Constitutional Convention: Other Key Compromises

3/5 Compromise
proposed on August 29, 1787

The South’s agricultural interests and reliance on slavery led to conflict with the Northern states. The extent of the South’s reliance on slavery is shown in the following graph:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percent of population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 3/5 Compromise concerned representation in the lower house:
Most slave-holding states favored including slaves in the population count.
Most northern, non-slave-holding states opposed including slaves in the population count.

All freemen = 1 person
All other persons = 3/5 of a person

For taxation purposes, each slave to be counted as 3/5 of a person as well. In 1865, with the passage of the 13th Amendment, all slaves became freemen.

Commerce Compromise
proposed on August 29, 1787

The national government was given the right to regulate commerce or trade. Limitations are cited below:

The National government
- No taxing exports

State government
- No taxing imports from other states or foreign nations

Slave Trade Compromise
proposed on August 29, 1787

The southern states feared that the Congress would be controlled by northern commercial interests rather than by the agricultural interests of the South. The compromise followed from that fear:

Southern states’ assent to Commerce Compromise = No action on slavery for 20 years