Convention, he played a very important role in the proceedings due to his plan. However, his proposal was countered by the Virginia Plan, which would grant special recognition to the differences in population, which would favor large states. Paterson would also defend the concept of states rights at the Convention, believing that it was the will of the people to protect the powers of the states from the federal government.

New York:

Alexander Hamilton:

Hamilton was oftentimes at odds with his fellow delegates, as he himself was extremely nationalistic and did not agree with the conservative nature of his fellow delegates from New York. Additionally, he was frequently absent due to legal business. However, he did sit on the Committee of Style and was only one of three delegates who signed the final document. Hamilton collaborated with James Madison writing The Federalist Papers, which was eventually published in a book. However, most of Hamilton's policies revolved around economics, where he wanted to protect domestic manufacturing, government assumption of state debts, and the establishment of a national bank.

His policies eventually brought him into conflict with Jefferson and Madison, who did not agree with his pro-business economic programs and opposition to the French Revolution among other things. This would begin the divide between Hamilton and the Federalist party against the Democratic-Republican party of Jefferson/Madison.

North Carolina:

Hugh Williamson:

Williamson was chosen for the Constitutional Convention and attended faithfully. He demonstrated keen debating skills and served on five committees. He lodged with Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, two of the prolific nationalist leaders. His intellectual stature and international background also propelled him into a leadership role in the North Carolina delegation. A capacity for hard work and his innate good humor made him invaluable to the Federalists as they worked out the many political compromises necessary for consensus on the new instrument of government. He also wrote public letters in defense of a strong federal system. He addressed the concerns of debt-ridden farmers from his state that favored minimal government regulations. He addressed the dual dangers of inflationary finances and of taxes that would stunt the growth of domestic manufacture.

Richard. Dobbs Spaight:

Spaight attended every session of the Convention and supported the Great Compromise.

Designed to protect the rights of both the small and the more populous states, this compromise called for a national legislature that gave equal voice to all thirteen states in a Senate composed of two members from each, but which respected the rights of the majority in a House of Representatives based on population. Although he did not have too much of a role in the economics side of things, he sided with the federalists.

South Carolina:

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney:

Pinckney was one of those leaders of national vision who preached that the promises of the Revolution could never be realized unless the states banded together for their mutual political, economic, and military well-being. He met with Washington and other nationalist leaders in Pennsylvania. He agreed that the nation needed a strong central government but he also worked to design checks and balances to protect the citizens from tyranny seen in Europe. He also proposed that senators should serve without pay. He exerted influence in such matters as the power of the Senate to ratify treaties and the compromise that was reached concerning abolition of the international slave trade.

Pierce Butler:

Butler had valuable experience as a soldier and planter-legislator which influenced his forceful support for a strong union of the states at the Convention. As a military leader, he pushed for the need of a national approach for defense and also recognized that a strong central government was needed for economic growth and international respect. At the same time, he energetically supported the special interests of his region.

This dual emphasis on national and state concerns puzzled his fellow delegates which led to many inconsistencies in his words.

Pennsylvania:

Benjamin Franklin:

Undoubtedly a crucial figure in American history, Ben Franklin played a relatively minor role at the Constitutional Convention, mainly due to his old age and his resulting poor health. However, he did miss relatively few sessions, lent his prestige, and encouraged compromises on disputes. Franklin did not approve of many aspects regarding the finished documents and his ill health really did prevent him from participating in a more active role. Regardless, he was still able to hold a firm stance against slavery, a cause that he had been fighting for since the 1730s. Franklin's final public act was signing a memorial to Congress recommending dissolution of the slavery system in 1890.

Gouverneur Morris:

Morris was quickly able to emerge as a prominent leading figure at the Constitutional Convention. He gave the most speeches out of any delegate, coming in at a total of 173. Morris strongly advocated for nationalism and aristocratic rule, along with serving on many important committees such as those on postponed matters and style. Overall, he stood in the middle of the decision making process. Most importantly, he was the one who actually drafted the Constitution itself. Morris opposed slavery, promoted religious liberty, along with the right of property as a foundation of society. He wanted America to set a good example for the rest of the world, when it came to the government and society at large.

Virginia: **George Washington:**

Before becoming the first president of the United States, George Washington was the president of the Constitutional Convention. He mainly played a nonpartisan role and oversaw the differing opinions of the various delegates. However, he did advocate for a stronger central government to keep the country united. Washington also supported Hamilton's plan for the assumption of state debts along with tariffs to provide federal revenue along with bolstering domestic manufacturing. His stance on foreign policy was largely the same as his role in the convention: a neutral one. Washington thought that American involvement in European affairs would not benefit the country and he wished to avoid any further conflict. Due to the disagreements between Jefferson and Hamilton, Washington was oftentimes the peacemaker between the two as well.

James Madison Jr.:

Madison was an instrumental cog in the machine that was the Constitutional Convention. He was rarely absent and pushed for the Virginia plan, which created 3 branches of the government to balance power. Additionally, it also decreed that population would matter when it came to state representation, therefore favoring larger states. Overall, this reflected his stance on the need for a strong central government, although many of his proposals were rejected. Despite his poor speaking skills, Madison took to the floor over 150 times, 3rd after Gouverneur Morris and James Wilson. His journal of the events of the convention was the single best record of the event and he also played a key role in guiding the Constitution through the Continental Congress.

Madison collaborated with Alexander Hamilton in a series of essays that were eventually published in a book form as The Federalist.

Potential Solutions:

Topic A: State vs. Federal Powers:

The key here is balance of power. States come in all shapes and sizes. Big states want their populations to have more weight, while smaller states want equal representation. Totalitarian rule of the federal government should also be avoided. Should democracy focus on benefitting the majority or taking every voice into consideration? Parliaments usually only consist of a single house, perhaps 2 will allow both options to be implemented, thereby satisfying every party.

Topic B: Commerce and the Economy:

Any potential solution here will revolve around heavy compromises. The North is industrialized, while the South is agrarian and needs slaves. In order to reach any agreement, you will have to compromise on representation within the government. Who should count as a person? What majority should be needed to pass a law? Another point to keep in mind is that currency is not centralized yet. Ask yourselves, how should trade be centralized? Should there be a national currency? Should debt be carried nationally? Maintaining the balance of votes in Congress will be important, so any compromises should revolve around maintaining the status quo of equal power between the North and the South.

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