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AP Government: Constitutional Readings: Charles Beard, “Framing the Constitution”

The author poses a different theory for the motivations of the Founding Fathers in their deliberations and the resulting document in the summer of 1787. After reading your assigned essay you should be able to discuss the following points with your group. You should also be able to explain your author’s point of view to those who read the other essays.

BEARD

1. What does Beard see as the overall motivation of the writers of the Constitution?
2. How does Beard describe the Constitutional Convention attendees?
3. What did Beard say were the delegates feelings toward the excesses of democracy?
4. Why does Beard say there were no property qualifications established in the Constitution?
5. What parts of the Constitution does Beard offer as evidence that the underlying purpose of the Constitution was not the establishment of popular gov’t by means of parliamentary majorities?