

# Federalist vs. Anti-federalist

PowerPoint Presentation

Forming a United States  
Government Unit  
Lesson 7 of 8



# Forming a United States Government

## Federalist vs. Anti-Federalist – PowerPoint #7

### VOCABULARY

Ratify –

Federalists –

Anti-Federalists –

Bill of Rights –

The Federalist Papers –

# Today's Thinking Focus

T H E  
F E D E R A L I S T :  
A D D R E S S E D T O T H E  
P E O P L E O F T H E S T A T E O F  
N E W - Y O R K .

N U M B E R I .

*Introduction.*

AFTER an unequivocal experience of the inefficacy of the subsisting federal government, you are called upon to deliberate on a new constitution for the United States of America. The subject speaks its own importance; comprehending in its consequences,

What arguments did Americans raise for and against the Constitution?

they are forever destined to depend, for their political constitutions, on accident and force. If there be any truth in the remark, the crisis, at which we are arrived, may with propriety be regarded as the era in which that

# And the story continues . . .

- The Continental Congress tries to create a new government, but states fight over how it should be structured.
- The Virginia and New Jersey Plans are proposed.
- The Great Compromise created by Roger Sherman finally settles the dispute.
- Northern and southern states begin fighting over slavery. The Three-Fifths Compromise allows slaves to be counted as  $3/5^{\text{th}}$  of a person.
- The Founding Fathers took ideas from the Magna Carta, Locke, Montesquieu, the Mayflower Compact and others to create the U.S. Constitution.

