

Chapter 43 “A House on Fire” (521)

Articles of Confederation and Philadelphia/Constitutional Convention

The Constitutional Convention/The Philadelphia Convention holds a classic space in American History. The Constitution is still in effect and it was an arduous process to change and or reject the Articles of Confederation.

Washington’s role in the convention was all important.

He was an extremely complicated man and leader. He had a tremendous sense of propriety, always considering the “correct”, virtuous, or moral behavior. He hated the Articles of Confederation but also had to worry because he promised to leave power after the Revolutionary War was over.

This chapter deals with Washington’s decision to attend the Philadelphia Convention. He liked to play aloof and separate.

He had retired after the War to his home Mount Vernon, he wanted to be the Cincinnatus figure who fought and then went home... he won great praise for his decision.

Now, influential people wanted him back in to help reform and re-build the Union.

The Articles were not working.

Author:

“In retrospect, it seems foreordained that Washington, with his unerring sense of duty, would go to Philadelphia. He was a casualty of his own greatness, which dictated a path in life from which he couldn’t deviate.”

He needed the country to call him and make his participation an honor-bound duty to help the reform succeed. He could not appear to be ambitious. (523)

He was afraid of failure

Start on page (524)

As you read collect quotations and outline significant details that you notice.

Annotate and then transfer your annotations onto a piece of paper or document.

Feel free to offer comments that you find interesting.

Your goal is to prove you have read this document.

Skip 6 Paragraphs on 524, 525

Start 526 Look for these topics:

Washington arrives in Philadelphia

Slaves

President of the Convention, non-partisan, status, his role

His view of the **Articles of Confederation**

Washington: A Life by Ron Chernow (2010)

Ch. 44 "Rising Sun" (533)

Topics mentioned in the chapter

VA Plan

Conflict over representation

Passing Time

Work at the Constitutional Convention

Compromises

Great Compromise

Concessions on Slavery in the Constitution

Criticism of Washington

Discussions in Convention= Executive, Representation, Slavery

Fear of the executive

Gouverneur Morris

Thoughts on the Constitution

Unanimity

The Sun is Rising or Setting