

Abstract 1- The Federalist Position

In The Federalist Paper No. 51, by James Madison, the main idea of the federalist position for checks and balances was that there should be a very powerful federal government; at the same time, however, the goal was to ensure that the emerging federal government would not become too powerful. He wanted the central government to be split into three branches, yet one department would not have the ability to become more powerful than the other two. In a way, each branch had to look over the other branches. James Madison states, "But the great security against a gradual concentration of several powers in the same department, consists in giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means and personal motives to resist encroachments." In other words, Madison proposed that no one branch should be able to build up excessive power. To do so, Madison needed to provide constitutional boundaries to decrease the probability of one branch overpowering the other branches. If Madison did not include this constitutional safeguard, there would be an interference of attaining liberty and distribution of power among the departments of the newly formed government. Thus, James Madison's proposed system of checks and balances was one of the primary components of the new government.

