



The Federalist Papers

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison & John Jay

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The Federalist, which came to be called *The Federalist Papers* in the twentieth century, is a remarkable series of 85 articles written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay arguing in favor of ratification of the United States Constitution by the thirteen original colonies. The Constitutional Convention had taken place from May to September 1787 in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation that determined the operation of the government following independence from Great Britain. James Madison and Alexander Hamilton instead advocated the creation of a new government. After much debate the delegates agreed on the principles contained in

Madison's Virginia Plan and proceeded to produce the document we know as the Constitution, which was submitted to states in September 1787. *The Federalist Papers* were written in response to criticism of the Constitution, collected as *The Anti-Federalist Papers*.

The articles were first published between October 1787 and August 1788 in New York in *The Independent Journal* and *The New York Packet* and then published in two volumes in 1788. Hamilton is the author of 51 articles, Madison the author of 26, and John Jay, who fell ill, authored 5. In the words of historian Richard B. Morris, they are an "incomparable exposition of the Constitution, a classic in political science unsurpassed in both breadth and depth by the product of any later American writer."

Alexander Hamilton (January 11, 1755 – July 2 1804) is one of the founding fathers of the United States. He served as George Washington's senior aide during the American Revolution and was elected to the Congress of the Confederation. He was chief of staff and Secretary of the Treasury under George Washington, the founder of the financial system and founder of the Federalist Party, the first political party with a base of voters.

James Madison (March 16, 1751 – June 28, 1836) was a statesman and political theorist called the "Father of the Constitution" for articulating the principles and subsequently drafting the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. He served in House of Representatives, assisted Washington with organizing the government, founded the Republican Party with Thomas Jefferson, and served as the fourth President of the United States.

John Jay (December 12, 1745 – May 17, 1829) was a founding father, statesman and diplomat who served as Minister to Spain and signed the Treaty of Paris. He then served as President of the Continental Congress as the first Chief Justice of the United States.