



COMPROMISES IN THE CONSTITUTION

Connecticut Compromise

There were two earlier proposals about representation in Congress. The Virginia Plan had voting based on population or tax payments; the New Jersey Plan had voting equal for all states. Under the Connecticut Compromise, small states get equal voting for all states in Senate, and big states get proportional representation (according to population) in House.

Commercial Compromise

Imports taxed, but not exports; states prohibited from taxing goods going to or from other states. Northern states wanted tariffs on imports; southern states wanted neither tariffs, nor taxes on exports.

Massachusetts Compromise

Ratification, but on condition of a Bill of Rights (Federalists and Antifederalists). This was not only the insistence of the ratification convention of Massachusetts, but of that of Virginia and North Carolina, as well.

Three-Fifths Compromise

In determining the number of people (for representation in the House) and taxes, slave states would be able to count three-fifths of the number of slaves.

Not as part of the Three-Fifths Compromise, but still part of the compromise over slavery in the Constitution, are the following points: that slavery was even allowed; Congress could abolish slave imports no earlier than 1808; Congress could not enact a prohibitively high tax on imported slaves; fugitive slave laws allowed (slave states and free states).