

# Fed Up

## Debating the Constitution

### Benchmarks

SS.7.C.1.8 Explain the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists regarding the ratification of the Constitution and inclusion of a bill of rights.



# Constitutional Convention



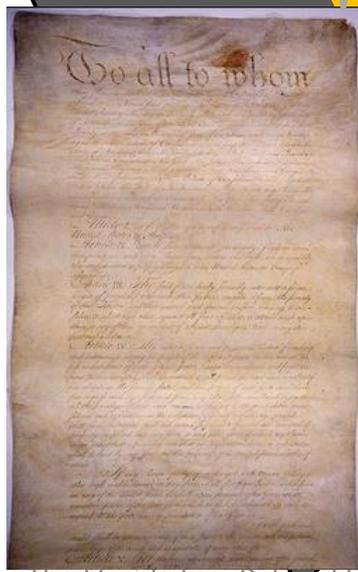
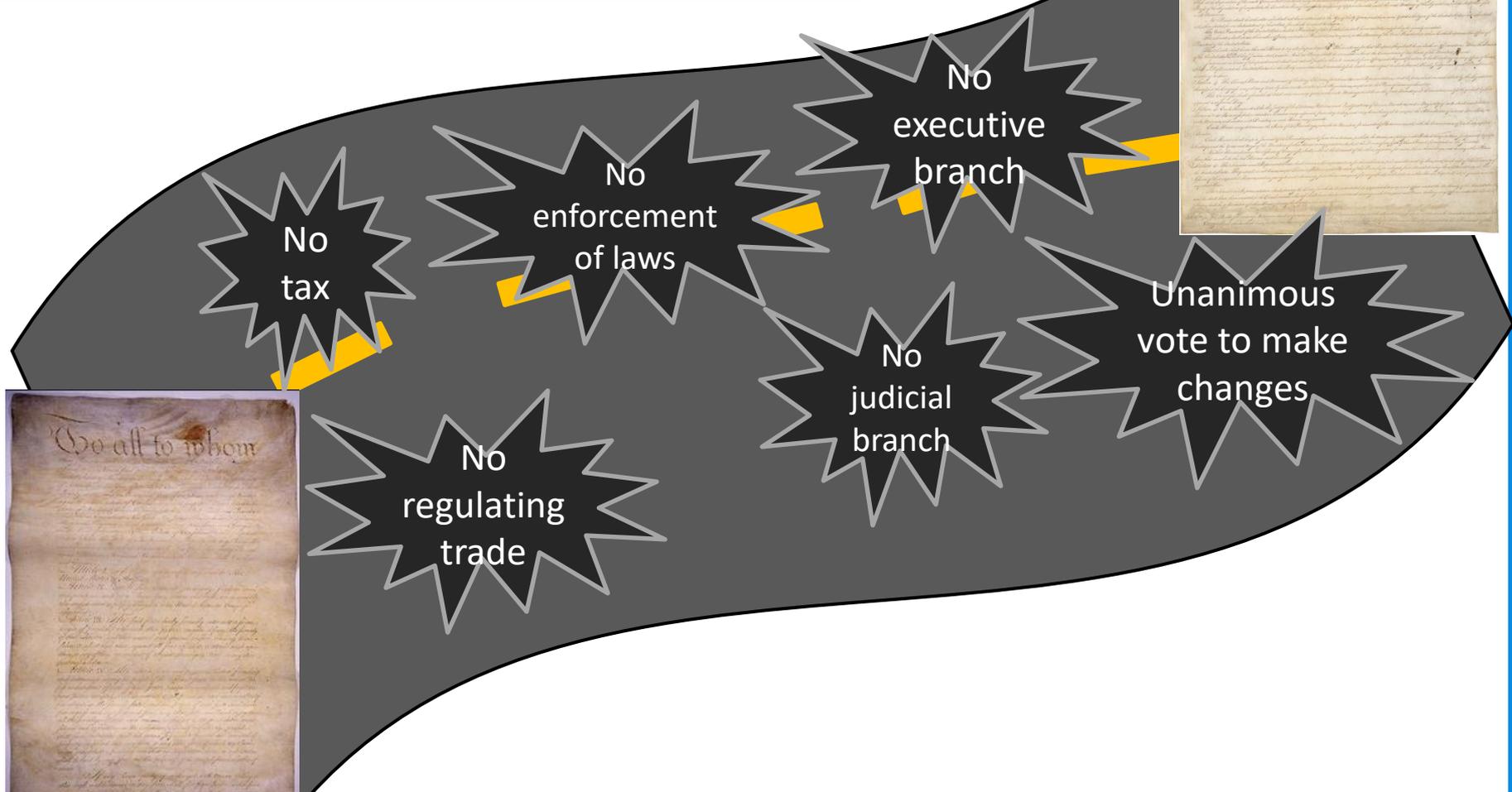
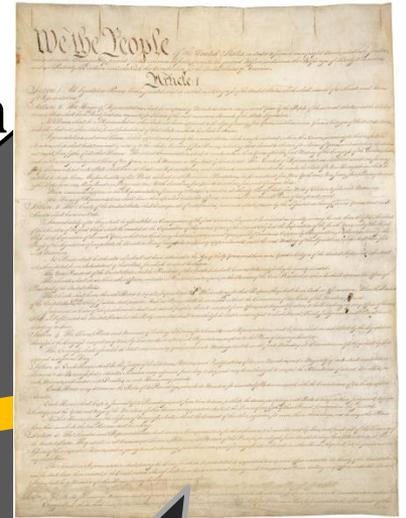
- The intended purpose of the Constitutional Convention was to revise the Articles of Confederation
- In 1787, the 55 delegates to the meeting debated abandoning the Articles and would ultimately discard them in favor of writing what would be the Constitution of the United States.