# The Constitution Goes to the People!

**I don't support  
the new  
Constitution!**

**What's a  
constitution?**

**I support the  
new  
Constitution!**

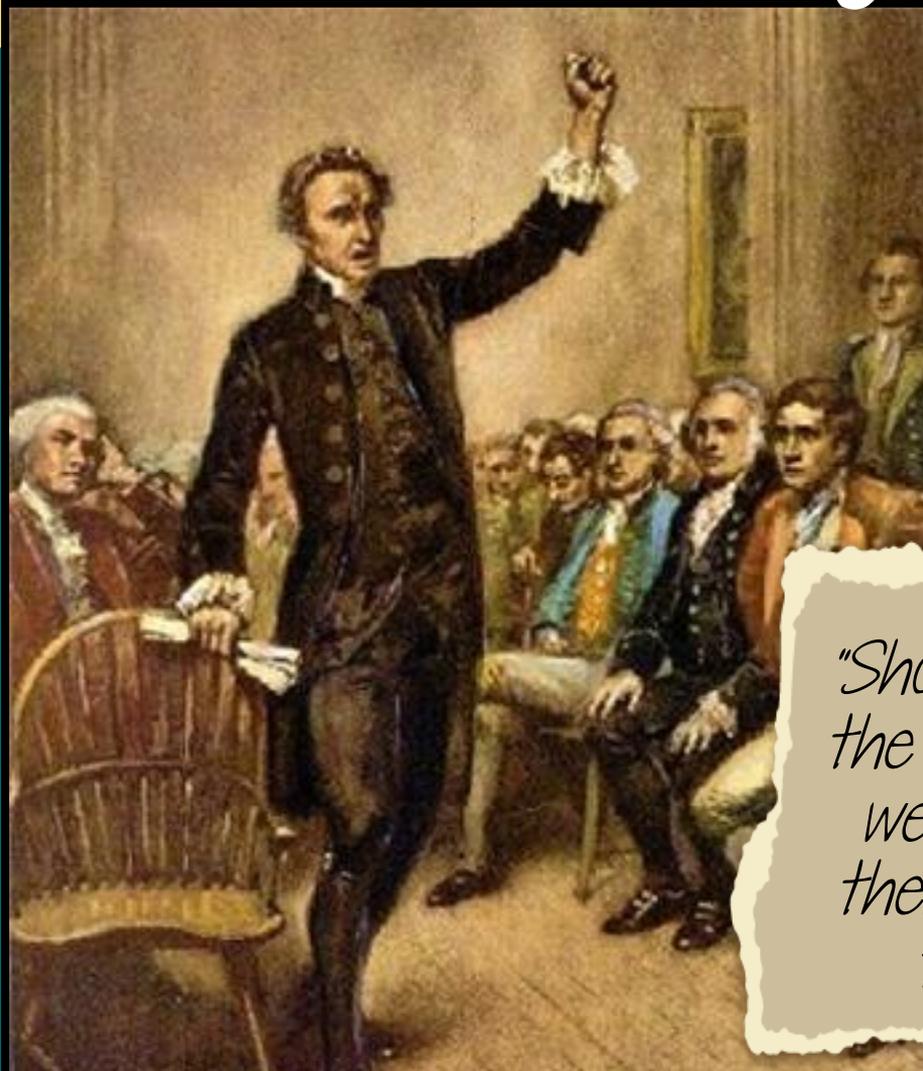


**Hey man, your  
speech bubble  
is blocking my  
face!**

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- In homes and in town squares across the nation, Americans discussed the new Constitution.
- Many supported it, while others did not!

# Rulers being good men . . .



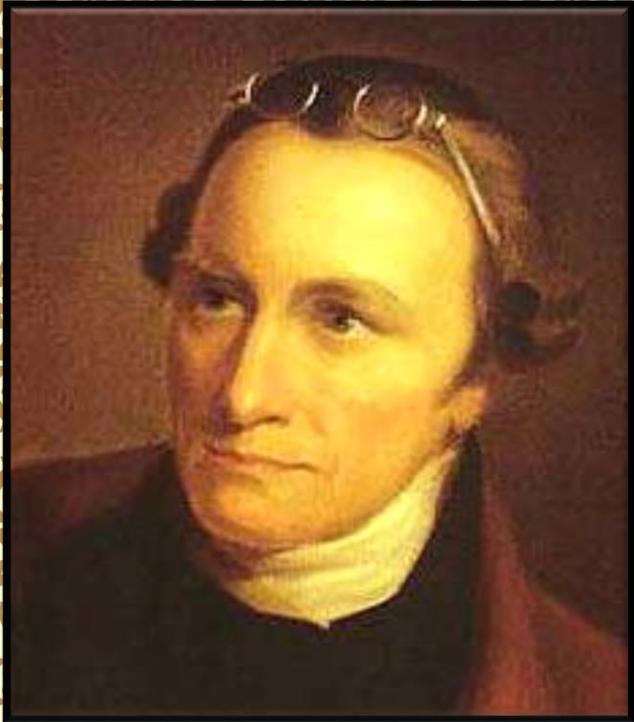
Patrick Henry giving a fiery speech!

- People who didn't like the Constitution (critics) worried that it had no **Bill of Rights!**
- In Virginia, Patrick Henry sounded the alarm when he said these words:

*"Show me an age and country where the rights and liberties of the people were placed on the sole chance of their rulers being good men, without the consequent loss of liberty!"*

# What do you think?

Read the quote from Patrick Henry again and write in your own words what you think he means.



“Show me an age [a time in history] and country where the rights and liberties [freedoms] of the people were placed on the sole chance of their rulers being good men, without the consequent [the end result] loss of liberty!”

# Was a bill of rights needed in the Constitution?

Did the Constitution give too much power to the federal government? Would including a bill of rights help?

**What is a bill of rights, anyway?**

## Bill of Rights

a list of rights guaranteed under the Constitution such as the freedoms of speech, assembly, and worship.

# Debating the Constitution

The  
Constitution  
is **FINE** the  
way it is!



Is anyone  
hungry?

The  
Constitution  
**NEEDS** a Bill  
of Rights!

- In the fall of 1787, citizens began to debate the document sentence by sentence.
- The convention had done its work. Now the states had to decide whether or not to **ratify (to approve)** the new frame of government.

## Virginia's Constitutional Convention



- The framers of the Constitution had set up a process for the states to decide on the new government.
- At least 9 of the 13 states had to ratify, (approve) the Constitution before it could go into effect.
- In 1787 and 1788, voters in each state elected delegates to special state conventions.
- These delegates then met to decide whether or not to ratify (approve) the Constitution.

# Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists

Supporters of the Constitution called themselves:



## Federalists

They believed in the ratification of the new federal Constitution.

