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## Article I, Section 9: Can anyone explain what this means as far as taxation?

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In article 1, section 9, in the fourth paragraph it states: "No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken."

Now with a Constitution founded with slavery, and with the "three fifths" representational clause this paragraph befuddles me. Any of you Constitutional brains out there help me out? I mean it seems an important statement as far as Federal Taxation authority, but in the context of Northern and Southern distinction revolving around slavery ... what was that Constitutional compromise all about?

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[Anthony Watkins](#) · 6 days ago 🔒

: a direct uniform tax imposed on each head or person : [poll tax](#)

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: a uniform per [capita](#) payment or fee

so no per capita tax unless it is apportioned evenly to a census, no graduated or regressive tax, and of course slaves were to be calculated at .6 of whatever the tax. if it was a dollar per head, then each slave would cost the owner 60 cents.

at least that is how i read it.

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Southern States wanted slaves counted whole for representation in the new government.

Northern States did not want the slaves counted at all for representation because they were not free people, they were property.

Gouverneur Morris proposed that " . . . taxation shall be in proportion to representation" which made it a liability for the southern States to have their slaves counted as whole, i.e. more taxes.

Compromise: Three-fifths representation. Three-fifths taxation.

See also 16th Amendment

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[Michael Krogmeier](#) · 4 days ago [🔗](#)

Thanks, that gives me something to chew on.

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