

Guided Notes Graphic Organizer: The Constitutional Convention of 1787

I. Background of the Constitutional Convention

- **Date and Location:** May to September 1787, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- **Purpose:** To address the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.

II. Major Issues Discussed

- **Representation in Congress:** How states would be represented.
- **Slavery:** How to address the issue of slavery in representation and taxation.
- **Federal vs. State Power:** Balance of power between national and state governments.

III. The Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise)

- **Proposed by:** Roger Sherman.
- **Structure:** Bicameral legislature.
 - **House of Representatives:** Based on population (larger states favored).
 - **Senate:** Equal representation (two senators per state; smaller states favored).

IV. Ratification Debates

- **Federalists:**
 - **Supporters of the Constitution.**
 - **Key Arguments:**
 - Strong national government needed for order and stability.
 - Checks and balances would prevent tyranny.
 - Promised a Bill of Rights to address concerns.
- **Anti-Federalists:**
 - **Opponents of the Constitution.**
 - **Key Arguments:**
 - Fear of a strong central government infringing on individual liberties.
 - Lack of a Bill of Rights to protect citizens' rights.