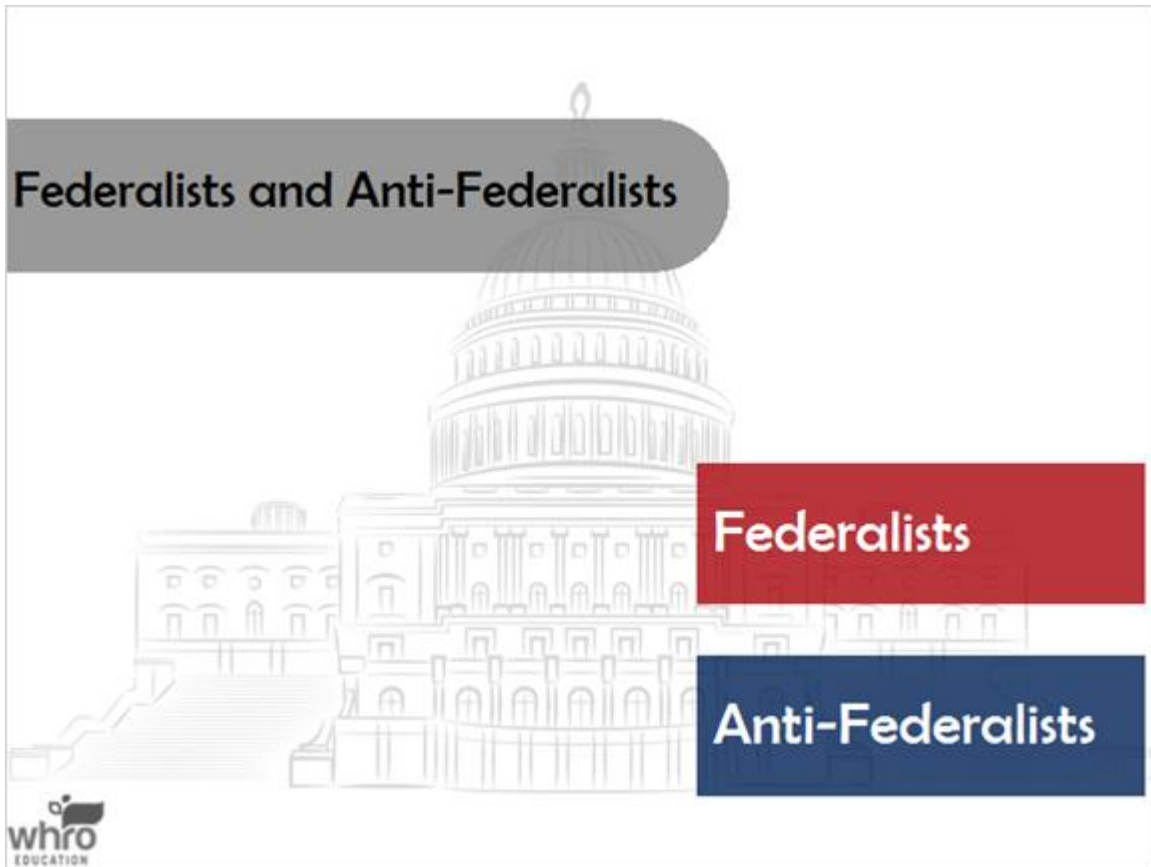


Module 3: Building a Government - The 1780s
Topic 3 Content: Federalists and Anti-Federalists Notes

Introduction



Federalists and Anti-Federalists held opposing views on the ratification of the Constitution. In this interactivity, learn more about how these groups became the first political parties in American government. Select either party to begin.

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Topic 3 Content: Federalists and Anti-Federalists Notes

Federalists

The graphic features a red header with the word "Federalists" in white. Below the header is a white box containing the text: "Make a selection from the menu on the right to explore Federalist beliefs, leaders, and supporters." To the right of this box is a red vertical menu with three white text options: "Beliefs", "Leaders", and "Supporters". The background of the entire graphic is a light gray line drawing of the United States Capitol building. At the bottom left and right corners of the graphic are red circular buttons with white left and right arrow symbols, respectively.

Federalists were in favor of the ratification of the Constitution. Make a selection from the menu on the right to explore Federalist beliefs, leaders, and supporters.

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Topic 3 Content: Federalists and Anti-Federalists Notes

Beliefs


Federalists

- Federalists principles still exist today.
- Federalists were supporters of the Constitution.
- Federalists supported a powerful central authority, a national currency, and the power to regulate trade.
- Federalists supported the Constitution's division of power.
- Federalists believed that the system of checks and balances would limit the government's authority.

Beliefs

Leaders

Supporters



Today, individuals who believe that the federal government is responsible for addressing issues that affect the nation are said to uphold Federalist principles. During the ratification debates, Federalists were known as the supporters of the Constitution, which established a central authority with significant powers to govern the young nation, including the power to establish a national currency, and regulate trade both between the states and with foreign countries.

Federalists also supported the Constitution's division of the government power. They believed that separating the powers of government and following the system of checks and balances established in the Constitution, would limit the government's authority and prevent abuse of power. How to effectively limit the power of government continued to be a divisive issue throughout the ratification debates.

