

Q, What were the challenges at the Constitutional Convention?

The Tough Issues²³

In spite of the common vision and status that linked most of the delegates to the Philadelphia Convention, no obvious route existed for how to revise the Articles of Confederation to build a stronger central government.

The meeting began by deciding several important procedural issues that were not controversial and that significantly shaped how the Convention operated. First, George Washington was elected as the presiding officer. They also decided to continue the voting precedent followed by the Congress where each state got one vote.

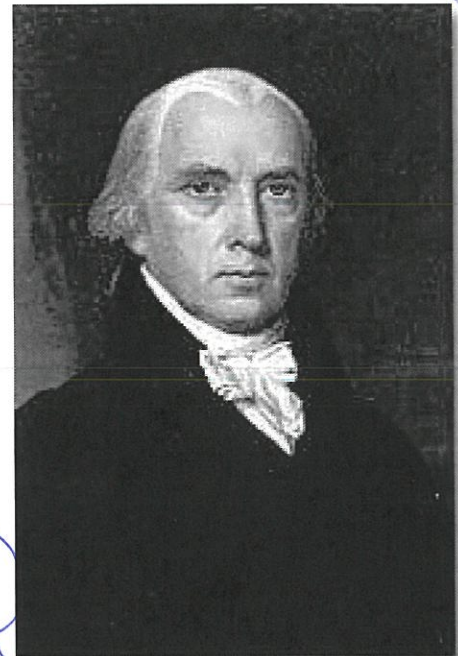
Washington's role in the Revolution and Shay's Rebellion

They also agreed to hold their meeting in secret.

There would be no public access to the Convention's discussions and the delegates agreed not to discuss matters with the **PRESS**. The delegates felt that secrecy would allow them to explore issues with greater honesty than would be possible if everything that they said became public knowledge.

Why would it be a big deal if the press found out?

In fact, the public knew almost nothing about the actual proceedings of the Convention until James Madison's notes about it were published after his death in the 1840s.



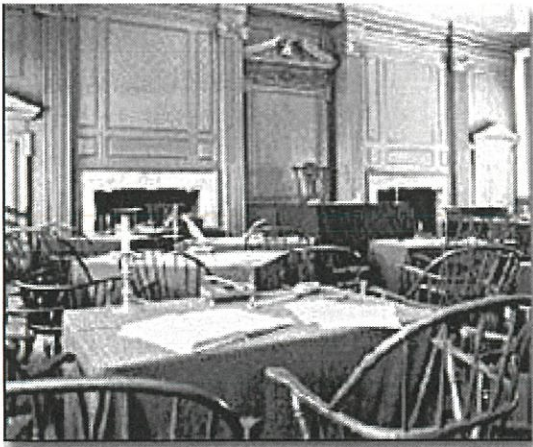
The delegates also made a final crucial and sweeping early decision about how to run the Convention. They agreed to go beyond the instructions of the Congress by not merely considering revisions to the Articles of Confederation,

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but to try and construct a whole new national framework.

Q1 ✓

Corroborates knowledge that James Madison is known as the "Father of the Constitution" Articles of Confederation were insufficient



The stage was now set for James Madison, the best prepared and most influential of the delegates at the Philadelphia Convention. His proposal, now known as the **VIRGINIA PLAN**, called for a strong central government with three distinctive elements. E

First, it clearly placed **NATIONAL SUPREMACY** above state sovereignty.

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