

Federalist Abstract

“Among the most formidable of the obstacles which the new Constitution will have to encounter may readily be distinguished the obvious interest of a certain class of men in every State to resist all changes which may hazard a diminution of the power, emolument, and consequence of the offices they hold under the State establishments.”

Alexander Hamilton, writing under the pseudonym Publius, believed that the main opponents of the new Constitution were the Governors of the States. Blinded by greed, the Antifederalists banded together to oppose the new Constitution. Invested in their personal gain, not the people, they vigorously opposed ratifying the Constitution.

The ratification of the Constitution would provide a strong central government that would make decisions related to its citizens' rights and livelihood, unlike the prior government practiced under the Articles of Confederation. The Federal Legislature would now impact the Citizens of the United States in multiple ways, not just defense. In Hamilton's opinion, the Anti Federalists did not want to lose their jurisdiction over the citizens in their states, and refused to accept the Constitution.

Everyone acknowledged the failure of the Articles of Confederation. The fate of their country's government was where the dispute began. The Federalists thought that a strong central government that would lessen the state's power over its independence, freedom, sovereignty and jurisdiction, rights that the Articles of Confederation granted them in Article Two, was necessary for the young nation's growth. The new Constitution strengthened the possibility of a Republic, and weakened the chance of returning to a Confederacy.