

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: A More Perfect Union: 14th Amendment Precedents & Federalism Quiz for College Scholars

Examine the ideological fractures of the 1790s through primary source analysis of the Chisholm v. Georgia ruling and the radicalism of the Kentucky Resolutions.

1. In the context of the Hard-Money vs. Paper-Money debates of the 1780s, how did the decision in 'Trevett v. Weeden' (1786) foreshadow the development of the U.S. Constitutional order?

Answer: B) It served as an early precedent for judicial review by suggesting the judiciary could refuse to enforce unconstitutional acts.

Decided by the Rhode Island Superior Court, Trevett v. Weeden is a critical precursor to Marbury v. Madison, as the court refused to enforce a state law requiring creditors to accept depreciated paper currency, asserting the supremacy of the fundamental law.

2. The _____ was a structural proposal at the Constitutional Convention that sought a plural executive and a unicameral legislature representing states equally, reflecting the 'Small State' fear of consolidated power.

Answer: C) New Jersey Plan

Introduced by William Paterson, the New Jersey Plan was a direct response to the Virginia Plan, advocating for a federal system that preserved the equal sovereignty of states under a single-chamber legislature.

3. Analyze the significance of 'Chisholm v. Georgia' (1793). What was the immediate constitutional consequence of this Supreme Court ruling?

Answer: B) The rapid drafting and ratification of the Eleventh Amendment to protect state sovereign immunity.

Chisholm v. Georgia allowed citizens of one state to sue another state in federal court; the backlash from states concerned about sovereign immunity led to the 11th Amendment, the first to overturn a Supreme Court decision.

4. The 'Report on Manufactures' (1791) by Alexander Hamilton argued for a transition toward an agrarian-based economy to ensure American isolation from European industrial conflicts.

Answer: B) False

False. Hamilton's 'Report on Manufactures' advocated for industrialization, mercantilism, and government subsidies (bounties) to break American dependence on European goods, contrasting sharply with Jefferson's agrarian vision.

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5. What nuance distinguished the 'Kentucky Resolutions' (1798) from the 'Virginia Resolutions' regarding state responses to federal overreach?

Answer: B) Virginia suggested a collective state 'interposition,' while Kentucky's later draft introduced the term 'nullification'.

Written by Jefferson (Kentucky) and Madison (Virginia), the resolutions differed in intensity; Jefferson's draft for Kentucky was more radical, eventually utilizing the term 'nullification' to describe the remedy for unconstitutional federal laws.

6. The _____ involved a 1797 diplomatic scandal where French agents demanded bribes from American negotiators, leading to an undeclared 'Quasi-War' and the buildup of the U.S. Navy.

Answer: B) XYZ Affair

The XYZ Affair during the Adams administration inflamed anti-French sentiment in the U.S., resulting in the rescinding of the 1778 alliance and the creation of the Department of the Navy.

7. Fisher Ames and other 'High Federalists' initially viewed the French Revolution as a necessary expansion of Republican virtues that mirrored the American experience.

Answer: B) False

False. High Federalists like Ames were deeply horrified by the French Revolution's social upheaval and 'mobocracy,' viewing it as a cautionary tale of what happens when central authority is too weak to restrain popular passions.

8. Evaluate the impact of the 'Battle of Fallen Timbers' (1794) and the subsequent Treaty of Greenville on the geopolitics of the Early Republic.

Answer: C) It forced the cession of most of modern-day Ohio and established the principle of 'annuity' payments to Indigenous nations, solidifying federal sovereignty.

The Treaty of Greenville established a clear boundary between Indigenous lands and lands open to white settlement, while using federal payments to create a cycle of economic dependence.

9. Under the 'Compact Theory' of the Constitution, advocates argued that the federal government was created by a voluntary agreement of sovereign states, meaning the _____, not the Supreme Court, should be the final arbiters of constitutionality.

Answer: B) State Legislatures

Compact theory, championed by thinkers like John Taylor of Caroline and Thomas Jefferson, posited that because the states created the Union, they retained the authority to judge when the federal contract had been breached.

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10. The 'Revolution of 1800' was unique primarily because it was the first time in modern history that an incumbent power voluntarily transferred control to a rival political faction following a democratic election.

Answer: A) True

The peaceful transition of power from John Adams (Federalist) to Thomas Jefferson (Democratic-Republican) confirmed the durability of the constitutional framework despite intense partisan vitriol.