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# A Gathering of Gentlemen: The Morals and Manners of the Delegates

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## A GATHERING OF GENTLEMEN: THE MORALS AND MANNERS OF THE DELEGATES

Dr. Russell Kirk

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. According to Rexford Guy Tugwell, what was the purpose of the Framers in writing the Constitution? (Many people believe that 1776 was a revolution of the radicals and 1787 was a counter-revolution of the conservatives).
2. What did Edmund Burke mean by a "natural aristocracy?" How does this differ from a hereditary aristocracy?
3. How did the personal background of the Framers reflect the definition of a gentleman? What is the difference between presumptive and actual virtue?
4. Contrast the characteristics of the French Revolution of 1789 with those of the American rebellion and the resulting Constitution of 1787.
5. Describe the educational and occupational background of the American political aristocracy.

### IDENTIFICATION

|                       |                   |                             |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Edmund Burke          | Bible             | Book of Common Prayer       |
| "Pilgrim's Progress"  | John Bunyan       | Rexford Guy Tugwell         |
| Decalogue             | Jacobins          | Claude-Adrien Helvetius     |
| Jean-Jacques Rousseau | Denis Diderot     | Baron de Montesquieu        |
| bundle of compromises | John Adams        | John Taylor of Caroline     |
| James Fenimore Cooper | Charles A. Beard  | James Wilson                |
| Alexis de Tocqueville | Henry Adams       | the Directory               |
| Robert Morris         | John Dickinson    | George Mason                |
| John Rutledge         | Gouverneur Morris | George Washington           |
| Alexander Hamilton    | Alexander Martin  | Charles Cotesworth Pinckney |
| John Francis Mercer   | John Langdon      | David Brearley              |
| William Few           | Thomas Mifflin    | Richard Dobbs Spaight, Jr.  |
| George Wythe          | Rufus King        | Luther Martin               |
| Benjamin Franklin     | James Madison     | Elbridge Gerry              |
| French Revolution     | Apostles' Creed   | enthusiasm                  |
| deism                 | Tories            | Cicero                      |
| Plutarch              | Vergil            | David Hume                  |
| Samuel Johnson        | Adam Smith        | Thomas Jefferson            |
| Thomas Paine          | sans-culottism    | Thomas Fuller               |
| philosophes           | Lycurgus          | John Randolph of Roanoke    |
| William Blackstone    | Daniel Shays      | Voltaire                    |