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How Majorities Shifted and Aligned to Shape the U.S. Constitution

The fundamental importance of the 1787 Constitutional Convention continues to affect contemporary politics. The Constitution defines the structure and limits of the American system of government, and it organizes contemporary debates about policy and legal issues—debates that explicitly invoke the intentions and actions of those delegates to the Convention. Virtually all scholarship emphasizes the importance of compromise between key actors or factions at the Convention. In truth, the deep structure of voting at the Convention remains somewhat murky because the traditional stories are incomplete. Traditional accounts gloss over the complicated coalition politics that produced these important compromises, while this book shows the specific voting alignments. *Founding Factions* helps us understand the nature of shifting majorities and how they created the American government.

“There have been so many books about the Constitutional Convention and the Framers involved that it is hard to imagine there could be anything new. *Founding Factions* shows us that there is. Jeremy Pope and Shawn Treier have done a remarkable job, using the best of voting analysis combined with a deep knowledge and understanding of all the writings by historians and political scientists on the framing of the Constitution, to provide a better and more profound understanding of how and why its key provisions came about. Bravo!”
—Norman Ornstein, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute

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Founding Factions

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