

1.5 Ratification of the United States Constitution



ESSENTIALS

- Compromise deemed necessary for adoption and ratification of the Constitution are represented by the: *Great (Connecticut) Compromise/Electoral College/Three-Fifths Compromise/Compromise on the importation of slaves*
- Debates about the self-government during the drafting of the Constitution necessitated the drafting of an amendment process in Article V that entailed either a two-thirds vote in both houses or a proposal from two-thirds of the state legislatures, with final ratification determined by three-fourths of the states.
- The compromises necessary to secure ratification of the Constitution left some matters unresolved that continue to generate discussion and debate today.

1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. What makes compromise so difficult? Charles Sumner wrote: "From the beginning of our history the country has been afflicted with compromise." Is compromise an affliction or a blessing?

For each compromise deemed necessary for adoption and ratification of the Constitution report on both sides of the argument and cite the final agreement:

Great (Connecticut) Compromise

Electoral College

Three-Fifths Compromise

Compromise on the importation of slaves

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Review the Constitutional methods for amending the original document:

Method 1

Method 2



Which method has been used the most? How many times?

The compromises necessary to secure ratification of the Constitution left some matters unresolved that continue to generate discussion and debate today. List two (2) issues that in today’s political arena continue to vex our government. Is any compromise in sight for these issues? Why? Why not?

Quantitative Analysis

U.S. Constitutional Amendment (s)	Year Ratified
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1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	1791
11	1795
12	1804
13, 14, 15	Civil War 1865/1868/1870
16, 17	1913
18	1919
19	1920
20, 21	1933
22	1951
23	1961
24	1964
25	1967
26	1971
27	1992

Use the chart to answer the following questions:

- A. Identify the Civil War amendments.
- B. Describe a similarity or difference between the amendments ratified in 1870, 1920 and 1971.
- C. Explain how the data in the chart reflects the Founders ideals about a working governing charter.