

THE CONSTITUTION

“STATES ARE RISING”

The Federalist Papers: As the delegates have reached agreement on the Constitution, they now need to return home to their State legislative bodies to persuade the States to individually Ratify the Constitution. During this time, several individuals wrote articles to persuade the public to ratify the new Contract. Some of these writings include what is known as **“The Federalist Papers”**, others are journals, all provide tremendous insights into the minds of the individual participants, so that today we can know with greater clarity what was intended.

As a side note: The Federalists were actually one of the original political parties of this country with George Washington being a member. By 1796, when John Adams defeated Jefferson, Adams moved to make it a crime to criticize the president or his policies. Jefferson won four years later in a landslide, **effectively destroying the Federalist Party**, never to hear from it again.

FOUNDING FATHERS TO CONSIDER:

Thomas Jefferson: As a Founding father, primary draftsman of the Declaration of Independence, Governor and US president was known to be an **Anti-Federalist** or strong supporter for States Rights, **Religious Freedom** and individual freedoms as found in the Bill of Rights.

James Madison:¹ As a Founding father, he was also key to the drafting of the Constitution, the Federalist Papers and the **Bill of Rights**. In 1808 he was elected President . His final comments in “Advice to My Country” he wrote *“The advice nearest to my heart and deepest in my convictions is that the Union of the States be cherished and perpetuated. Let the open enemy to it be regarded as a Pandora with her box opened; and the disguised one, as the Serpent creeping with his deadly wiles into Paradise.”*

John Jay:² Key to this discussion, John Jay was a founding father, writing some of the Federalist Papers and served as the first chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. A quote to consider *“The wise and the good never form the majority of any large society, and it seldom happens that their measures are uniformly adopted; or that they can always prevent being overborne themselves by the strong and almost never-ceasing union of the wicked and the weak.”*

Alexander Hamilton:³ Liked to describe himself as a self-made man, earning such accolades as trusted advisor to George Washington, Founding Father and a writer of the Federalist Papers. Hamilton was a clear supporter of a strong central government. Hamilton died as a result of a duel with Aaron Burr, where he was mortally shot, dying the next day. As a quote, *“When the sword is once drawn, the passions of men observe no bounds of moderation.”*

The Anti-Federalist were key to the creation of the “Bill of Rights”⁴

Reflection: Recognize that the Federalist as a party ceased to exist after 1800, yet the voices of Anti-federalist, or “We The People” have continued to move the work of government forward ensuring States Rights and those of the individual are paramount.

¹<https://www.biography.com/us-president/james-madison>

²<https://www.biography.com/political-figure/john-jay>

³<https://www.biography.com/political-figure/alexander-hamilton>

⁴<https://mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/1175/anti-federalists>