

Federalist Papers

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The **Federalist Papers** were a series of articles published anonymously in a New York newspaper during 1787-1788 to encourage New York to ratify the U.S. Constitution. They were also collected as a book titled "*The Federalist*" published as 2 volumes in 1788 as **The Federalist: A Collection of Essays, Written in Favour of the New Constitution, as Agreed upon by the Federal Convention, September 17, 1787**, and reprinted in later years. These articles, 51 by Alexander Hamilton, 29 by James Madison and 5 by John Jay, are often used today in interpreting the Constitution. All three authors wrote the articles under the pen name "Publius", a salute to Roman consul Publius Valerius Publicola.

A portion of the articles are undated, while the dated ones range from November 20, 1787 to April 4, 1788. Originally, they were numbered with Roman numerals but later reprinted with Arabic numerals.

The most famous article is *Federalist No. 10* by James Madison, where he argues that a union of the States will better combat factions, even factions within an individual State.

In *Federalist No. 78* by Alexander Hamilton, he explained why the federal judiciary should always be the "least dangerous" branch.

The full text and audio of the Federalist Papers are freely available online.^[2]

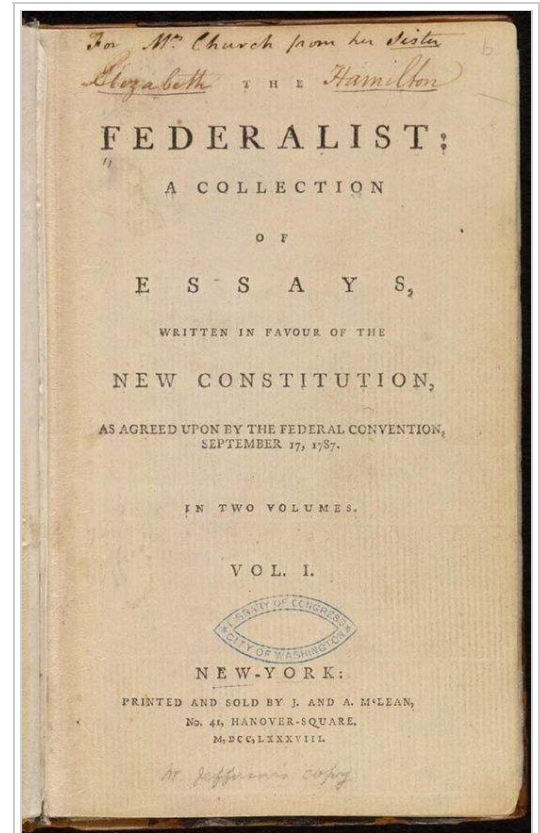
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Background

During the Constitutional Convention, delegates cited the experience of the past to show, that of all national governments, a democratic one was the most unstable, fluctuating, and short-lived; and that despotism, arising from a centralization of power in the national government on one hand, and anarchy, incident to the instability of democracy - "the levelling spirit of democracy" denounced by Elbridge Gerry as "the worst of political evils" - on the other, were the Scylla and Charybdis between which the republic would, in the opinion of their opponents, be placed, with almost a certainty of being destroyed.

These views were ably combated in a series of political essays written by Hamilton and Madison, with a few numbers by John Jay, which were published in two New York newspapers: *The Independent Journal* and the *New York Packet*. The object of these essays being, as stated by Hamilton in the first number, "A discussion of the utility of the Union; the insufficiency of the



Title page of *The Federalist* as a book publishing the essays in 1788 (note Roman numeral at bottom of page, year: MDCCLXXXVIII).^[1]

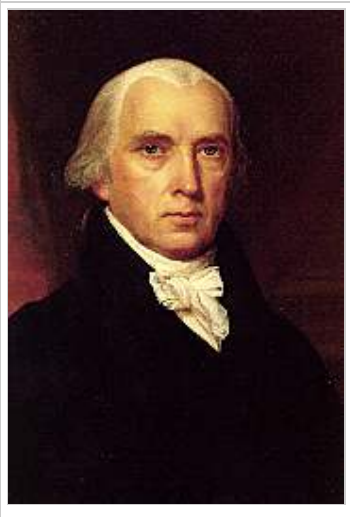
confederation to preserve that Union;" and "the necessity of a government at least equally energetic with the one proposed, to the attainment of this object." These essays; under the general title of *The Federalist*, were written with uncommon ability, exerted a powerful influence, and present an admirable treatise on the philosophy of our federal constitution.

