

Federalist or Anti-Federalist Point of View?

Structure of Government

Whose POV? _____

- Supported a loose interpretation of the Constitution
- Favored a strong central government
- Thought that the American government should be modeled on the British system
- Wanted to increase the number of federal employees
- Thought the rich, educated, and wellborn were the people who should rule
- Thought that individual liberties, such as freedom of speech, should be sometimes restricted

Whose POV? _____

- Favored a strict interpretation of the Constitution
- Favored a weak central government
- Preferred a more democratic government
- Wanted to reduce the number of federal employees
- Distrusted special privilege
- Believed that individual liberties must be protected by laws

Economics

Whose POV? _____

- Thought that agriculture should be central to the nation's finances
- Did not support giving government aid to trade, finance, and manufacturing
- Opposed to establishment of a national bank
- Wanted to eliminate internal taxes

Whose POV? _____

- Wanted a balanced economy with a backbone of agriculture, trade, and manufacturing
- Favored giving government aid to trade, finance, and manufacturing
- Established a national bank
- Wanted to maintain internal taxes

Who Should Govern

Whose POV? _____

- Wished to lower voting qualifications
- Had deep faith in the common people, especially farmers
- Made up of artisans, shopkeepers, frontier settlers, and small farmers

Whose POV? _____

- Wanted to raise voting qualifications
- Believed that the common people often acted foolishly

Who Supported

Whose POV? _____

- Consisted of bankers, manufacturers, merchants, professional people, and wealthy farmers

Whose POV? _____

- Made up of artisans, shopkeepers, frontier settlers, and small farmers

Federalist Papers Ratification Persuasive Essay Excerpts

Federalist Paper No. 84

Alexander Hamilton

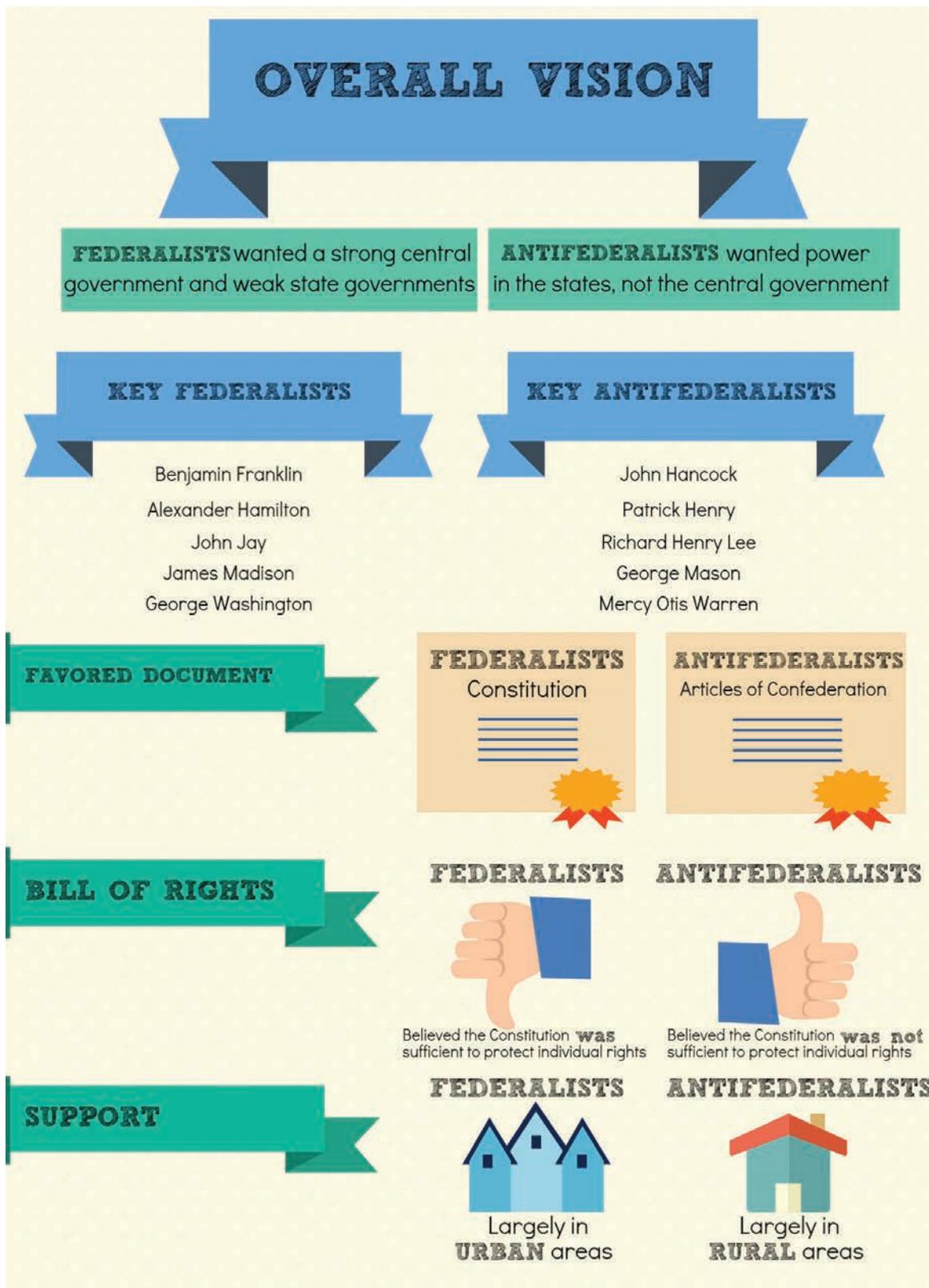
I go further, and affirm that bills of rights, in the sense and in the extent in which they are contended for, are not only unnecessary in the proposed constitution, but would even be dangerous. They would contain various exceptions to powers which are not granted; and on this very account, would afford a colorable pretext to claim more than were granted. For why declare that things shall not be done which there is no power to do? Why for instance, should it be said, that the liberty of the press shall not be restrained, when no power is given by which restrictions may be imposed? I will not contend that such a provision would confer a regulating power; but it is evident that it would furnish, to men disposed to usurp, a plausible pretense for claiming that power.

Anti-Federalist Paper: Responsibility and checks in self-government

Centinel No. 1

The federalist plan promotes despotism that are in the hands of what they recall the “artful and designing,” who are actually the wealthy on the top with all their greed and ambitions. It is our current common law that prevents such tyranny. The federalists promote certain individuals to control the nation with a “strong centralized government,” which is only a tool to achieve their private interest and ambition. How will the common welfare and happiness of our nation keep up with such strident tyranny? The plan will “immediately ruin and annihilation as a nation.”

Federalists versus Anti-Federalists Infographic



*Differences between Federalists and Antifederalists, by Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
Courtesy of The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History*