

Bicameral: TWO HOUSES

Unicameral: ONE HOUSE

ROLE OF VARIOUS ARTICLES IN CONGRESS:

A1 forms the two house system (formed after the Great Compromise). Two Senators per state, a variable number of House Reps per state. Article 1 and other parts also state that the two houses should have separate functions but still be unified under the name Congress.

AM17 states that the Senate would be elected by the people instead of by the House, giving more power to the people.

DESIGN CHOICES:

Two houses of varying representation: one can have a more diverse view and makeup whereas the other can be more intimate and closer to the state that they are to represent. The House Reps work for their Congressional district which makes them closer and the Senators work for the state which lets them see overhead better.

People can elect the Senate: the practice of having reps elect a Senate was seen as elitist, and thus, AM17 was made.

Separated functions: this can be traced back to the separation of powers. This was also just a generally wise choice to prevent conflict between the two houses. An example of this is the fact that the House can impeach but the Senate can try, and not the other way around. The two houses also receive checks and balances, where one side can check the other, such as the fact that either side needs approval to go on recess.

OTHER NOTES:

- While they have separate powers, the powers they share often require both to agree in order for it to go thru, such as the fact that a bill must fly through Senate and House before being passed to the president.
- Caucuses are kind of like factions but not as bad: they consist of groups of Congresspeople with similar interests. Examples of this include party aligned caucasus. These groups however exist outside the policymaking process but do have some political influence. They can hold meetings, promote officials, develop legislation, etc.
- There are also committees consisting of experts and officials focusing on a specific topic, suggesting legislation and review where necessary and helping in the operation of other agencies. These are part of the policymaking process.
- Coalitions are caucuses but better, according to the book? Idk but it says something about the