

What Is The Purpose Of Constitutional Convention American Constitution Grade

The Constitutional Convention was a landmark event in the history of the United States, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from May 25 to September 17, 1787. This convention brought together delegates from 12 of the 13 original states (Rhode Island declined to send delegates) to address the weaknesses of the existing Articles of Confederation and establish a more effective and enduring framework for governing the newly formed nation.

Purpose of the Constitutional Convention

The Articles of Confederation, adopted in 1781, had proven inadequate in several respects. The central government created by the Articles was weak and lacked the authority to effectively manage the affairs of the young nation. There was no executive branch, no national judiciary, and Congress had limited powers, particularly in matters of taxation and commerce.



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The convention was called to revise the Articles of Confederation, but the delegates quickly recognized the need for a more comprehensive constitutional framework. They sought to create a government that was both strong enough to maintain order and protect the nation's interests, while also respecting the principles of individual liberty and limited government.

Key Figures of the Constitutional Convention

Among the notable figures who attended the Constitutional Convention were:

* **George Washington:** President of the Convention and a respected military leader who later became the first President of the United States. *

James Madison: Known as the "Father of the Constitution," Madison played a pivotal role in drafting the document and advocating for its adoption. *

Alexander Hamilton: A delegate from New York who supported a strong central government and later served as the first Secretary of the Treasury. *

Benjamin Franklin: An elder statesman and inventor who contributed his wisdom and experience to the deliberations. *

Roger Sherman: A delegate from Connecticut who proposed the Connecticut Compromise, which resolved the issue of representation in Congress between large and small states.

Constitutional Principles

The delegates to the Constitutional Convention debated and deliberated extensively over the principles that should govern the new government. Some of the key constitutional principles that emerged from the Convention include:

* **Federalism:** The division of power between the national government and the individual states. * **Separation of Powers:** The division of governmental powers into three branches (legislative, executive, and judicial) to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful. * **Checks and Balances:** A system of checks and limitations designed to ensure that no one branch of government can dominate the others. * **Judicial Review:** The power of the judiciary to declare laws unconstitutional, ensuring that the government operates within the bounds of the Constitution. * **Bill of Rights:** A set of amendments to the Constitution that guarantee individual rights and freedoms, such as freedom of speech, religion, and the right to bear arms.

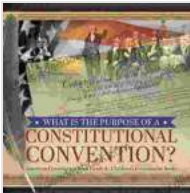
Impact of the Constitutional Convention

The Constitutional Convention had a profound impact on the development of the American political system. The Constitution it produced established a framework for governance that has endured for over two centuries, making it one of the most enduring constitutions in the world.

The Constitution established a strong but limited central government with the authority to regulate interstate commerce, raise taxes, and defend the nation. It also created a system of checks and balances to prevent any one branch of government from becoming too powerful.

The Bill of Rights, which was added to the Constitution shortly after its ratification, guarantees individual rights and freedoms that are essential to a free and democratic society. These rights have served as a bulwark against government overreach and have helped to ensure the protection of individual liberties.

The Constitutional Convention was a pivotal event in American history, leading to the creation of a constitutional framework that has served the nation well for over two centuries. The principles established by the Constitution, such as federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances, have ensured a stable and balanced government that protects individual rights and freedoms. The Constitution remains a living document, constantly evolving through amendments and interpretations, but its core principles continue to guide the governance of the United States.



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