

The Constitution—Balancing Competing Interests

Part A.

Americans' experience with British rule and the Articles of Confederation gave rise to considerable apprehension about the placement of power in a new government. The Founding Fathers attempted to allay those fears through compromises that safeguarded the interests of competing groups. The following chart lists some of those fears. Research the Constitution and related sources to identify the cause of each fear and how one or more provisions of the Constitution calmed that fear. Your completed chart should enable you to understand part B on the conflicting view of later historians about the motives of the Founding Fathers.

| Fear | Source of fear | Provision to calm the fear |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Fear of large states | | |
| Fear of the people | | |
| Fear of weak central government | | |
| Fear of central government | | |
| Fear of unwritten word | | |
| Fear of other states | | |
| Fear of foreign powers | | |
| Fear of strong executive | | |
| Fear of losing individual rights | | |