

**THE CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE CREATED BY THE
FRAMERS WAS DESIGNED TO RESPOND TO BROAD
CONSENSUS BUT NOT TO MERE MAJORITY
PREFERENCE.**

1. This government will frequently be unable to respond at all. Such a structure is an excellent mechanism for preventing tyranny so long as the only threat of tyranny comes from the government itself. A government isn't likely to hurt you if it's not doing anything.
2. Such a structure may be less effective in a world where we are subject to the tyranny of a multitude of institutions other than our own government. And we have probably lived in such a world since the industrial revolution and the close of the American frontier, that is for about the last 100 years.
3. Since emergency or crisis tends to produce a kind of mob consensus, these institutions may continue to work pretty efficiently when we need them the most, even if they hardly work at all the rest of the time. You'll have to decide if that's a luxury we can afford, or if global experience provides any more hopeful models for governing in the modern world.
4. In times of crisis, the mob consensus that allows government to function efficiently might form around bad policies as well as good ones. Crisis often produces thinking that is irrational, emotional, or xenophobic. The attack on Pearl Harbor galvanized the United States for war. It also created the climate where almost no one protested rounding up Japanese-American citizens living on the West Coast and shipping them off to concentration camps in Montana.