

**Reading 3:**  
**Charles A. Beard, *Framing the Constitution***

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION** – Write your answers on a separate sheet

1. What was the effect of the state constitutions and the Articles of Confederation upon the dominant economic classes?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does Beard characterize the delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What were the views of the delegates to the Convention on democracy and equality, according to Beard?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Aside from describing the delegates as representatives of the propertied classes desiring to protect their interests, what other evidence does Beard present to support his thesis that the principal purpose of the Constitution was to protect most forms of private property (slaves and livestock were excluded from the property to be protected, which mostly included public securities)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Beard relies upon *The Federalist* to support his argument that the Constitution was designed to protect the economic interest of property holders. In the selection you have read, what arguments does Beard make based on *The Federalist* to support his conclusions?