## THE CREATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

## OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS®

David L. Bender, *Publisher* Bruno Leone, *Executive Editor* 

William Dudley, Series Editor
John C. Chalberg, Ph.D., professor of history,
Normandale Community College, Consulting
Editor

William Dudley, Book Editor



Greenhaven Press, Inc. San Diego, California

## Contents

roseword	9
Introduction	14
Chapter 1: Does America Need a Constitution?	
Chapter Preface	24
1. America Under the Articles of Confederation	
Is in Crisis	26
Benjamin Rush  2. America Under the Articles of Confederation	
Is Not in Crisis	32
Melancton Smith	
3. The National Government Should Be Granted	2.0
Direct Powers over the States  James Madison	36
4. State Governments Should Not Be Supplanted by	
the National Government	41
"Z"	
5. Shays's Rebellion Indicates the Need for a New	46
Constitution George Washington	סר
6. The Threat Posed by Shays's Rebellion Has Been	
Exaggerated	50
Thomas Jefferson	
Chapter 2: The Convention Debates Rival Plans	
of Government	
Chapter Preface	55
1. A New National Government Should Be Established	
(The Virginia Plan)  Edmund Randolph	57
2. The Convention Lacks the Authority to Establish	
a New National Government	63
Robert Yates and John Lansing	
3. The Articles of Confederation Should Be Revised	68
(The New Jersey Plan) William Paterson	00
4. Revising the Articles of Confederation Will	
Accomplish Little	75
James Madison	

5. A New National Government Should Emulate the	
British System	84
Alexander Hamilton	
6. The United States Should Create Its Own System of Government	95
Charles Pinckney	73
Chapter 3: Creating a Republican Government	
Chapter Preface	104
1. A Republic Must Be Small and Uniform to Survive	106
"Brutus"	
2. A Viable Republic Can Be Large and Diverse James Madison	115
3. Checks and Balances Can Assure a Republican Form	
of Government	124
James Madison	
4. Checks and Balances Cannot Assure a Republican Form of Government	130
Samuel Bryan	100
5. The People Are Not Adequately Represented by	
Congress in the Constitution	136
Melancton Smith	
6. The People Are Adequately Represented by Congress in the Constitution	145
Alexander Hamilton	173
7. The Constitution Should Prohibit the Slave Trade	155
Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery	
8. Continuing the Slave Trade Was a Necessary	
Compromise	158
James Wilson	
Chapter 4: Creating the Office of President	
Chapter Preface	162
1. The Executive Should Be One Person	163
Alexander Hamilton  2. The Executive Should Be a Committee	170
George Mason	170
3. The Constitution May Create a Monarchy	174
"Cato"	
4. The Constitution Does Not Create a Monarchy Tenche Coxe	180
Chapter 5: The Debate over Ratification	
Chapter Preface	185

1. The Constitution Should Be Accepted in a Spirit of Compromise	187
Benjamin Franklin	107
2. Principles of Liberty Should Not Be Compromised	
by Accepting the Constitution	191
3. A List of Objections to the Constitution "An Officer of the Late Continental Army"	195
4. A Rebuttal to the Objections to the Constitution "Plain Truth"	204
5. The Constitution Benefits the Elite  Amos Singletary	214
6. The Constitution Will Benefit All the People  Jonathan Smith	216
7. The Constitution Should Be Ratified with Suggested	
Future Amendments	220
Samuel Adams and the Massachusetts Ratifying Convention	
8. The Proposed Constitution Should Not Be Ratified  Mercy Otis Warren	227
9. A Bill of Rights Is Necessary for Ratification Patrick Henry	235
10. A Bill of Rights Is Not Necessary for Ratification  Edmund Randolph	242
Chapter 6: Historians Evaluate the Making of the	
Constitution	
Chapter Preface	250
1. The Constitution Was Created by the Genius of	200
the Framers	252
Clinton Rossiter	
2. The Constitution Was Created by the Genius of the American People  Alfred F. Young	267
Appendices	
The Articles of Confederation	278
The 1787 Constitution	283
The First Ten Amendments (The Bill of Rights)	290
For Discussion	291
Chronology	294
Annotated Bibliography	298
Index	305