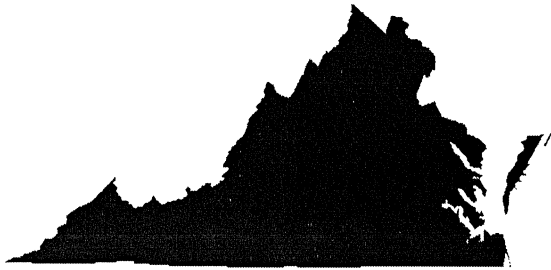


VIRGINIA PLAN vs. NEW JERSEY PLAN



The Virginia Plan proposed instead a legislative branch consisting of two chambers (bicameral legislature), in each of which the states would be represented in proportion to their "Quotas of contribution, or to the number of free inhabitants." States with a large population, like Virginia (which

was the most populous state at the time), would thus have more representatives than smaller states. Large states supported this plan, and smaller states, which feared losing substantial power in the national government, generally opposed it, preferring an alternative put forward by the New Jersey delegation on June 15. The New Jersey Plan proposed a single-chamber legislature in which each state, regardless of size, would have one vote, as under the Articles of Confederation.

The Virginia Plan

Branches

Three – legislative, executive, and judicial. The legislature was more powerful, as it chose people to serve in the executive and judicial branches.

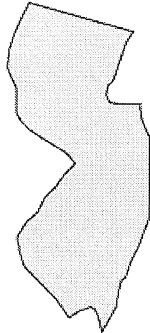
Legislature

Two houses (bicameral). The House of Representatives was elected by the people and the Senate was elected by the state legislatures. Both were represented proportionally.

Other Powers

The legislature could regulate interstate trade, strike down laws deemed unconstitutional and use armed forces to enforce laws.

VIRGINIA PLAN vs. NEW JERSEY PLAN



The New Jersey Plan was a proposal for the structure of the United States Government proposed by William Paterson on June 15, 1787. The plan was created in response to the Virginia Plan's call for two houses of Congress, both elected with proportional representation.[1] The less populous states were adamantly opposed to giving most of the control of the national government to the larger states, and so proposed an alternate plan that would have given one vote per state for equal representation under one legislative body.

Under the New Jersey Plan, the organization of the legislature was similar to that of the modern day United Nations and other like institutions. This position reflected the belief that the states were independent entities, and, as they entered the United States of America freely and individually, so they remained. The New Jersey plan also gave power to regulate trade and to raise money by taxing foreign goods.

The New Jersey Plan

Branches

Three – legislative, executive, and judicial. The legislature appoints people to serve in the executive branch, and the executive branch selects the justices of the Supreme Court.

Legislature

One house (unicameral). States would be represented equally, so all states had the same power.

Other Powers

The national government could levy taxes and import duties, regulate trade, and state laws would be subordinate to laws passed by the national legislature.

Great Compromise

The Great Compromise, also called the Connecticut Compromise, was first suggested by Benjamin Franklin to resolve the differences between the large states' Virginia Plan (representation based on population) and the small states' New Jersey Plan (equal representation regardless of size or population).

Connecticut's representatives, following Franklin's suggestion, proposed that:

Congress • consist of two houses: Senate and House of Representatives•

House of Representatives be elected on the basis of population (proportional representation) and would have the power to initially propose all bills/laws for taxation and budget (any money collected or spent by the government).

Senate would be elected on the basis of equal representation. In the original proposal the Senate could only accept or reject the bills proposed by the House of Representatives. Now the Senate can amend or change a bill that is proposed by the House of Representatives.

Further Analysis

"As in most compromises, each side received a little and each gave up a little. The small states received equal representation in the Senate. The large states won control of the House of Representatives based on proportional representation. Also, the House was given important powers related to taxing and spending.

The result was that the large states would have slightly more influence over the creation of laws on taxation and how money would be spent. Bills passed by the House could always be checked, or rejected, by the Senate where the small states had equal representation. The compromise was hotly debated. It finally passed by one vote."(We the People, p. 52)

3/5 Compromise

The conflict over slavery was complicated. Slavery had existed in some form throughout the history of the world for thousands of years. The colonial practice was established shortly after the early settlements were established. Although many of the Founding Fathers / Framers of the Constitution were personally opposed to slavery, all of the citizens attending the Constitutional Convention recognized that many of the agricultural plantations depended on slaves for the workers. The institution of slavery was universally accepted in the south and there were slaves working in most of the colonies.

Delegates from three of the **Southern States** said that their state would refuse to be a part of the national government if it denied their citizens the right to buy, sell, and own slaves.

Delegates from **other states** opposed slavery, but they wanted the Southern states to be a part of the United States.

The southern states wanted to count the slaves as population for representation. The northern states didn't want the slaves to count if they had no rights as citizens. They thought this would give the South an unfair advantage in votes taken in the House of Representatives.

Finally the two sides reached a compromise. The slaves would count as $\frac{3}{5}$ of a person for representation to the House of Representatives.

| | New Jersey Plan | Virginia Plan |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Number of branches in legislature | | |
| How representatives are selected | | |
| Length of service (term) | | |
| Slavery & representation | <u>NORTHERN</u> | <u>SOUTHERN</u> |