Citizens who **DID NOT** support the Constitution called themselves:

## Anti-Federalists

Because they were opposed (anti) to the ratification (passage) of the new **federal** Constitution.



# What did Anti-Federalists believe?

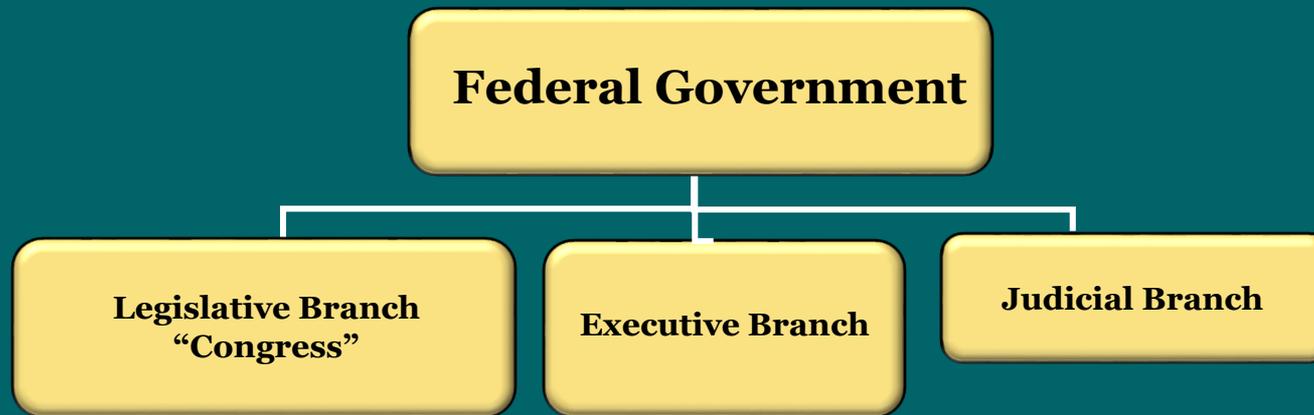


Anti-Federalists did not want to ratify the Constitution.  
They argued that:

- It gave too much power to the national government at the expense of the state governments.
- **There was no bill of rights.**
- The national government could maintain an army in peacetime.
- Congress was given **too much power!**
- The executive branch was given **too much power!**

"The federal government is too powerful.  
Congress is too powerful. The President is too powerful."

# How did Federalists respond?



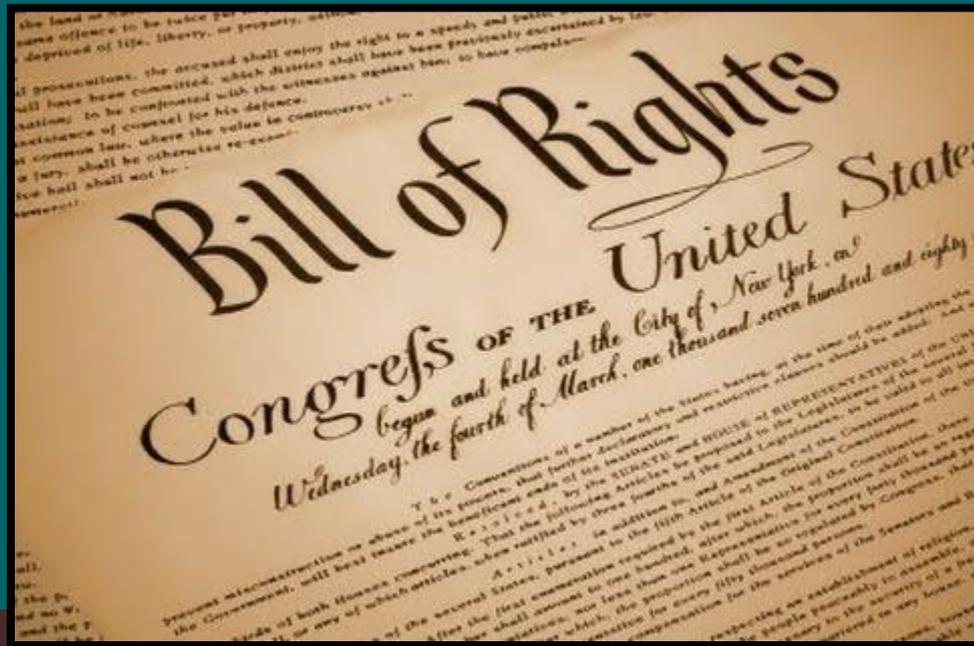
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**The separation of powers into three independent branches protects the rights of the people and give no one branch too much power.**

Each branch represents a different aspect of the people, and because all three branches are equal, no one group can assume control over another.