# Constitutional Convention

- By abandoning the Articles, the delegation would write a Constitution that:
  - Created the 3 branches of government
  - Addressed the issue of states rights
  - Implemented a system for changing, or amending, the Constitution that did not require a unanimous vote
  - Protected the rights of the people
  - Gave power to the federal government to tax, regulate trade, enforce national laws, and more

# The Road to the Constitution

## U.S. Constitution



## Articles of Confederation

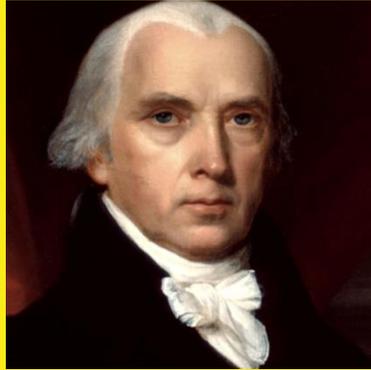
# The Constitution (as of 1787)

- Preamble
- Article I – Legislative Branch
- Article II – Executive Branch
- Article III – Judicial Branch
- Article IV – States
- Article V – Amendments (how to change the Constitution)
- Article VI – Constitution as the Supreme Law of the Land
- Article VII – Ratification

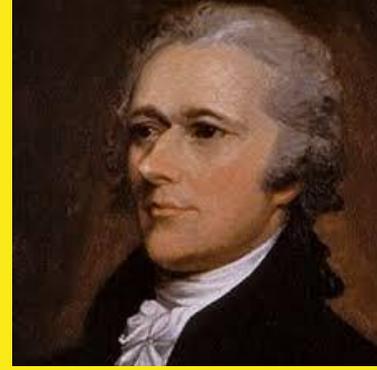
**What is ratification?**

# Ratification

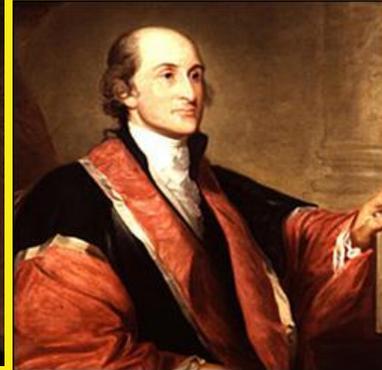
- In order to officially establish the Constitution as the governing document of the United States, 9 out of 13 states had to approve, or ratify, the Constitution.
- There was debate about certain parts of the Constitution...