Long and stormy debates occurred in the state conventions; and it was not until the twenty-first of June, 1788, that New Hampshire, the ninth state in order, ratified the constitution. It then became the organic law of the republic. The Congress, when testimonials of ratification were received from a sufficient number of states, appointed the first Wednesday of January, 1789, for the people of the United States to choose electors of a president in accordance with the provisions of the constitution; the first Wednesday in February following for the electors to meet and make a choice; and the first Wednesday in March ensuing for the new government to meet for organization in the city of New York.^[3]

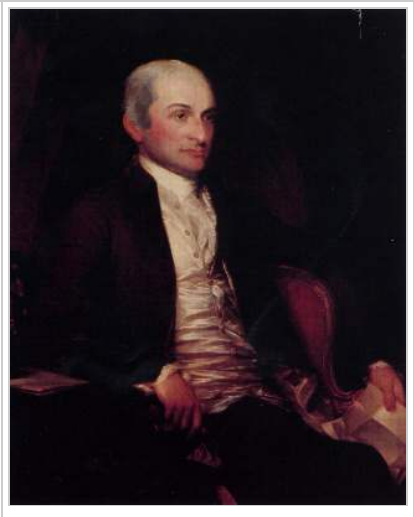
Authors



Alexander Hamilton is the principal author of the *Federalist*, having authored 51 of the papers.



James Madison, pictured to the left, authored 29 of the *Federalist*.



John Jay, pictured to the left, wrote 4 out of the first 5 essays.

Influences

There were several major influences stated in the *Federalist*. Among them John Locke (*Federalist* 2), Montesquieu (*Fed.* 47), and important English works such as the Magna Carta, The Petition of Right, and the English Bill of Rights (*Fed.* 84).

Individual papers

Paper	Date	Title	Author
Federalist No. 1	October 27, 1787	General Introduction	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 2	October 31, 1787	Concerning Dangers from Foreign Force and Influence	John Jay
Federalist No. 3	November 3, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: Concerning Dangers from Foreign Force and Influence	John Jay
Federalist No. 4	November 7, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: Concerning Dangers from Foreign Force and Influence	John Jay
Federalist No. 5	November 10, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: Concerning Dangers from Foreign Force and Influence	John Jay
Federalist No. 6	November 14, 1787	Concerning Dangers from Dissensions Between the States	Alexander Hamilton

Federalist No. 7	November 15, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: Concerning Dangers from Dissensions Between the States	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 8	November 20, 1787	The Consequences of Hostilities Between the States	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 9	November 21, 1787	The Union as a Safeguard Against Domestic Faction and Insurrection	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 10	November 22, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: The Union as a Safeguard Against Domestic Faction and Insurrection	James Madison
Federalist No. 11	November 24, 1787	The Utility of the Union in Respect to Commercial Relations and a Navy	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 12	November 27, 1787	The Utility of the Union In Respect to Revenue	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 13	November 28, 1787	Advantage of the Union in Respect to Economy in Government	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 14	November 30, 1787	Objections to the Proposed Constitution From Extent of Territory Answered	James Madison
Federalist No. 15	December 1, 1787	The Insufficiency of the Present Confederation to Preserve the Union	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 16	December 4, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: The Insufficiency of the Present Confederation to Preserve the Union	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 17	December 5, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: The Insufficiency of the Present Confederation to Preserve the Union	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 18	December 7, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: The Insufficiency of the Present Confederation to Preserve the Union	James Madison
Federalist No. 19	December 8, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: The Insufficiency of the Present Confederation to Preserve the Union	James Madison
Federalist No. 20	December 11, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: The Insufficiency of the Present Confederation to Preserve the Union	James Madison
Federalist No. 21	December 12, 1787	Other Defects of the Present Confederation	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 22	December 14, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: Other Defects of the Present Confederation	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 23	December 18, 1787	The Necessity of a Government as Energetic as the One Proposed to the Preservation of the Union	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 24	December 19, 1787	The Powers Necessary to the Common Defense Further Considered	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 25	December 21, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: The Powers Necessary to the Common Defense Further Considered	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 26	December 22, 1787	The Idea of Restraining the Legislative Authority in Regard to the Common Defense Considered	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 27	December 25, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: The Idea of Restraining the Legislative Authority in Regard to the Common Defense Considered	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 28	December 26, 1787	The Same Subject Continued: The Idea of Restraining the Legislative Authority in Regard to the Common Defense Considered	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 29	January 9, 1788	Concerning the Militia	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 30	December 28, 1787	Concerning the General Power of Taxation	Alexander Hamilton

