

### **Lesson 17:**

#### **What was the Federalists' Position in the Debate about Ratification?**

**The people who supported ratification of the Constitution, which created a federal system, were called Federalists.**

#### **Why did James Madison develop a plan to go directly to the voters to get the Constitution approved?**

1. Members of Congress and State Legislatures were against the Constitution.
2. Ratifying conventions were consistent with the idea in the Preamble... "We the People... do ordain & establish this Constitution..."

#### **What methods were used in the struggle for ratification?**

- Written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay *The Federalists* were a series of essays written in defense of the Constitution.
- Presented the Constitution as a well-organized, agreed-on plan for national government.

#### **How did the Federalists respond to Anti-Federalists**

1. Civic virtue of the people could not be relied on to protect people's rights.
2. Separation of Powers and Checks & Balances was the best way to promote republicanism.
3. Leg. Branch- House or Rep. (local interests) Senate (state interests)  
Exec. Branch- Pres. National interests  
Judicial- Fundamental interests (independent of political interests responsible only to the Constitution).

#### **Should there be a Bill of Rights?**

1. Complexity of the gov't & diversity of the nation makes it nearly impossible for a "majority faction" to have its way.
2. Constitution does protect specific rights.
3. Popular sovereignty- people can remove elected officials (King they could not)
4. Gov't only has limited enumerated power
5. Impossible to list all rights!!

#### **Why did the Federalists give in to the demand for a bill of rights?**

- By agreeing to have the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress propose a bill of rights the Federalists took away the Anti-Federalists main argument against the Constitution.
- Federalists get credit for drafting the Constitution & the Anti-Federalists credit for the U.S. Bill of Rights.

**Reviewing & Using the Lesson:**

1. Why ratifying conventions?	
2. Tactics used by the Federalists for ratification?	
3. What is <i>The Federalists</i> ? How & why was it written?	
4. What arguments were used by the Federalists for ratification?	
5. Why did the Federalists resist a bill of rights? Why did they give into the demand?	
<u>Summary:</u>	