### *The Summer of 1787,* [by David O. Stewart‎](https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/david-o-stewart/the-summer-of-1787/)

CE 1700

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| Chapters 1-10 | Due: * Wednesday, September 28 (3rd and 4th periods)
* Thursday, September 29 (7th and 8th periods)
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| Chapters 11-21 | Due:* Monday, October 10 (3rd and 4th periods)
* Tuesday, October 11 (7th and 8th periods)
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* Be prepared to celebrate what you learned from all chapters on the day that they are due.
* Be prepared to participate in discussions about the subsequent questions:
1. Describe the group of state leaders who attended the Convention. What were they like vas a group? Were they of one purpose? What was their professional background? How many were they? Is it significant who was NOT there?
2. Specifically, why is Madison regarded as the father of the Constitution? Is this a well-earned title? What did he do? Was he happy with the whole document?
3. Select one of the most productive convention members, excluding Washington,

Franklin, and Madison. Explain the role this delegate played in the process. Did he offer anything that became a part of the Constitution?

1. Explain why the author considers this Constitution of 1787 to be a miracle. Remember that a miracle is “an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs.”

* You will write a critical book review. The goal of the book review is to analyze the author’s thesis, evidence, and writing style to determine the relative value of the book as a historical resource. **This NOT a book report – you should not provide a long summary of the book nor should you quote extensively from the book.** Your goal is to identify the author, the thesis, the types of evidence and sources used, and then make a critical judgment on the overall effectiveness of the book as a historical resource.
* The book review will be due Monday, October 10 (3rd and 4th periods) or Tuesday, October 11 (7th and 8th periods)

**General Format for the Book Review:**

1. Typed

2. Double Spaced, 12 font, Arial or Calibri

3. Approximately 2 to 3 pages in length

4. Written in the third person, past tense – no “I believe the author was attempting to do this” – you should say “the author attempted to prove this but did not succeed.”

**The body of the review should follow the format below**

**Format for Writing:**

You are not required to write a specific number of paragraphs for each section listed below – use as many or as few as it takes to address the focus of the section.

**First Section:** provide background on the author, qualifications, and other books written. Provide a brief summary of the book including the main topics, the time periods involved; major people-places-events but remember this is NOT a book report!

**Second Section:** what is the author’s thesis – what is the author trying to prove? Why do you think the author wrote about this subject and the specific people-places-events included in the book? How did the author try to prove the thesis? What evidence and types of resources did the author use? Examine the footnotes and any bibliography included in the book. Who was the audience the author hoped to reach? What type of writing style did the author use?

**Third Section:** time for your analysis – what was good about this book? Do you believe the author proved the thesis? Was the writing style effective? Were the evidence and arguments convincing? Also, what was bad about the book? Was the evidence NOT convincing? Was the thesis poorly constructed or unclear? Unproven? Did the author’s writing style or format distract you from the thesis?

**Fourth Section:** your overall assessment of the book and the author. Was the good better than the bad? Was the book a worthwhile read – did it contribute anything new to the study of history (as far as you know)? What other books have been written on this?