Angie Yousry

The Great Compromise was the sunshine after the cloud of the Articles of Confederation. The sun was grueling under the cloud to come out, yet the process of so came with a state of desperation. The ability for the cloud to move and the sun to step in came with the Constitutional Convention. There, the Founding Fathers came upon a plan intending more than to simply revise the Articles of Confederation. The main goal of the Great Compromise was to prevent tyrannical power from their future leader.

On May 29 1787, the delegates of the ‘Convention began the real work of designing a national government. The chairman of the Constitutional Convention, George Washington, had picked Edmund Randolph as the first speaker who later on offered a plan for a whole new government. The Virginia Plan it was titled, proposed a government that would have three branches. The first branch of government was the legislative, which made the laws. In addition, the second branch was the executive, which enforced the laws. Finally, the third branch was the judiciary branch where it interpreted the laws by checking on the executive branch if those laws were constitutional. The Virginia Plan projected a bi-cameral legislature. In both houses, the number of representatives from each state would be based on the state’s population or wealth. The legislature could have the power to levy taxes, regulate commerce and make laws, “in all cases if the separate states are incompetent or unable,” Other powers the legislature had included the regulation interstate trade and use armed forces to enforce laws. This demonstrates that the Virginia Plan was composed of a national government consisting of three branches with checks and balances to prevent the abuse of power.

The Virginia Plan led to weeks of debate, later on eventually obliterated. Because some states had a larger population than other states, these states supported the plan. This plan gave larger states greater representation in the legislature. The smaller states, on the other hand, opposed this plan. The smaller states worried that the larger states would end up ruling the others.

In response to the Virginia Plan conflict, New Jersey delegate William Paterson came up with an alternative plan. The New Jersey Plan called a uni-cameral legislative. In the uni-cameral legislative, each state would have one vote providing equal representation for each of the states. Though the New Jersey Plan had changed the ”representation system” of the Virginia Plan, the New Jersey Plan still followed the Virginia Plan’s idea of three branches in the government. Even though the New Jersey plan gave the legislature the power to regulate trade and raise money by taxing on foreign goods, the New Jersey Plan still did not offer the extensive power found in the Virginia Plan. The delegates later on voted on these two plans having the Virginia Plan as victory from the New Jersey Plan. The Virginia Plan later on served as the framework for drafting the Constitution.The committee of delegates soon offered the Great Compromise satisfying the smaller states with equal number of votes in the Senate and the House of Representatives according to state population to satisfy larger states.

The Great Compromise was one of the greatest beats in political maneuvering to save our country’s economic poll. The Great Compromise helped achieve the avoidance in dominance of one over the rest. But most importantly it had helped the united States of America become the United States of America.