

Federalist 10

Topic: Factions. **Author:** James Madison

- ✓ **Factions** are made up of people with similar passions and interests
- ✓ Factions are inevitable in society, but dangerous, since they often go against the common good
- ✓ The causes of factions cannot be removed, but their effects can be controlled
- ✓ The small republics the Anti-Federalists advocate cannot control factions, because a majority faction can easily oppress the minority
- ✓ A **large republic** is best at controlling factions: its size means many factions, which check each other, so the power of any one faction is diluted

Brutus 1

Topic: Dangers of a strong central government. **Author:** Robert Yates

- ✓ The Constitution unfairly created a large, centralized government that takes power away from the state governments and is a danger to liberty
- ✓ Representatives in the large republic the Constitution creates would be too distant from the people
- ✓ Under the Supremacy Clause, federal laws would overpower state laws and render the states ineffective
- ✓ The Necessary and Proper Clause gives Congress unlimited powers, creating a dangerously powerful central government
- ✓ The Supreme Court's power to invalidate state laws and state court rulings would render the states ineffective
- ✓ Congress's power to tax would give the national government undue influence and power over the state governments

Federalist 51

Topic: Checks and balances and separation of powers. **Author:** James Madison

- ✓ Humans are by nature greedy and ambitious
- ✓ Since government officials are selfish and greedy, each branch must be given its own powers (**separation of powers**) and be able to use them to check the other branches (**checks and balances**)
- ✓ Congress has the most powers, so it must be checked by the other branches and also divided into two houses that check each other: a defense of **bicameralism**
- ✓ **Federalism** (giving the states and the national government their own sovereign powers) adds a double wall of security against the national government, protecting liberty

Federalist 39

Topic: The U.S. government and a republic. **Author:** James Madison

- ✓ The republic the Founding Fathers created combines national and federal characteristics
- ✓ Madison defines a **republic** as a system where the government gets its powers directly or indirectly from the people and is administered by representatives the people choose, for a limited period of time
- ✓ For example, the House of Representatives, based on population (more people, more representation), reflects the national character of the compound republic; the Senate, where each state has equal representation, reflects its federal character and gives sovereignty to the states
- ✓ The Constitution gives the federal government limited powers (enumerated powers) and leaves the rest to the states