Federalist No. 31	January 1, 1788	The Same Subject Continued: Concerning the General Power of Taxation	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 32	January 2, 1788	The Same Subject Continued: Concerning the General Power of Taxation	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 33	January 2, 1788	The Same Subject Continued: Concerning the General Power of Taxation	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 34	January 5, 1788	The Same Subject Continued: Concerning the General Power of Taxation	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 35	January 5, 1788	The Same Subject Continued: Concerning the General Power of Taxation	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 36	January 8, 1788	The Same Subject Continued: Concerning the General Power of Taxation	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 37	January 11, 1788	Concerning the Difficulties of the Convention in Devising a Proper Form of Government	James Madison
Federalist No. 38	January 12, 1788	The Same Subject Continued, and the Incoherence of the Objections to the New Plan Exposed	James Madison
Federalist No. 39	January 18, 1788	The Conformity of the Plan to Republican Principles	James Madison
Federalist No. 40	January 18, 1788	The Powers of the Convention to Form a Mixed Government Examined and Sustained	James Madison
Federalist No. 41	January 19, 1788	General View of the Powers Conferred by the Constitution	James Madison
Federalist No. 42	January 22, 1788	The Powers Conferred by the Constitution Further Considered	James Madison
Federalist No. 43	January 23, 1788	The Same Subject Continued: The Powers Conferred by the Constitution Further Considered	James Madison
Federalist No. 44	January 25, 1788	Restrictions on the Authority of the Several States	James Madison
Federalist No. 45	January 26, 1788	The Alleged Danger From the Powers of the Union to the State Governments Considered	James Madison
Federalist No. 46	January 29, 1788	The Influence of the State and Federal Governments Compared	James Madison
Federalist No. 47	January 30, 1788	The Particular Structure of the New Government and the Distribution of Power Among Its Different Parts	James Madison
Federalist No. 48	February 1, 1788	These Departments Should Not Be So Far Separated as to Have No Constitutional Control Over Each Other	James Madison
Federalist No. 49	February 2, 1788	Method of Guarding Against the Encroachments of Any One Department of Government	James Madison
Federalist No. 50	February 5, 1788	Periodic Appeals to the People Considered	James Madison
Federalist No. 51	February 6, 1788	The Structure of the Government Must Furnish the Proper Checks and Balances Between the Different Departments	James Madison
Federalist No. 52	February 8, 1788	The House of Representatives	James Madison
Federalist No. 53	February 9, 1788	The Same Subject Continued: The House of Representatives	James Madison
Federalist No. 54	February 12, 1788	The Apportionment of Members Among the States	James Madison

Federalist No. 55	February 13, 1788	The Total Number of the House of Representatives	James Madison
Federalist No. 56	February 16, 1788	The Same Subject Continued: The Total Number of the House of Representatives	James Madison
Federalist No. 57	February 19, 1788	The Alleged Tendency of the New Plan to Elevate the Few at the Expense of the Many	James Madison
Federalist No. 58	February 20, 1788	Objection That The Number of Members Will Not Be Augmented as the Progress of Population Demands Considered	James Madison
Federalist No. 59	February 22, 1788	Concerning the Power of Congress to Regulate the Election of Members	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 60	February 23, 1788	The Same Subject Continued: Concerning the Power of Congress to Regulate the Election of Members	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 61	February 26, 1788	The Same Subject Continued: Concerning the Power of Congress to Regulate the Election of Members	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 62	February 27, 1788	The Senate	James Madison
Federalist No. 63	March 1, 1788	The Senate Continued	James Madison
Federalist No. 64	March 5, 1788	The Powers of the Senate	John Jay
Federalist No. 65	March 7, 1788	The Powers of the Senate Continued	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 66	March 8, 1788	Objections to the Power of the Senate To Set as a Court for Impeachments Further Considered	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 67	March 11, 1788	The Executive Department	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 68	March 12, 1788	The Mode of Electing the President	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 69	March 14, 1788	The Real Character of the Executive	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 70	March 15, 1788	The Executive Department Further Considered	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 71	March 18, 1788	The Duration in Office of the Executive	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 72	March 19, 1788	The Same Subject Continued, and Re-Eligibility of the Executive Considered	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 73	March 21, 1788	The Provision For The Support of the Executive, and the Veto Power	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 74	March 25, 1788	The Command of the Military and Naval Forces, and the Pardoning Power of the Executive	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 75	March 26, 1788	The Treaty Making Power of the Executive	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 76	April 1, 1788	The Appointing Power of the Executive	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 77	April 2, 1788	The Appointing Power Continued and Other Powers of the Executive Considered	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 78	May 28, 1788	The Judiciary Department	Alexander Hamilton

Federalist No. 79	May 28, 1788	The Judiciary Continued	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 80	June 21, 1788	The Powers of the Judiciary	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 81	June 25, 1788	The Judiciary Continued, and the Distribution of the Judicial Authority	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 82	July 2, 1788	The Judiciary Continued	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 83	July 5, 1788	The Judiciary Continued in Relation to Trial by Jury	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 84	July 16, 1788	Certain General and Miscellaneous Objections to the Constitution Considered and Answered	Alexander Hamilton
Federalist No. 85	August 13, 1788	Concluding Remarks	Alexander Hamilton

References

- ↑ Roman numeral MDCCLXXXVIII totals as MDCC=1700 + LXXX=80 + VIII=8 or 1788.
- ↑ http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/
- ↑ Washington and the American Republic (https://books.google.com/books?id=FB7Jwoi-q9IC&pg=PA77), by Benson John Lossing

External links

- The Federalist Papers (https://librivox.org/the-federalist-papers-by-alexander-hamilton-john-jay-and-james-madison/) - LibriVox

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