James Madison



Alexander Hamilton

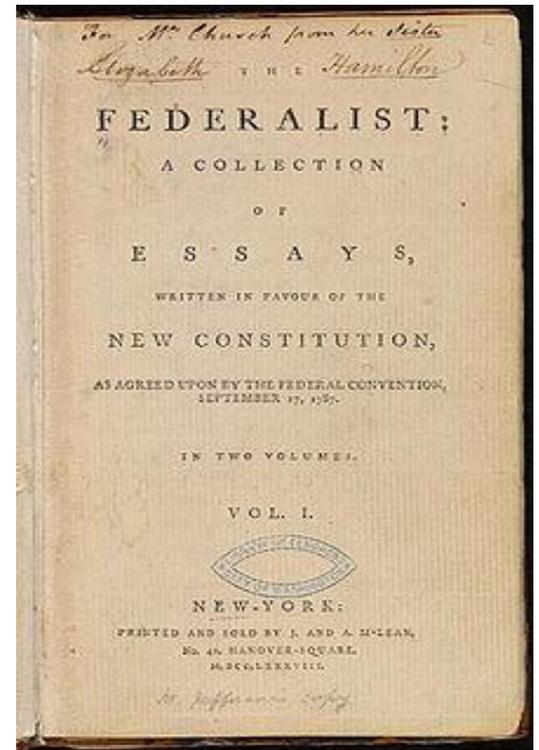


John Jay

# THE FEDERALISTS

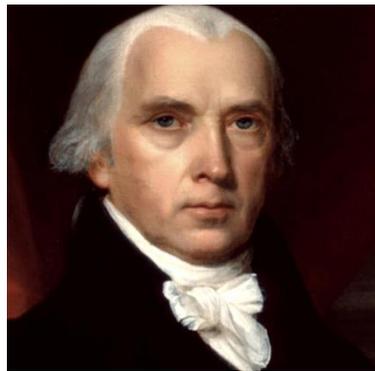
# The Federalists

- The Federalists were the people who **supported** ratifying the Constitution.
- The Federalist Papers
  - Articles written supporting ratification
  - One of the most important explanations of constitutional government

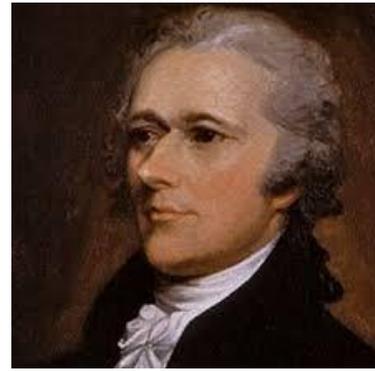


# What did the Federalists think?

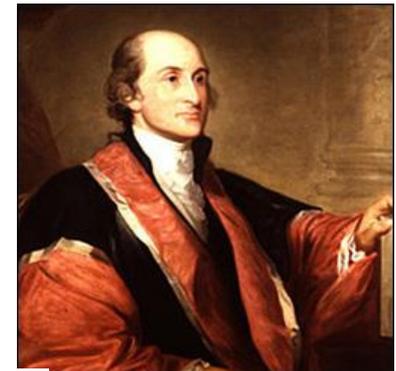
- We need to get rid of the Articles of Confederation; too weak and should be replaced;
- We need a strong central government;
- The Constitution, as it is written, protects the rights of the people.



