The Philadelphia Convention

The Constitution was written at the Philadelphia Convention in 1781. It was written to correct the mistakes of the Articles of Confederation. The primary goal in writing the Constitution was to try to balance the rights of the individual with the need for a strong government that could ensure peace and order. This was the central issue of the Constitutional Convention: trying to find the right balance between individual freedom and government power.

Two different plans emerged in the convention that attempted to balance freedom and power:

**Virginia Plan**

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**New Jersey Plan**

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**Great Compromise**

The other major compromise was between the southern states and the northern states over the issue of how to count the slave population for purposes of representation. This was known as the Three Fifths Compromise.

**Southern States**

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**Northern States**

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**Three Fifths Compromise**

Ratification was the process of getting the Constitution approved by the states. Supporters and opponents of the Constitution developed arguments for or against it.

**Federalism**

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**Anti-Federalism**

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**Compromise**