

# FEDERALISTS AND ANTI-FEDERALISTS

## Reading Passage & Questions

### FEDERALISTS AND ANTI-FEDERALISTS

The American Revolution was over. The colonies were in an economic depression with a lot of debt (money owed). Shays' Rebellion, for example, showed that the Articles of Confederation were weak and that the nation needed to be united. Federalists wanted to address these concerns.

Having just fought Britain's rule in the American Revolution, some colonists (Federalists) wanted to maintain independence and rebelled against a ruler, king, monarchy, or any other powerful force.

**Federalists:** The Federalist Party, the first political party in the United States, lasted from 1792 to 1824. Federalists wanted a stronger national government. They suggested the Constitution and fought for it. They hoped that ratifying (approving) the Constitution would help manage the debt from the American Revolution.

Federalists also wanted central banking and financial policies. They felt that too many banking and money policies would weaken the economy. Alexander Hamilton led the Federalist Party and later developed a national bank and taxation system. Other Federalists included George Washington, John Jay, and John Adams.

**Anti-Federalists:** Anti-Federalists opposed (were against) a strong federal government because they didn't want someone else to authorize and overrule everything. They felt it would lead to the upper class having all the power. In their opinion, a strong government would take control of local affairs.

As a result, the Anti-Federalists didn't want to ratify (approve) the Constitution of the United States. They preferred to give power to the state and local governments. They thought the Articles of Confederation were acceptable.

Anti-Federalists were led by politicians including Patrick Henry and were mostly from Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia. In addition to Patrick Henry, other Anti-Federalists included Samuel Adams, James Monroe, Thomas Jefferson, George Mason, Richard Henry Lee, Robert Yates, Mercy Otis Warren, George Clinton, Melancton Smith, Arthur Fenner, James Winthrop, and Luther Martin.

Who wrote the Federalists Papers? \*

- Madison
- Winthrop
- Adams
- Crockett

Patrick Henry was the governor of what state? \*

- Virginia
- Massachusetts
- Florida
- Ohio

Jefferson is considered the father of the Declaration of Independence. \*

- True
- False

Patrick Henry was a Federalist. \*

- True
- False

# FEDERALISTS AND ANTI-FEDERALISTS

After the American Revolution was over, the colonies were in an economic depression with a lot of debt (money owed). Shays' Rebellion, for example, showed that the Articles of Confederation were weak and that the nation needed to be united. Federalists wanted to address these concerns.

Having fought through Britain's rule in the American Revolution, some colonists (Anti-Federalists) wanted to maintain independence and rebelled against a ruling government or any other powerful force.

Federalists: The Federalist Party, the first political party in the United States, lasted from 1792 to 1824. Federalists wanted a stronger national government. They supported the Constitution and fought for it. They hoped that ratifying (agreeing) to the Constitution would help manage the debt from the American Revolution.

Federalists also wanted central banking and financial policies. They felt that too many banking and monetary policies would weaken the economy. Alexander Hamilton led the Federalist Party and later developed a national bank and taxation system. Other Federalists included George Washington, John Jay, and John Adams.

Anti-Federalists: Anti-Federalists opposed (fought against) a strong federal government because they didn't want someone else to authorize and overrule everything. They felt it would take away the upper class and all the power. In their opinion, a strong government would take control of local affairs.

As a result, the Anti-Federalists didn't want to ratify (approve) the Constitution of the United States. They preferred to give power to the state and local governments. They thought the Articles of Confederation were acceptable.

Anti-Federalists were led by politicians including Patrick Henry and were mostly from Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia. Along with Patrick Henry, other Anti-Federalists included Samuel Adams, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, George Mason, Richard Henry Lee, Robert Yates, Otis Warren, George Clinton, Melancton Smith, Arthur Fenner, James Winthrop, and Luther Martin.

Jefferson, father of the Declaration of Independence and 3rd President of the United States, was considered one of the leaders of the Anti-Federalists. Both the Federalists and Anti-Federalists wrote a series of essays which outlined their views on government. They were called the Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers.

Patrick Henry: Patrick Henry was a lawyer, speaker, and governor of Virginia. He was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Henry urged colonists to end British rule during the American Revolution. He also helped pass the Virginia Stamp Act Resolutions against Britain's Stamp Act. During the first Continental Congress, he proposed that Congress should arm the colonies to fight the British. He argued, "Give me liberty, or give me death."

After the American Revolution, as governor of Virginia, Patrick Henry fought against the first version of the US Constitution. He was afraid that the proposed Constitution would give the President total power and turn into a monarchy. Ultimately, Henry was responsible for the Bill of Rights in 1789.

James Madison: Federalist or Anti-Federalist? James Madison actually wrote the Federalist Papers. He agreed with Alexander Hamilton and his Federalist desire for a constitution. However, Madison disagreed with Hamilton's fiscal (financial, tax) policies as a result, he was more likely to side with Anti-Federalists who came to money measures. Madison helped develop the Bill of Rights to address those issues.

Federalists wanted a new Constitution. Anti-Federalists wanted to revise or fix the Articles of Confederation. They thought the Constitution didn't work well enough with the courts. Anti-Federalists thought the national government was physically too far away to benefit the people. Anti-Federalists were afraid that the Constitution would help (eliminate) the states' power.

On July 4, 1788, several states argued against the Constitution. While five states ratified the Constitution, many debates and compromises were held, including the Massachusetts Compromise. The agreement stated that Massachusetts would ratify (approve) the Constitution if a Bill of Rights was added.

Other states followed the lead of Massachusetts. Leading Anti-Federalists were unsuccessful in preventing the Constitution, and they ultimately became known as the Founding Fathers of the United States.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1** Who was the American Revolution fought against?
- A. France  
B. Russia  
C. Britain
- 2** What year was the Bill of Rights created?
- A. 1776  
B. 1742  
C. 1804  
D. None of the above
- 3** Who led the Federalist Party?
- A. Hamilton  
B. Washington  
C. Lincoln  
D. Madison
- 4** What year was the Federalist Party founded?
- A. 1892  
B. 1848  
C. 1792  
D. 1824
- 5** Who wrote the Federalist Papers?
- A. Madison  
B. Winthrop  
C. Adams  
D. Crockett
- 6** Patrick Henry was the governor of what state?
- A. Virginia  
B. Massachusetts  
C. Florida  
D. Ohio

# TRUE OR FALSE

- 7** Jefferson is considered the father of the Declaration of Independence.
- TRUE FALSE
- 8** ... was a ...
- TRUE FALSE
- 9** Anti-Federalists wanted to keep the Articles of Free-Masons.
- TRUE FALSE
- 10** The colonies were in an economic depression with a lot of debt.
- TRUE FALSE
- 11** Federalists wanted a new Constitution.
- TRUE FALSE
- 12** Federalists also wanted central banking.
- TRUE FALSE
- 13** They became known as the Founding Fathers.
- TRUE FALSE
- 14** Federalists wanted a weaker national government.
- TRUE FALSE
- 15** ... Washington was ...
- TRUE FALSE