

Government Power and Individual Rights

Explain how Federalist and Anti-Federalist views on central government and democracy as reflected in U.S. foundational documents.

1. With the close of the American Revolution in 1776, power and rights in America were equally vested in the people. Another name for this is

- a. Popular sovereignty
- b. Limited authoritarianism
- c. A confederation of elites
- d. Parliamentary prerogatives

2. A constitutional convention in 1787 created a blue print for American government. The Founding Fathers settled upon a republican form of government, also called a

- a. Confederation of elites
- b. Representative democracy
- c. Parliamentary polity
- d. Direct democracy

3. Early in the life of American government questions emerged over “who to empower and where?” The Federalists, an early political party, envisioned a government

- a. Strongly centralized but not too strong
- b. Made up of smaller localized units
- c. Centralized around a strong king
- d. Made up of landless serfs

4. Early in the life of American government questions emerged over “who to empower and where?” The Anti-Federalists, an early political party, envisioned a government

- a. Strongly centralized but not too strong
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- c. Centralized around a strong king
- d. Made up of landless serfs

5. In Federalist 10 James Madison argued that the “mischief of factions” could best be controlled by

- a. Expanding suffrage
- b. Frequent elections
- c. An energetic president
- d. A large republic

6. According to James Madison in Federalist 10, if factions, interest groups and cliques are so dangerous to democratic government – why not remove them?

- a. Factions are difficult to identify
- b. Factions could turn violent
- c. Factions are rooted in nature, and liberty protects them
- d. Factions can join with other factions and threaten to secede

7. The Anti-Federalists, an opposition party, argued in their *Brutus* essays that strong centralized governments tend to be corrupted by

- a. Farmers
- b. Religious clerics
- c. Wealthy citizens
- d. Immigrants

8. In 1788 the Anti-Federalists felt threatened most by the Federalist argument for

- a. Expanding suffrage
- b. Frequent elections
- c. An energetic president
- d. A large republic

9. In opposition to the Federalists, Anti-Federalists argued that the seat of government should be found in

- a. Republican national governments
- b. Democratic centralized governments
- c. Local state governments
- d. Authoritarian political machines

10. When assessing government in America today, the Federalists seemed to have succeeded in securing a strong _____ government; and the Anti-Federalists also succeeded in securing viable _____ governments.

- a. Central; local
- b. Local; central
- c. Autocratic; authoritarian
- d. Authoritarian; autocratic

Critical Thinking Prompt

What political party today best exemplifies the ideas of the Federalists? What political party today best exemplifies the ideas of the Anti-Federalists? Show examples. Would you have been a Federalist or an Anti-Federalist? Explain.