

GOVERNMENT UNDER the U.S. Constitution began today. Politicians representing Massachusetts have played a major role in establishing the U.S. Constitution, *writes our civil rights correspondent, March 4, 1789.*

The U.S. Constitution forms the body of laws governing the newly independent United States of America. The document strengthens the national government, which is now made up of the legislative branch, consisting of the U.S. Congress; the executive branch, including the president; and the judicial branch, consisting of the Supreme Court and other federal courts.

It has been partly modeled on the Massachusetts Constitution, though it permits slavery.

Getting approval for the new Constitution was no small feat. Anti-federalists feared that the Constitution

