

Stewart, *The Summer of 1787*, Chapters 8 – 11
Wesley Advocates 23 April 2017

Festina Lente [make haste slowly]

Mason applies this Latin motto (originally from Greek, but used variously by emperors Augustus and Titus and by the Florentine Medici) to the difficulties of determining how the new government might structure its legislative bodies and powers. What were the major difficulties and disagreements amongst the delegates?

Given today's Senate, how may we assess Madison's belief that the "Senate would be a small body of distinguished citizens who would act 'with more coolness, with more system, with more wisdom than the popular branch' of Congress" (91)?

What were the major concerns of
William Paterson (NJ)
John Lansing (NY)
James Wilson (PA)
Alexander Hamilton (NY)
James Madison (VA)
Roger Sherman (CN)?

Describe Hamilton's major miscalculation.

Characterize Sherman. What was his motto about speaking and voting?

To the Brink

What should we remember about Luther Martin of Maryland during the debate over structure of Congress?

What happened to Franklin's proposal that each session begin with prayer? Why?

How did the slavery issue continue to figure into arguments about structure of Congress?

Stewart disputes the traditional view of Madison as "father of the Constitution" by pointing out how Madison's proposals fared when put to vote. What are the numbers?

Who was Abraham Baldwin? Though representing Georgia, he maintained ties with his former Connecticut community. How might those ties have influenced him with regard to his crucial vote? How might he have “saved the Convention”?

Despite Adams’s and Jefferson’s opinions of Washington’s intellectual gifts, Stewart maintains Washington demonstrated “solid judgment” and “uncanny feel for the moment.” How did Washington display that judgment in ruling against a second vote following Jenifer’s (MD) tardiness?

Who constituted the Committee of Eleven? What was their charge? What was the result? Who presented it to the Convention, and why is it called the “Great Compromise”?

What did the Committee of Five propose with regard to allocating representatives in the lower house? How did that allocation address slavery and women’s suffrage?

The Small States Win

Why do the delegates keep returning to the same issues to vote again and again?

Randolph argued the three-fifths rule would provide “security” for slavery. Who opposed him—and opposed allowing slavery in the western territories?

Madison first perceived and spoke to growing division not between large and small states, but between North and South states. What dangers and potential ones did he see in this division?

Whereas Gerry (MA) insisted, with others, on some compromise, Madison apparently disliked compromise—and so he proposed his own solution. Please re-read and respond to his proposal at top of page 124. What result?

What forces consistently work against the delegates’ remaining in Philadelphia to finish their work?

The Touch of a Feather

In 1787, how did the delegates define “the West”? How did the United States acquire this territory? And whom did they need to be wary of?

Please study the map of page 128 or the one Bill Bartelt distributed earlier. Where do you observe competing claims? Legitimate ones perhaps? Inane ones perhaps?

According to Stewart, how did Confederation Congress and the Constitutional Convention converge on the issue of the West? How did their concerns and results differ?

Generally, how did delegates in Philadelphia regard the West and westerners? Why did they need the West? Indeed, what was the population just immediately beyond the Appalachians about this time? How did immigrants reach the West?

How did the issue of the West return the delegates, once again, to concerns with slavery?

Means and conditions of admitting new states to the union led to debate about what kinds of issues? Why, ultimately, did delegates vote to admit new states on equal footing with the original 13 rather than maintain all power in those original ones?