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Leaders

The infographic is titled "Federalists" in a red banner at the top. Below the banner, there are three red-bordered boxes containing portraits of George Washington, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton. Each portrait has a magnifying glass icon in the bottom-left corner. To the right of the portraits is a red box containing the text "Beliefs", "Leaders", and "Supporters". The background of the infographic features a faint line drawing of the United States Capitol building.

Virginians George Washington and James Madison, and New Yorker Alexander Hamilton were influential Federalist leaders. They were in favor of the ratification of the Constitution.

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Supporters

The slide is titled "Federalists" in a red header. Below the header, on the left, is an image of the cover of the book "Federalist: A Collection of Essays, Written in Favour of the New Constitution, as Agreed Upon by the Federal Convention, September 17, 1787. In Two Volumes. Vol. I. New York: Printed and Sold by J. and A. Mullan, No. 41, Hanover-Square, Manchester-Street." The cover is yellow with black text and a small logo at the bottom left. To the right of the book cover is a red box containing the text "Beliefs", "Leaders", and "Supporters" stacked vertically. The background of the slide features a faint line drawing of the United States Capitol building. Navigation arrows are visible at the bottom left and right corners.

Federalists gained a lot of support from artisans and merchants during the ratification debates. These citizens lived in urban areas and highly favored a national government that had the power to regulate currency and trade. States with weaker economies also favored the Federalist argument. These states believed that a strong national government could assist them in their improvement efforts.

Debates between Federalists and Anti-Federalists ensued in the press. From 1787 until 1788, a series of 85 essays defending the Constitution was published in the *New York Independent Journal*. In these essays, known as the *Federalist Papers*, John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison collaborated to share their support of the ratification of the Constitution.

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Anti-Federalists

The graphic features a dark blue header with the text "Anti-Federalists". Below the header is a white box containing the instruction: "Make a selection from the menu on the right to explore Anti-Federalist beliefs, leaders, and supporters." To the right of this box is a dark blue menu with three white options: "Beliefs", "Leaders", and "Supporters". The background of the graphic is a light blue line drawing of the United States Capitol building. At the bottom left and right corners, there are dark blue circular buttons with white left and right arrow symbols, respectively.

Anti-Federalists opposed the ratification of the Constitution. Make a selection from the menu on the right to explore Anti-Federalist beliefs, leaders, and supporters.

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Beliefs

Anti-Federalists

- Anti-Federalists believed that a strong national government trampled upon the rights of individuals.
- Anti-Federalists wanted the Constitution to include a Bill of Rights.
- Anti-Federalists refused to support ratification of the Constitution.
- Anti-Federalists feared a strong national government would place heavy tax burdens on the states.

Beliefs

Leaders

Supporters

The infographic features a dark blue background with a faint white outline of the U.S. Capitol building. On the right, there is a vertical stack of three dark blue boxes. The top box contains the word 'Beliefs', the middle box contains 'Leaders', and the bottom box contains 'Supporters'. Below the 'Supporters' box is a white icon of a classical building with four columns and a triangular pediment, resting on a stack of three dark blue blocks representing money, with a white dollar sign on the top block.

Anti-Federalists feared that the strong national government established in the Constitution would trample upon the rights of individuals. They believed that the Constitution should include a Bill of Rights, to protect the freedoms of individuals. Without this essential addition to the Constitution, many Anti-Federalists refused to support ratification.

Anti-Federalists were also concerned that the Constitution delegated too much power to the national government and not enough power to the state governments. They worried that a strong national government may place heavy tax burdens on the states. Anti-Federalists preferred the weak national government and powerful state governments, established in the Articles of Confederation.

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Leaders

Anti-Federalists

The infographic features a dark blue header with the text "Anti-Federalists". Below the header, there are three portrait cards for Patrick Henry, George Mason, and Thomas Jefferson. Each card has a magnifying glass icon in the bottom left corner. To the right of these cards is a large dark blue box containing the text "Beliefs", "Leaders", and "Supporters" stacked vertically. The background of the infographic shows a faint white outline of the United States Capitol building.

Virginians Patrick Henry, George Mason, and Thomas Jefferson were influential Anti-Federalists leaders. They opposed the ratification of the Constitution.

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Supporters

The slide is titled "Anti-Federalists" in a dark blue header. Below the header, on the left, is a dark blue box containing the title "Letters from a Federal Farmer" in white italicized font. Below this is a scan of the book's title page, which reads: "OBSERVATIONS LEADING TO A FAIR EXAMINATION OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED BY THE LATE CONVENTION; AND TO SEVERAL ESSENTIAL AND NECESSARY ALTERATIONS IN IT. IN A NUMBER OF LETTERS FROM THE FEDERAL FARMER TO THE REPUBLICAN. PRINTED IN THE YEAR MDCCLXXVIII." On the right side of the slide is another dark blue box containing the text "Beliefs", "Leaders", and "Supporters" in white font. The background of the slide features a faint line drawing of the U.S. Capitol building. Navigation arrows are visible at the bottom left and right.

Like the Federalists, the Anti-Federalists also earned support through debate in the press. One influential Anti-Federalist publication was *Letters from a Federal Farmer*. These open letters discussed the rights that many Anti-Federalists believed individuals were entitled to, including the right to freely choose your religion and the right to a trial by jury. Today supporters of individual freedoms and open markets are said to uphold Anti-Federalist principles.