

What is Federalism?



As a Young Political Scientist, I will be able to...

- Compare & Contrast The Federalists & Anti-Federalists
- Examine Key Issues Both Argued Over
- Discuss the Impact of the New Constitution

What is Federalism?

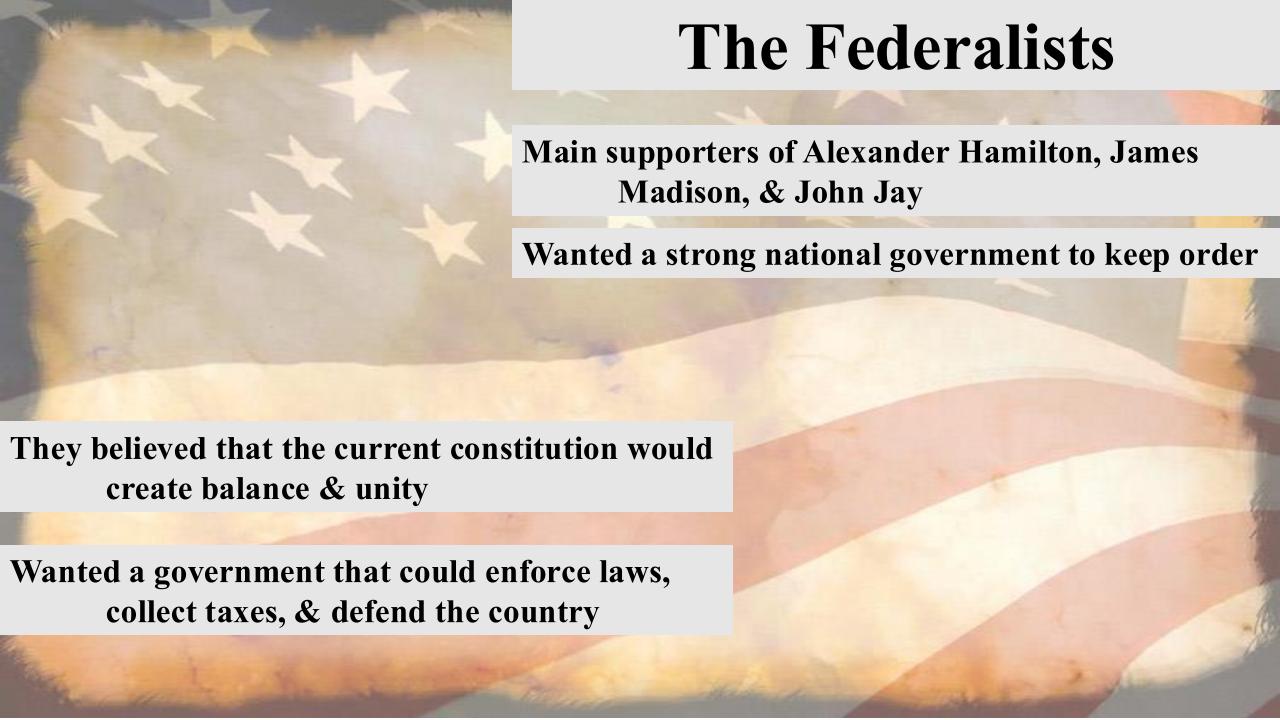
Federalism- System of government where power is divided between a national government & state governments

Both the National & State governments have their own powers & responsibilities

Some are shared (taxing), others are separate

Examples: Congress can only declare war, but states
run schools

This would allow states to make their own laws on smaller issues but still be part of a unified nation



The Anti-Federalists

Supported by Patrick Henry, George Mason, & Samuel Adams

Feared that a strong central government would lead to tyranny

Wanted more power for the states & local control

Feared that the Constitution gave too much power to the federal government

Key Issue: Representation

Federalists supported a bicameral legislature to balance large & small states

Anti-Federalists worried wealthy elites would dominate Congress

They wanted equal representation for states, not based on population

Great Compromise- Created a 2 House Congress
House of Representatives- Based on population
Senate- Equal representation (2 per state)

Key Issue: Executive Power

Federalists believed a strong president was needed to lead the nation

Anti-Federalists feared this would lead to a king

They worried that the Constitution had no clear limits on executive power

Some wanted a weaker executive or a group of leaders instead of just one

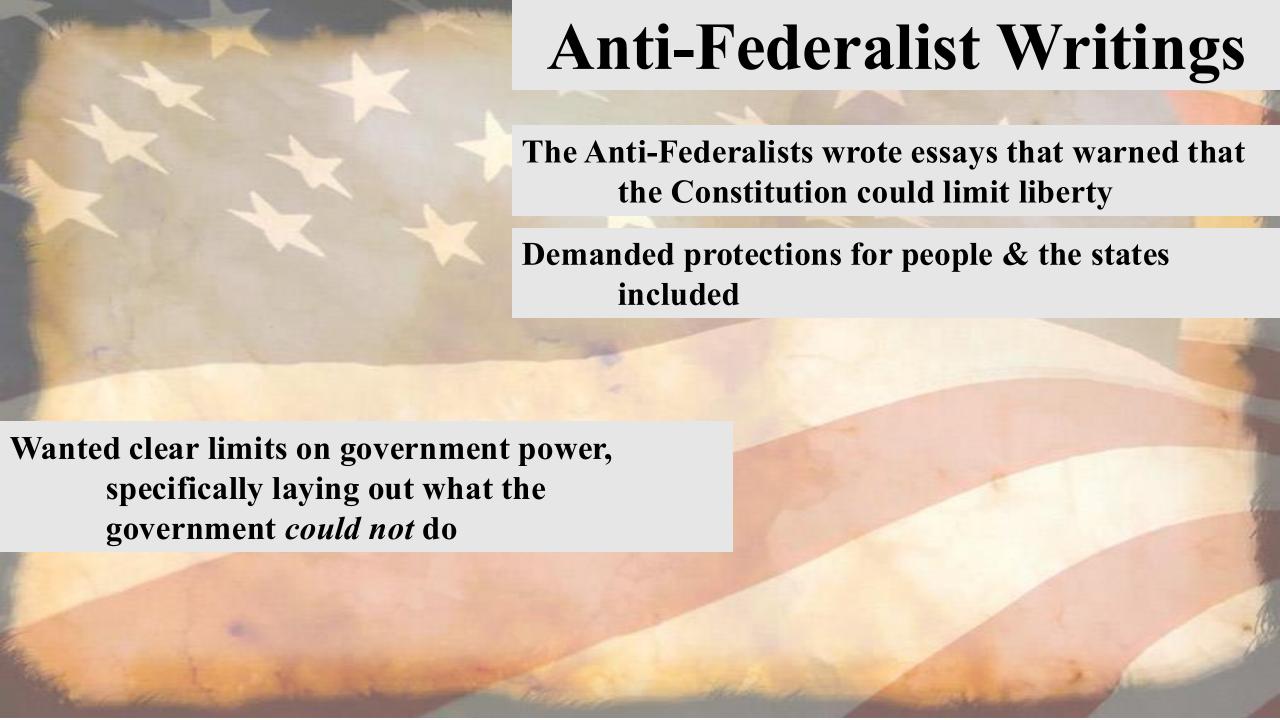


The Federalist Papers

Hamilton, Madison, & Jay wrote a series of essays & published them in papers

The goal was to explain & defend the new Constitution

Aimed to convince citizens & states to support its ratification



Compromises

Both groups agreed to the Constitution if it included a Bill of Rights

Bill of Rights- First 10 amendments to the Constitution protecting individual freedoms

Constitution approved in 1788

Bill of Rights was added in 1791

