



## [Making the Constitution](#)

### **In A Nutshell**

The making of the U.S. Constitution is perhaps one of the most crucial lessons in the powers of hindsight and the importance of contextualizing history. People often approach the history of the Constitution with a specific agenda in mind: they want to prove that the Founding Fathers would be on *their* side in any number of political or social debates. Yet most historians would warn you that to truly understand any given time period, you need to put yourself in the context of the people who were living at the time.

The framers of the Constitution had no idea that their experiment would work, that the document they drafted in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787 would endure for centuries, expanding federal powers without violating revolutionary principles. The Constitution was a bold and highly controversial experiment that provided a framework for an efficient and stable, if imperfect, national government. It stood the test of time, thanks in part to the compromises it embodied and in part to the subsequent amendments that resolved some of its most notable contradictions, slavery foremost among them.

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## Brain Snacks - Trivia

Delegates to the Constitutional Convention averaged 42 years in age. Fifty-five men assembled in Philadelphia for the Constitutional Convention: 29 were university graduates (of schools ranging from Glasgow and Edinburgh to Oxford to William and Mary, Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and Princeton); that leaves 26 who never graduated from college, including Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. Future presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were both absent, serving diplomatic posts in Europe.

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