

# 7-Constitutional Convention

A meeting was called in May 1787 to REVISE the Articles of Confederation (not replace them) It was not intended to be the Constitutional Convention, but it did!

Only 12 of 13 states showed

55 Delegates

1st decision made, to throw out Articles and do a complete redo

1 vote per state

Majority rules (7 of 13)

Meeting was kept secret

## *Points of Contention*

Big states wanted proportional representation (Virginia Plan-3 branch government, with executive branch, judicial branch and a bicameral Congress) where states were represented in Congress based on their population

Small states wanted equal representation as bigger states (New Jersey Plan)

Slavery-many delegates already recognized it was a major problem and wanted to end it. Slave states wanted their slaves counted towards the population.

**Great Compromise/Connecticut Compromise**-agreement that the two house legislature would have one house based on state equality and the other based on proportional representation.

**3/5 Compromise**-slaves would count as  $\frac{3}{5}$  of a person for representation purposes in Congress

**Slave Trade**

**Compromise**-Congress could not tax exports and the slave trade could be banned in 20 years.

New Government-The **Constitution**

Had power to tax, regulate trade, and had a strong executive branch, took power from the states and gave it to national government, but states still had a great deal of power.

Needed 9 of 13 states to ratify it.

**Federalists**-Supported the new Constitution and wanted it ratified (wrote the Federalist papers-John Jay James Madison)

**Anti-federalists**-feared the powers of the national government and didn't want it passed. (Anti-federalist papers-Patrick Henry)

Federalists promised the Anti-Federalists a **Bill of Rights** in order to protect their freedoms. This led to enough states supporting it to gain ratification.