James Madison



Alexander Hamilton

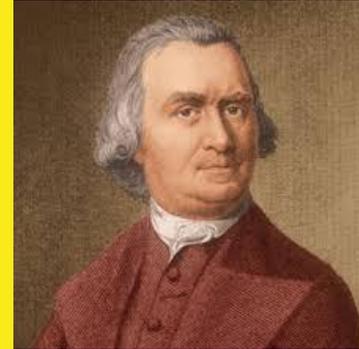


John Jay

Principal authors of the  
Federalist Papers →



**Patrick Henry**



**Samuel Adams**



**John Hancock**

# THE ANTI-FEDERALISTS

# The Anti-Federalists

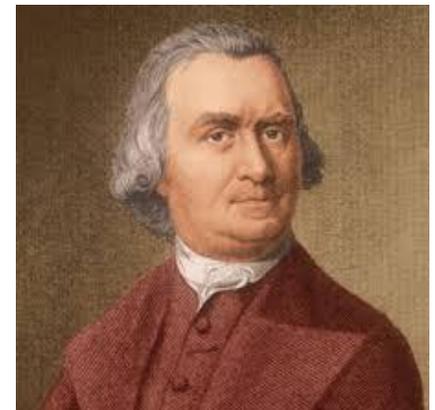
- Opposed to the ratification of the Constitution
- Wrote the Anti-Federalist Papers
  - Warned of the dangers of tyranny not protected by the Constitution



Patrick Henry



John Hancock



Samuel Adams

# What did the Anti-Federalists think?

- We should revise and keep the Articles of Confederation
- We should divide the power among the state governments
- If we are to have the Constitution, the rights of the people should be clearly outlined; wanted to include a “Bill of Rights”

# Difference of Opinion-

## Federalists

- Toss the Articles of Confederation
- Favored strong **central government**
- Believed the Constitution in its original form would protect the rights of the people

## Anti-Federalists

- Keep the Articles of Confederation
- Favored power divided among **state governments**
- People should be protected from the power of government by having clearly outlined rights in a “Bill of Rights” in the Constitution

The following quotes are from The Federalist Papers and The Anti-Federalist Papers. After reading the quote, determine:

- Who would have said it (Federalists or Anti-Federalists)
- What they were talking about (state government v. central government, rights of the people)

**WHO SAID IT?**

# Anti-Federalist – Specifically outlined rights

“The Constitution proposed to your acceptance is designed, not for yourselves alone, but for generations yet unborn. **The principles**, therefore, upon which the social compact is founded, **ought to have been clearly and precisely stated**, and the most express and full declaration of rights to have been made. But on this subject there is almost an entire silence.”

# Anti-Federalist – State governments

“It has been objected too that the new system... **is calculated to** and will effect such a consolidation of the States, as to supplant and **overturn the state governments.**”

# Federalists – federal/central government

The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the **federal government are few and defined**. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite.

# Federalists – federal/central government

The fabric of American empire ought to rest on the solid basis of THE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE. The streams of **national power** ought to flow from that pure, original fountain of all legitimate authority.

# Federalists – rights of the people

The truth is, after all the declamations we have heard, that **the Constitution is itself**, in every rational sense, and to every useful purpose, **A BILL OF RIGHTS.**

# Anti-Federalist – State governments

“I had rather be a free citizen of the small republic of Massachusetts than an oppressed subject of the great American empire.”

# Key For Remembering

- **Federalists** are for a strong federal (central) government in the Constitution.
- **Anti-federalists** are against a strong federal (central) government and **wanted** a separate **Bill of Rights**
  - As they are opposed to the federal government, that means **they are pro-state government and for adding a Bill of Rights to the Constitution**

# Checking for Understanding

Which statement supports the Anti-Federalists in the struggle over ratification of the U.S. Constitution?

- ~~A. The Constitution should limit state government.~~
- ★ B. The Constitution should protect fundamental rights.
- ~~C. The Constitution should create a strong national government.~~
- ~~D. The Constitution should prevent the election of amateur politicians.~~

Opposed to a strong national government; pro-state governments

Opposed to a strong national government.

Not a factor in the Federalist/Anti-federalist debate

# Ratifying Convention

- What would you decide?
- Based on what you have learned from the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, would you have voted to ratify (approve) the new Constitution?
  - Write “Yes” on a sheet of paper if you would have approved.
  - Write “No” on a sheet of paper if you would NOT have approved.