

The Constitution Impact on the Development of American Freedom

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How did the Constitution Impact the Development of American Freedom?

Introduction

The Americans obtained their sovereignty in 1776. This is the time the American drafting of the constitution began and in 1777 the constitutional articles were adopted. The congress delegates met for the second time and came into a consensus to adopt this constitution. The articles contained the laws for the national thirteen states represented by their congress member. The articles were not successful and led to the need to have a new set of articles. The new articles for the new document were needed because if the amendments were to be made to the earlier articles, all the thirteen states would have to come into a consensus.

The Constitution Impact on the development of American Freedom

One major reason for the proposal of the new document was to assist the different states to operate in harmony under one national government¹. The intention was to ensure the document operates in all the states. The proposal to amend articles failed because many states felt uncomfortable with those articles operating in their states². It was not easy for the thirteen states to come into a consensus and this led to the proposal of coming up with new articles that would form the constitution. Therefore, in 1787 the constitution was drafted and in 1788 the document was ratified. In 1789 was the year which the constitution started to operate. Those who proposed this draft were satisfied that the draft had formed a powerful central government that ensured the harmonious operation of the United States.

¹Johansen, Bruce E and Barry Pritzker. 2008. *Encyclopedia Of American Indian History*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO.

² Bianco, William T and David T Canon. 2011. *American Politics Today*. New York: W.W. Norton..

Several of the united thirteen states proposed the change of articles that were used by the previous, government to sustain it. The articles stated that the thirteen elected delegates formed the national congress. Most of the decisions depended on the majority vote in the national congress; this is because each state had one vote of their representative. Those who supported reforms had some reasons such as confederation of the different states where loose, the central government authority was limited by these articles and they gave the states too much power.

In the articles there were no federal provision of taxes and this limited the government to perform serious duties like providing fund for the army. Trade control and regulation under these articles were limited for the national government. The same articles did not provide the central government with the opportunity to cultivate foreign relations and affairs. Therefore, these led to understanding that these articles would only create a weak national government ³. Furthermore, there was no enough ground in the articles to unite the entire states. The white males who opposed the constitution had several reasons. One was that those who had the right to vote were those who owned property. All states supported this right of property owners to vote apart from Pennsylvania State. Also to be a holder of an office depended on the properties you owned. These articles denied the central government to collect taxes, though it could collect federal levies.

The constitution led to the development of American freedom and did away with the discrimination of some Americans from being involved in the public affairs. It bought especially the democratic rights and social welfare of the secluded people. These were the natives, slaves, women and poor white males. These people had no voting rights based on the articles. The

³Bianco, William T and David T Canon. 2011. *American Politics Today*. New York: W.W. Norton.

constitution did away with use of property as measure to hold federal government office. The poor could now campaign for the federal seats, and this was their freedom to gain leadership positions. The Native Americans and women through the bills of rights obtained their freedom as well. The first ten amendments prevented states in favoring any part and provided these group freedoms.

People were given freedom to peacefully gather in the public places. Minority group could present their grievances and complains and they would be rectified. Those who were un-presented could not be arrested without reason and their property with-held. The rights of women were protected through creating equality measures. The constitution ensured the few elite do not have absolute power over the citizens. The slaves especially the blacks got their freedom based on the new constitution. In fact the northern states ended the slave trade when the constitution was set in place.

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