

USA History

① "If the U.S Constitution had not included the Supremacy Clause, how might American history have differed?"

Introduction:

The constitutional history of USA manifests the era of struggle, to form a stable and democratic government. It has the oldest written constitution that shows the existing state for the last two centuries. The constitutional need was felt when weak central government was formed, with no power. The interstate disputes, shay's rebellion exposed the weakness and philadelphia convention was presided by George Washington. Then "Bill of rights" and so on. Despite its strengths it has some weaknesses like electoral college controversies, and difficulty in amendments. Despite that it has a powerful

impact on other democratic countries
yet facing challenges like emergence
authority & power distribution
and reproductive freedom.

Constitutional Background:

The constitution of USA is the continuous struggle of thirteen colonies that remained under British empire rule. The denial of representation, taxation policies and arbitrary authority created unrest. Until they enjoyed self-government rule. This excited the colonial rule to make a united call for freedom to assure equality, justice and fair trial.

Articles of Confederation:

Articles of confederation was adopted initially. But interstate disputes, shays' rebellion, weak government

to maintain an army and system led to expose the weakness. This lead to the threat from external source. Therefore, amendment was need of hour.

Philadelphia Convention:

The nine states member were gathered in May 1787 for the formation of constitution in Philadelphia. The draft was drawn and ended at the division of power in Judicial, executive and legislative bodies.

Ratification and Formation of Government by Federalist - Anti-Federalist Debate:

Nine states ratified the constitution, sparking debate. Federalist group agreed to make stronger central authority to avoid injustice in power distribution. While, federalist

feared to get freedom and equal rights. In the end James Madison, Jay and George Washington's proposal was accepted. **George Washington** became the first US president after ratification of constitution in 1788, federalist regime commenced in USA.

Bill of Rights:

An issue arose on the representation of population in rights. So Amendments occurred in constitution called Bill of rights. Total 26 amendments have been passed in US constitution till now.

Compromises Between States & Masses :

- i) The Great Compromise was occurred when bicameral legislation was passed.

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ii) Slave and Trade Commerce Compromise:

The slave trade was commended but delayed the abolition rights of slaves.

Challenges to Constitution:

Numerous challenges have been faced by the constitution of USA like;

Civil Wars: strengthened the federal government system.

Great Depression: Strengthen economic policies for following days.

Constitutional Amendments:

13th amendment = Slave rights.

14th amendment = Equal citizenship and protection.

15th amendment = Women suffrage

26th amendment = reduced voting age to 18.

Global Impacts :

The US constitution had great impacts on states like Japan, France, India and UK. For democratic stable and strict constitutional amendments.

Major Cases:

- i) Dred Scott Decision envisaged the slave rights.
- ii) Marbury case gave judicial review and so many other cases.

Conclusion:

The US constitution is not mere a document. In fact, a debate, sparking idea of liberal, free and democratic stable state. It has a political independence without external interference. Therefore, this state has remarkable independence journey where they suffered to polish and

grew everyday.