# Anti-Federalists respond back.



Although it is impossible to list ALL the natural rights of people, if rights were NOT written into the Constitution it would be easy to ignore them!

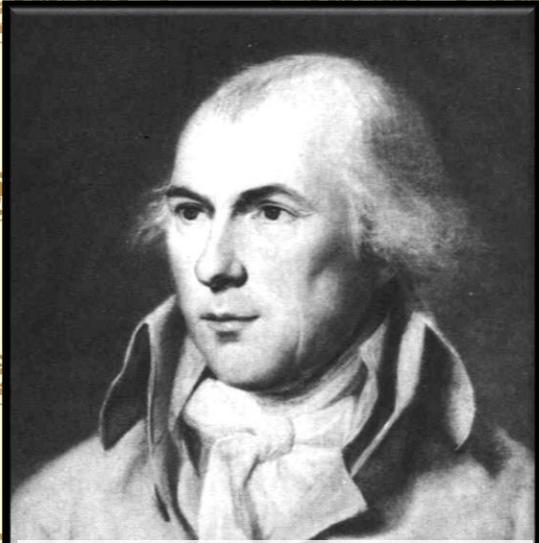
# President or Absolute King?

**Patrick Henry** once again stood to voice his concern that the Constitution gave the President too much power.

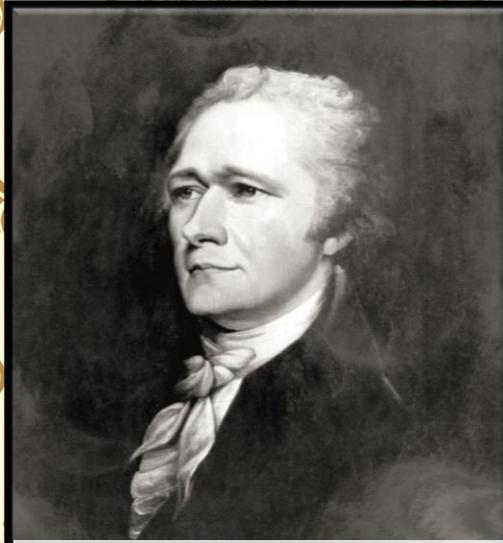


“This Constitution is said to have beautiful features, but . . . they appear to me horribly frightful . . . Your President may become king . . . If your American chief be a man of **ambitions** [having dreams and goals] and abilities, how easy is it for him to render himself **absolute** [totally powerful]?”

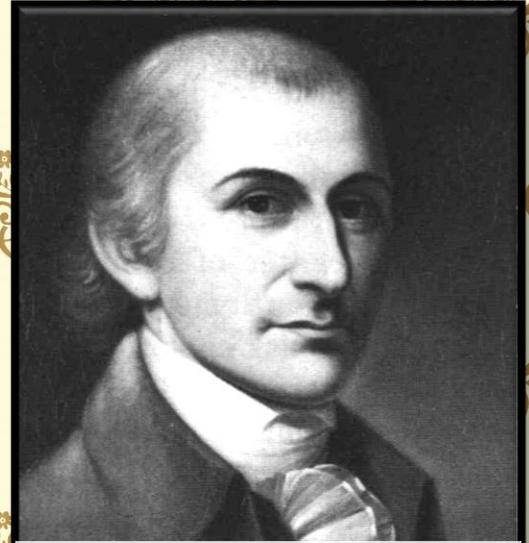
# Who are these so called Federalists?



