

CONSTITUTIONAL COMPROMISES

UNIT 5
THE CRITICAL PERIOD

What was the Great Compromise?

- ◉ 1787: An agreement worked out at the Const. Convention establishing that a state's population would determine representation in the lower house, while each state would have equal representation in the upper house of the legislature
- ◉ Proposed by Roger Sherman (CT)

Counting Slaves as State Populations

- ◉ SOUTHERN delegates believed enslaved Africans SHOULD be counted as part of the state populations
- ◉ NORTHERN delegates believed enslaved Africans SHOULD NOT be counted as part of state populations for representation
 - Believed slaves should count for tax purposes

Resolving the Issue of Including Slaves for Representation

- ◉ Debate resolved by the THREE-FIFTHS COMPROMISE.
- ◉ THREE FIFTHS COMPROMISE:
Amendment stating that only $3/5$ of the slaves in a state would count when determining its population for representation in the lower house of Congress

If Slave Trade were to be Abolished...

- The Southern states threatened to leave the Union

2 Parts to the *Commerce Compromises*

- ◉ Congress could levy tariffs on imports, NOT exports
- ◉ Allowed importation of slaves until the end of 1807

What is Popular Sovereignty?

- ◉ Idea that political authority belongs to the
PEOPLE

What is Federalism?

- ◉ U.S. system of government in which power is distributed between Central government and individual states

Examples of Govt. Functions Responsible of the State

- ◉ Local govt
- ◉ Education
- ◉ Chartering of corporations
- ◉ Supervision of religious bodies
- ◉ Create and oversee civil and criminal law
- ◉ Protect the welfare of their citizens

3 Branches of Government

- ◉ Legislative Branch: Proposes and passes laws
 - Congress: Senate AND House of Representatives
- ◉ Executive Branch: Carries out the law/enforces the law
 - The President and departments to run the country
- ◉ Judicial Branch: Interprets laws, punishes criminals, settles disputes between states
 - National Courts

Checks and Balances

- Keeps any branch of government from becoming too powerful

The U.S. Constitution

- ◉ Unconstitutional: Term used for any law or rule that violates the Constitution
- ◉ September 1787: Final draft of the Constitution was completed (42 delegates remained from the original 55)
- ◉ 39 delegates signed
- ◉ 3 delegates DID NOT sign