CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS

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Godbey Lecture Series

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I. The Articles of Confederation

A. More Like a Treaty than a Constitution

B. Problems under the Articles

1. No Chief Executive

2. No Supreme Court

3. No Taxing Power

4. No Effective Foreign Relations Power

5. No Means of Addressing Interstate Rivalries

II The Constitutional Convention of 1787

A. Mount Vernon (1785) and Annapolis (1786)

B. To Amend the Articles-Immediately Disregarded

C. Each State Had One Vote-Rhode Island Didn't Attend

D. Necessity of Absolute Secrecy

E. Washington as President

F. The Role of James Madison

G. The Virginia v The New Jersey Plans

III. The Major Divisive Issues

A. Representation and the Great Compromise-Bicameralism

B. Slavery

1. Representation and the 3/5 Clause-Art I, S 1, P 3

2. The Fugitive Slave Clause-Art 4, S 1 , P 3

3. Abolition of the Slave Trade-Art I, S 9, P 1

C. Chief Executive- Every Conceivable Possibility

IV Wrapping It Up

A. The Committees on Detail and Style

B. A Bill of Rights?

C. Changing the Rules for Ratification-9/13

D. The Dissenters-Mason, Gerry and Randolph

E. Signing Off-September 17th, 1787

F. Franklin's Words

V Ratification

A. The Antifederalists

B The Federalist Papers

C Ratification-Conventions in the States

VI The Bill of Rights

A Madison's Role

B 12 Amendments

VIII The Reconstruction Congress (1865-1876)

A The Thirteenth Amendment-Involuntary Servitude

B The Civil Rights Act of 1866- Protection of "Civil" Rights

C The Fourteenth Amendment

1 Citizenship-Overruling Dred Scott

2 Privileges or Immunities–The Slaughterhouse Cases

3 Due Process of Law–Life, Liberty and Property

4 Equal Protection of the Law

5 State Action

D The Fifteenth Amendment-The Right to Vote

E. The Civil Rights Act of 1875–The Civil Rights Cases