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The Significance of Signatures: Why the Premiers

Michael Copen

Abstract

Sign the Constitution and Why They Mean by

The significance of Signatures: Why the Premiers

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It is not difficult to see why the framers would desire to communicate as much unanimity as possible. The greater the appearance of agreement at the convention, the stronger the impression the Constitution would have on the ratifiers. The framers wanted to avoid any hint of disagreement or division, which could undermine the stability of the new government. By presenting a united front, they hoped to ensure the Constitution's ratification and thus secure the future of the republic.

Expressing unanimity in their deliberations was an attempt to maintain a facade of agreement that would make the Constitution appear more appealing to the public. The framers were mindful of the need to create an impression of consensus, even if it meant suppressing differences that existed within the convention. This strategy was part of their broader efforts to secure the support of the states and the people for the new Constitution.