Constitutional Convention – Conflicts and Compromises

Virginia Plan:

Great Compromise

New Jersey Plan:

Northern States:

Three-Fifths Compromise

Southern States

Northern States

Slave Trade & Commerce Compromise

Southern States:
Constitutional Convention – Conflicts and Compromises

**Virginia Plan:**
- 3 separate branches: Exec, Leg, Judicial
- Bicameral (2 houses) legislature, House of Representatives & Senate
  - Representation based on population size in both houses
  - More people → more reps
  - Big states liked this!

**New Jersey Plan:**
- 3 separate branches: Exec, Leg, Judicial
- Unicameral (1 house) legislature, House of Representatives only
  - Equal representation for all states, like in the Articles of Con.
  - One state → one vote
  - Small states liked this!

**Great Compromise**

*How should states be represented in the govt?*
- Bicameral legislature with 2 houses: House of Representatives & Senate
- Representation based on pop. in House of Reps
  - Equal representation in Senate (each State gets two Senators)
  - Also called Connecticut Compromise

**Northern States:**
- Slaves should **NOT** be counted for representation, but they should **SHOULD** be counted for taxation.
- This position was best for the non-slavery states (mostly northern and smaller).

**Southern States:**
- Slaves **SHOULD** be counted for representation, but they **should NOT** be counted for taxation.
- This position was best for the slave-holding states (mostly southern with large #'s of slaves).

**Three-Fifths (3/5th) Compromise**

*How should population be counted for representation and taxation?*
- Count some of the slaves. For every 5 slaves, 3 would be counted for population and taxation.

**Northern States**
- Wanted government to regulate business, to help northern industry
- Some northerners wanted the govt to end the slave trade, but all wanted to protect their own property rights
- Most northerners did not want to have to return escaped slaves to owners

**Slave Trade & Commerce Compromise**

*Should the govt regulate business, including the slave trade?*
- Govt COULD regulate business, but promised not to end the slave trade for 20 years.
- Escaped slaves would be returned to owners.

**Southern States**
- Did not want government to regulate business, because it would not help southern agriculture
- Were afraid that government would end the slave trade
- Felt that northerners must return escaped slaves (property) to owners