James Madison



Alexander Hamilton



John Jay



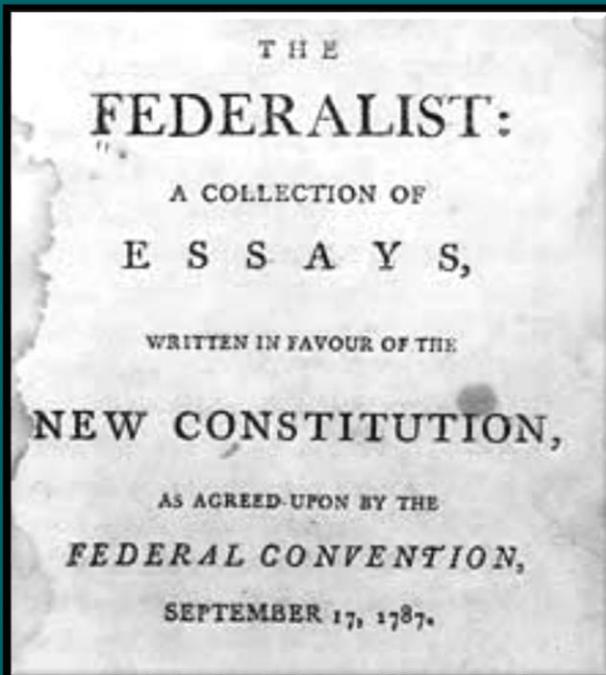
An easy way to remember these three Federalists is by their abbreviated last names: **Mad, Ham & Jay!**

# The Federalist Papers

- Mad, Ham and Jay secretly wrote a series of essays called,

## *The Federalist Papers*

- The Federalist Papers defended the Constitution.
- They used secret pen names but most people knew who they were.



## **The Federalist Papers**

a collection of 85 articles and essays written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay promoting the ratification of the United States Constitution.

# The States Vote to Ratify



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- One by one, the states voted to ratify the Constitution! Delaware was the first on December, 1787.
- In June 1788, New Hampshire was the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Still, without the support of ALL the states, the future of the United States did not seem bright.
- New York and Virginia, two of the largest states, had not yet ratified the U.S. Constitution.
- In both states, Federalists and Anti-federalists continued to battle it out with fiery debates!

# Make a Connection!

If only nine of the thirteen states were needed to pass the new government, why was it important that **ALL** states support the constitution?

# Virginia Approves!

In Virginia, Patrick Henry strongly **opposed** the Constitution. Henry believed that the document gave the government too much power!

*"There will be no checks, no real balances in this government,"* he cried.

- In the end, however, Washington, Madison and other Virginia Federalists succeeded.
- Although the Constitution already had its nine states to make the Constitution official, it was a great victory when in late June, Virginia approved the Constitution!

# The Last to Ratify

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Drawings of the federal pillars rising. Published by the Massachusetts Centinel during the ratification debate.

- In New York, the struggle went on for another month.
- At last, in July 1788, the state convention voted to ratify.
- North Carolina ratified in November, 1789.
- Rhode Island was the last state to approve the Constitution, finally doing so in May, 1790.

A GOOD

QUESTION :

I thought the states wouldn't ratify the Constitution without a **Bill of Rights**? So why are they all voting for it without one?

A GREAT

ANSWER :

The states told the Continental Congress that they would ratify the Constitution if they put a Bill of Rights in it! They agreed!

“Tis done.  
We have  
become a  
Nation!”



- Throughout the land, Americans celebrated the news that the Constitution was ratified. At sunrise, church bells rang!
- The city of Philadelphia celebrated on July 4, 1788. A parade filed along Market Street, led by soldiers who fought in the Revolution. Thousands cheered as horses wore bright ribbons, and bands played popular tunes.

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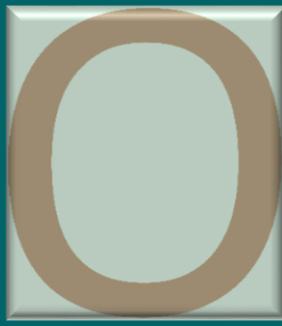
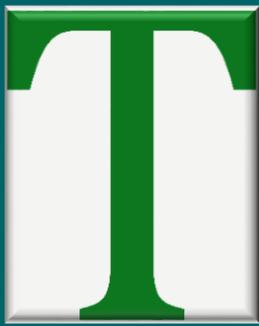
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