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ARTICLE 4

Multiple Choice Quiz

ABOUT THIS QUIZ



Article 4

This quiz is about Article 4 of the Constitution.

All questions have 4 possible answers of which only 1 is correct.

You may read the article over the next few pages to freshen up before taking the quiz!

At the back of the book, will be an answer sheet.

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The United States Constitution is the oldest constitution in the world still in active use. It was written in 1787 and officially ratified in 1788.

Article 4 of the Constitution Summary

Article 4 of the US Constitution addresses the roles and responsibilities of the different states. This was a topic of great importance when it was written, given the increased power that states enjoyed in the pre-Civil War era.

Article 4 contains four different sections. Each section describes various aspects of states and their duties. Some of the sections are further divided into separate clauses.

Article 4, Section 1

Article 4, Section 1 requires all states to respect and accept each others' public acts, records, and judicial proceedings.

It further gives Congress the authority to create general legislation to describe how the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings are honored across state lines.

What Overall Problem Did Article 4, Section 1 Solve?

This was a vital provision. There had been discord and disunity among states under the original Articles of Confederation until that time. This disunity was especially noticeable during the early stages of the Revolutionary War.

Previously, each state would print money, operate under forms of government contrary to one another, and have vastly different cultures and economies.

The union of states would only work if the states cooperated under the guiding hand of a centralized government, specifically the legislative branch.

Article 4, Section 2

Clause 1

Article 4, Section 2, Clause 1 guaranteed that citizens would have the same privileges and immunities in every state. This promised individual citizens the same basic rights and freedoms as they traveled to other states. In addition, this prevented states from discriminating against people from other states.

Clause 2

Article 4, Section 2, Clause 2 is an extradition provision for states, requiring a criminal to be returned from the state to which they fled to the state in which they committed their crimes.

The state where the criminal fled could not refuse to give up the criminal. This was a necessary provision to maintain a level of law and order in an otherwise free society.

Clause 3

Article 4, Section 2, Clause 3 is the Fugitive Slave Clause. The Fugitive Slave Clause prohibits slaves from escaping their servitude by fleeing from their state to another state, even if the state they fled to prohibits slavery. The state's authorities where the slave ran were obligated to return them to their original owner.

The 13th Amendment, passed in 1865, has rendered this clause obsolete by abolishing slavery and any form of involuntary servitude. The exception is the case of punishment for a convicted criminal.

Section 3

Clause 1

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 1 allows for new states into the United States. This was a necessary provision as there was a westward expansion of many American colonies.

If a new state formed from within the boundary of another state or states, both Congress and state legislators would have to approve the measure.

This process has largely been followed with the formation of all the states of the United States. However, it was tenuously applied when West Virginia was formed from the existing state of Virginia in 1863.

Formation of West Virginia

The United States was in the midst of the Civil War, and residents of the western mountainous region of Virginia petitioned Abraham Lincoln to form a separate state from Virginia. Part of the reason is that they were staunchly against slavery. But, unfortunately, while the measure gained approval from what was left of Congress after the Confederate states seceded, it had no chance of getting approval from the Virginia legislature currently in rebellion.

A hastily formed provisional "Virginia" legislature was assembled in Wheeling, Virginia. It formally approved the formation of the state, technically fulfilling the requirements of the constitution that both the state and Congress had to approve a measure to form a new state within its boundary. Whether or not this fulfilled the requirements outlined in this clause is still a topic of debate.

Clause 2

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 gives Congress the authority over any territory or other property owned by the United States, with the right to pass laws and regulations for their governance.

Congress is also given the right to dispose of any territory or property owned by the United States. For example, if the United States had desired to sell the territory they purchased from Napoleon Bonaparte of France in the Louisiana Purchase to another foreign country, they would have every right to do so.

Section 4

Article 4, Section 4 requires Congress to guarantee every state in the country a republican form of government. Both existing and newly formed states were protected from the takeover of a potentially tyrannical government that would oppress their rights on the state level.

It is important to note that Section 4 is a broad provision and that no specific guidelines are given about how Congress would accomplish this, implying that it is the responsibility of the individual states to formulate their government.

On the other hand, Congress would play a more indirect role of simply verifying that the state government is indeed a republican form of government and then approving and admitting the state into the union.

Federal Government Guarantees the Safety of States From Foreign Powers

Section 4 also ensures the protection of every state from invasion, a necessary provision given the disjointed war effort that characterized the early days of the Revolutionary War.

Many of the New England colonies (Massachusetts in particular) found themselves in a state of war in 1775 with the Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill. However, many of the other colonies insisted that they were not at war with England, refusing to recognize the conflict of Massachusetts as a legitimate war shared by all the colonies.

If the union of 13 colonies, now states, would survive in times of war, the federal government would have to unify and guarantee the safety of all of them.

Finally, Section 4 guarantees the safety of individual states from domestic violence upon the legislative branch's authority, or the executive branch, if the legislative branch could not meet in time to diffuse the situation. This portion of Section 4 is the basis of the federal government interfering in the civil unrest characteristic of the Civil Rights era of the 1960s.

Multiple Choice Quiz

1. What year was the US Constitution written?

- A. 1776
- B. 1787
- C. 1788
- D. 1790

2. What year was the US Constitution ratified?

- A. 1776
- B. 1787
- C. 1788
- D. 1790

3. What type of governmental power is primarily addressed in Article 4 of the US Constitution?

- A. State
- B. Federal
- C. Judicial
- D. Legislative

4. Which of the following is not something that individual states must recognize/respect in relation to each other?

- A. Public acts
- B. Public records
- C. Judicial proceedings
- D. Political viewpoints

5. What was the first constitution adopted by the colonies that failed to create a centralized government strong enough to ensure harmony between states?

- A. Declaration of Independence
- B. Articles of Confederation
- C. Declaration of the Rights of Man
- D. Articles of Governance

6. Which of the following was not a provision of Article 4 of the US Constitution?

- A. States must regulate commerce within their borders
- B. Citizens have the same privileges and immunities in every state
- C. Criminals must be extradited to the state in which they committed their crimes
- D. Slaves cannot escape their position of servitude by fleeing to another state

7. What amendment abolished the Fugitive Slave Clause in Article 4 of the US Constitution?

- A. 11th Amendment
- B. 12th Amendment
- C. 13th Amendment
- D. 14th Amendment

8. Who had to approve the formation of a new state within another state's boundaries?

- A. President
- B. Congress and the state legislatures of the parties involved
- C. Senate
- D. People of the states involved

9. What state was formed from another state's boundaries as a result of its opposition to slavery?

- A. West Virginia
- B. Oklahoma
- C. Kansas
- D. Missouri

10. Who is given authority over territories owned and operated by the United States?

- A. President
- B. Supreme Court
- C. States
- D. Congress

11. What type of government does Congress guarantee every state in the Union?

- A. Democratic
- B. Republican
- C. Socialist
- D. Free

12. Which of the following was not a major battle fought in the New England Colonies during the Revolutionary War?

- A. Battle of Lexington
- B. Battle of Concord
- C. Battle of Cowpens
- D. Battle of Bunker Hill

13. Which of the following eras of American history in the 1960s was Article 4 used to quell civil unrest in states?

- A. Civil Rights
- B. Gilded Age
- C. Reconstruction
- D. Civil War

14. If Congress cannot meet in enough time to address domestic unrest, who is given the authority to resolve the situation?

- A. Executive branch
- B. Judicial branch
- C. State governments
- D. Individual citizens

Multiple Choice Quiz Answers

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. B
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. A
10. D
11. B
12. C
13. A
14. A