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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