



The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers

Alexander Hamilton , James Madison , John Jay , David Wootton (Editor)

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Here, in a single volume, is a selection of the classic critiques of the new Constitution penned by such ardent defenders of states' rights and personal liberty as George Mason, Patrick Henry, and Melancton Smith; pro-Constitution writings by James Wilson and Noah Webster; and thirty-three of the best-known and most crucial Federalist Papers by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay. The texts of the chief constitutional documents of the early Republic are included as well.

David Wootton's illuminating Introduction examines the history of such "American" principles of government as checks and balances, the separation of powers, representation by election, and judicial independence—including their roots in the largely Scottish, English, and French "new science of politics." It also offers suggestions for reading *The Federalist*, the classic elaboration of these principles written in defense of a new Constitution that sought to apply them to the young Republic.

The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers Details

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From Reader Review The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers for online ebook

John Devlin says

First its a tough read when you know who's going to win the argument. Then theres all the inside baseball discussions and the Anti's complaining about everything: the terms of the pols are too short, they're too long, they should be forced out, they should stay in, the judicial branch is too weak, the judicial branch is too strong, the President will be the Senate's puppet, the President will be a tyrannical king, and hey where's the bill of rights.

It's a miracle the Constitution ever passed. After 225 years the objections that still ring true are the fears the elasticity of the commerce clause would render the Congress vastly preeminent over the states and the judiciary would conspire to inflate its reach enervating the states as well.

Jim says

This is the sales presentation for our Constitution.

Jade Dill says

Read for a political theory class

John Yelverton says

Anyone who doubts the genius of the founding fathers never read these papers.

Lady of the Lake says

Boring? No, not boring when thought about as history in the making! I am fascinated by my countries founding fathers and how it all came about to put this country on it's road to greatness! Dry? Perhaps yes dry reading I'll give in to that! However I'm Happy that I read this!

Joel Brown says

Even a general search for meaning in the US constitution is not complete without reading the arguments for or against its ratification. As I listen to individuals argue various constitutional issues (such as the 2nd ammendment) I always have to ask if they've read these papers. It seems that very few have. It's sad that in a

pivotal time of colossal issues that face America that our citizens have such a shaky understanding of the fundamental laws that undergird all our legislative questions. Read it with a copy of the constitution and I promise you'll come away with a deeper understanding of the document.

Brian says

This is a good compilation of the more important Federalist Papers with some writings against adoption of the Constitution. I was struck by some of the common themes against: that it would lead to a government solely by and for elites, that the VP has nothing to do, that the VP would have a big influence in the Senate, and so on.

Joey Bredeesen says

Classic text.

Derek says

I haven't read it yet but from my opinion it will be a great, interesting book.

Wendy says

Am I a federalist? Am I an anti-federalist? I keep getting confused! :)

MET says

Read only if you want to understand American politics

Zoran says

A must read for anyone who wants context about the making of the nation and the US Constitution.... it is a bit dry, however it is original material...

Mitchell Thompson says

I turned to this book during a final collegiate research project on the subject inequality. Wonderful piece of

work and amazing insight into the works and minds of those for and against the US Constitution.

Bonnie Carruth says

My grandmothers gained the right to vote in 1920. One died in 1946, and one in 1947 and the voted in every election they were qualified to do so.

Jason says

OK for a first read, but the whole book is necessary to really understand the debate
