

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the issues involved in the creation and ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America and how the principles of limited government, consent of the governed, and the social contract are embodied in it by c)describing the conflict over ratification, including the Bill of Rights and the arguments of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

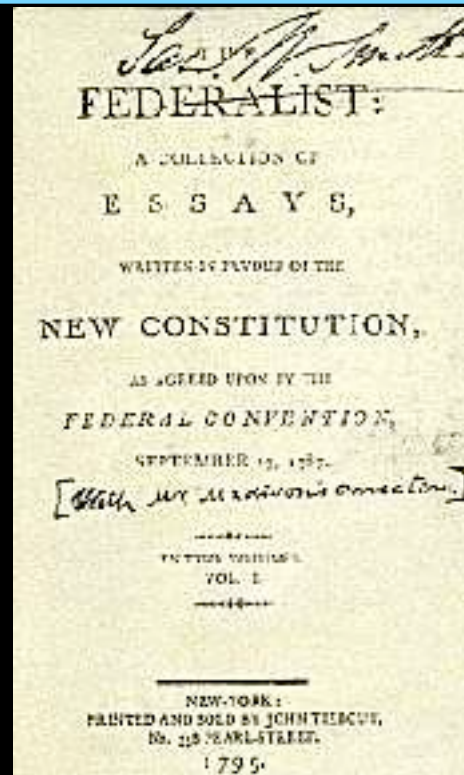
FEDERALIST pro-ratification

Wanted a strong central government for the following reasons to regulate interstate commerce and to manage foreign relations.

They argued that the checks and balances in the Constitution blocked any one branch from acquiring greater power.

They argued that political factions would check each other keeping any one faction from gaining too much power

They opposed a national Bill of Rights because most states already had them.



ANTI-FEDERALIST opposed to ratification

Believed a strong national government would tend to usurp the powers of the state governments.

They believed that a national Bill of Rights was necessary and, during the ratifying conventions in several states, forced the Federalists to pledge that a Bill of Rights would be the first order of business of the new government established by the Constitution.



Ratification of the Constitution did not end debate on governmental power or how to create “a more perfect union.” Economic, regional, social, ideological, religious, and political tensions spawned continuing debates over the meaning of the Constitution for generations—a debate that continues today. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights gave Americans a blueprint for successful self-government that has become a model for the rest of the world.