2003

Jack Rakove: Europe's Floundering Fathers Study Guide

Steven Alan Samson
Liberty University, ssamson@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/gov_fac_pubs

Part of the Other Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons, Political Science Commons, and the Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/gov_fac_pubs/91

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Helms School of Government at DigitalCommons@Liberty University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Liberty University. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunication@liberty.edu.
Study Questions

1. How does Rakove interpret the remarks of former French president Valéry Giscard d’Estaing comparing his role as president of the Convention on the Future of Europe with the roles played by Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson at the time of the American Constitutional Convention? In comparison with the earlier convention, what makes the current European project “ambiguous and arguably deficient?” (28-30)

2. How does the EU constitutional treaty compare with the Articles of Confederation? With the Constitution of 1787? (30-31)

3. **We the Peoples** Identify five negative aspects of the proposed constitution. What is meant by “competences?” (31-32)

4. **That Was Then, This Is Europe** What advantages did the American states when they sought to devise a federal constitution? Identify some of the national, political realities that may limit cooperation? How did the framers of the American Constitution overcome similar obstacles? What advantages flowed from the ratification process? How does this example contrast with the European deliberations? (32-34)

5. **Treaty or Constitution?** Identify some obstacles to the elitist political vision of the Eurofederalists? Where may strong resistance be expected? What could not be foreseen about the American presidency? (34-36)

6. **A Trans-Atlantic Mixed Blessing** What American constitutional doctrine is likely to be well understood? What circumstances favored this outcome in America? Are they likely to be repeated in Europe? (36-38)

Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benjamin Franklin</th>
<th>Thomas Jefferson</th>
<th>Articles of Confederation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constitution of 1787</td>
<td>negative aspects of the constitution</td>
<td>competition of Philadelphia and Brussels conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competences</td>
<td>comparison of Philadelphia and Brussels conventions</td>
<td>separation of powers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>obstacles to the political vision of the Eurofederalists</td>
<td>judicial review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>