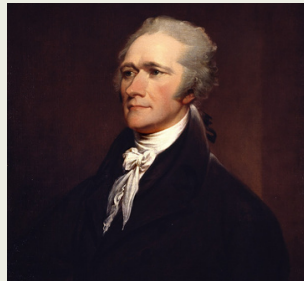


# THE GREAT DEBATE: FEDERALISTS VS. ANTI-FEDERALISTS

USHC.1.CE ASSESS THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION THROUGH SIGNIFICANT TURNING POINTS IN THE DEBATES OVER INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-GOVERNMENT FROM 1763–1791.



AFTER THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, THE UNITED STATES FACED NUMEROUS CHALLENGES UNDER THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION. IN 1787, DELEGATES MET IN PHILADELPHIA TO DRAFT A NEW CONSTITUTION, SPARKING A HEATED DEBATE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.



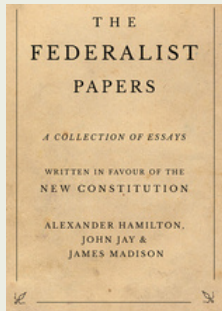
FEDERALISTS, LED BY ALEXANDER HAMILTON AND JAMES MADISON, ADVOCATED FOR A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. THEY BELIEVED THIS WAS NECESSARY TO UNITE THE STATES, MANAGE THE ECONOMY, AND DEFEND THE NATION AGAINST FOREIGN THREATS.



ANTI-FEDERALISTS, INCLUDING PATRICK HENRY AND GEORGE MASON, FEARED THAT A POWERFUL CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD THREATEN INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES. THEY ARGUED FOR PRESERVING STATES' RIGHTS AND WORRIED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR TYRANNY UNDER THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION.



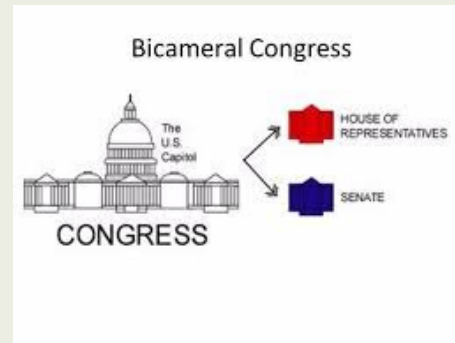
TO ADDRESS ANTI-FEDERALIST CONCERNS, FEDERALISTS AGREED TO ADD A BILL OF RIGHTS TO THE CONSTITUTION. THIS COMPROMISE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES AND HELPED GAIN SUPPORT FOR RATIFICATION FROM SKEPTICAL STATES.



HAMILTON, MADISON, AND JOHN JAY WROTE A SERIES OF ESSAYS KNOWN AS THE FEDERALIST PAPERS TO PROMOTE RATIFICATION. THESE INFLUENTIAL WRITINGS EXPLAINED THE BENEFITS OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND ADDRESSED COMMON CRITICISMS.



EACH STATE HELD ITS OWN RATIFICATION CONVENTION TO DEBATE AND VOTE ON THE CONSTITUTION. THESE CONVENTIONS WERE OFTEN INTENSE, WITH PASSIONATE ARGUMENTS FROM BOTH FEDERALISTS AND ANTI-FEDERALISTS.



THE CONSTITUTION INCLUDED COMPROMISES TO BALANCE POWER BETWEEN LARGE AND SMALL STATES. THE BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE, WITH A SENATE PROVIDING EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND A HOUSE BASED ON POPULATION, HELPED WIN SUPPORT FROM BOTH SIDES.



DELAWARE BECAME THE FIRST STATE TO RATIFY THE CONSTITUTION ON DECEMBER 7, 1787. BY JUNE 1788, THE REQUIRED NINE STATES HAD RATIFIED, OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHING THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.



THE FEDERALIST VS. ANTI-FEDERALIST DEBATE SHAPED AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT FOR GENERATIONS. THE TENSION BETWEEN FEDERAL POWER AND STATES' RIGHTS CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS AND SUPREME COURT DECISIONS TO THIS DAY.

KREMER, C. (N.D.). UNIT 2 SLIDE SHOW. KREMER'S CLASSROOM .  
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