

Abstract 1The Federalist's Position on the Apportionment of Representatives

In the Federalist Paper No. 54, James Madison addresses the apportionment, or the allocation, of state representatives to the House of Representatives in the Constitution. The Constitution states that taxes and representation should be based on the population of a state. Proportional representation was based on both the number of people in each state, as well as the relative wealth and taxes relating to that population. The problem was agreeing if slaves should be counted in the representation because the number of slaves in each state varied greatly from the North who didn't agree with slavery, and the South. According to southern laws, slaves were considered as both persons as well as property. However, since slaves neither voted nor influenced their master's votes, the North believed that they should not be counted for representation. There was a compromise, stating that slaves would be counted as 3/5ths of a man. In the paper, Madison is convincing voters to accept the way they count taxation and representation by the 3/5ths compromise in the constitution. As mentioned in his argument "The federal Constitution, therefore, decides with great propriety on the case of our slaves, when it views them in the mixed character of persons and of property. This is infact their true character." By saying this he's saying that the slaves are counted as human beings and wealth, therefore, they should be included in taxation and representation. Madison thought that the argument was not that great, but he agreed with it so they could pass the constitution faster.

