1987

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  
"Pilgrim's Progress"  
Decalogue  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau  
bundle of compromises  
James Fenimore Cooper  
Alexis de Tocqueville  
Robert Morris  
John Rutledge  
Alexander Hamilton  
John Francis Mercer  
William Few  
George Wythe  
Benjamin Franklin  
French Revolution  
deism  
Plutarch  
Samuel Johnson  
Thomas Paine  
philosophes  
William Blackstone

Bible  
John Bunyan  
Jacobins  
Denis Diderot  
John Adams  
Charles A. Beard  
Henry Adams  
John Dickinson  
Gouverneur Morris  
Alexander Martin  
John Langdon  
Thomas Mifflin  
Rufus King  
James Madison  
Apostles' Creed  
Tories  
Vergil  
Adam Smith  
sans-culottism  
Lycurgus  
Daniel Shays

Book of Common Prayer  
Rexford Guy Tugwell  
Claude-Adrien Helvetius  
Baron de Montesquieu  
John Taylor of Caroline  
James Wilson  
the Directory  
George Mason  
George Washington  
Charles Cotesworth Pinckney  
David Brearley  
Richard Dobbs Spaight, Jr.  
Luther Martin  
Elbridge Gerry  
enthusiasm  
Cicero  
David Hume  
Thomas Jefferson  
Thomas Fuller  
John Randolph of Roanoake

Vité

Vité