



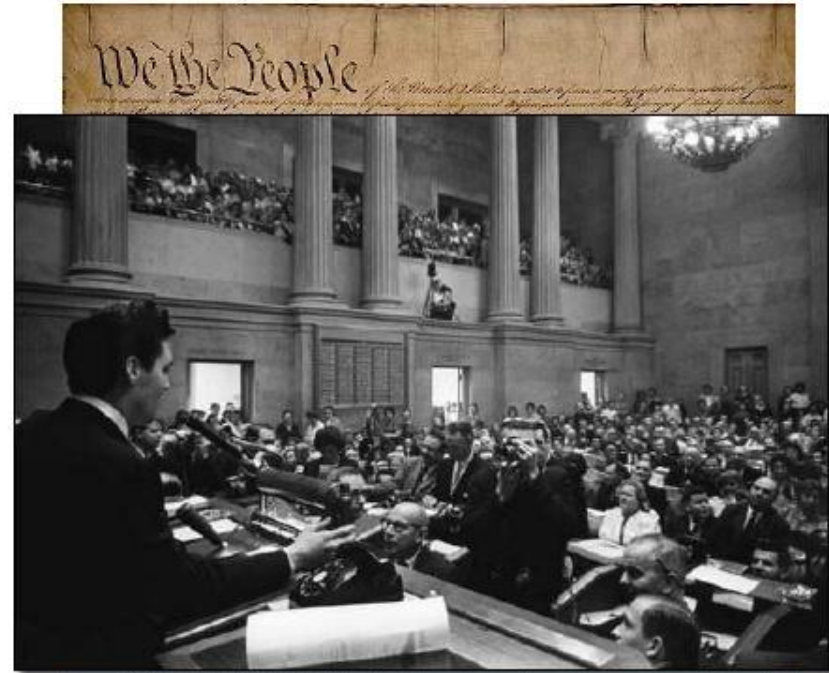
# Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists

Essential Questions:

2. What was the controversy surrounding the new Constitution?
3. Who were the Federalists and Anti-Federalist?
4. What were the Federalists Papers?
5. How did the Federalist Papers shape the debate surrounding ratification of the new Constitution?

# Controversy Over the Constitution

- When the Constitution was printed in the newspapers people were shocked
  - Delegates created a new constitution
- Framers setup a procedure to ratify the Constitution
  - Each state held a special convention
  - Voters elected delegates to convention
    - Delegates would then vote to accept or reject the Constitution
  - Ratification (official approval) required agreement of at least 9 states
- System bypassed the state legislatures
  - They were likely to oppose the new Constitution since it limited the powers of the states



# The Federalists



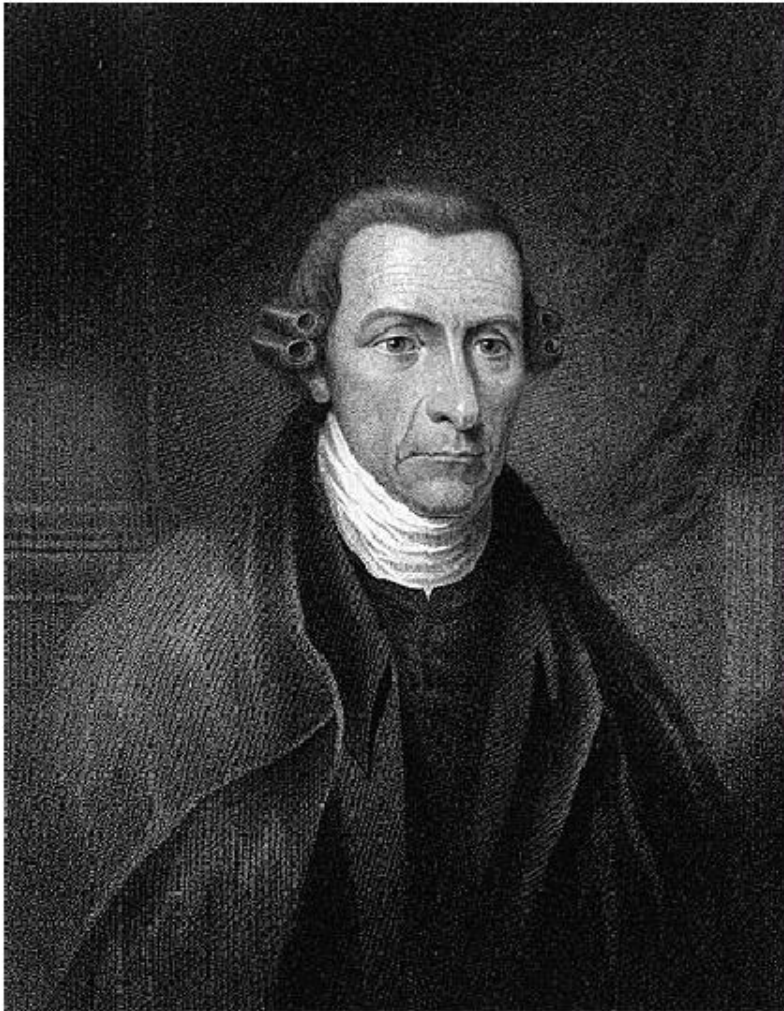
- Eventually two groups emerged, one supported the new constitution, the other opposed its ratification
- The Federalists
  - Supporters of the Constitution
  - Liked how the Constitution balanced power between the states and the national government
  - Believed separation of powers and the system of checks and balances would protect Americans from tyranny of a centralized authority

# The Anti-Federalists

- Anti-Federalists
  - Opposed the new Constitution
  - Were against having a strong central government
    - Feared government would serve interests of privileged minority
    - Feared central government would ignore rights of majority
  - Said a single government could not manage the affairs of such a large country
- Their biggest problem was that the Constitution lacked any protection for individual rights



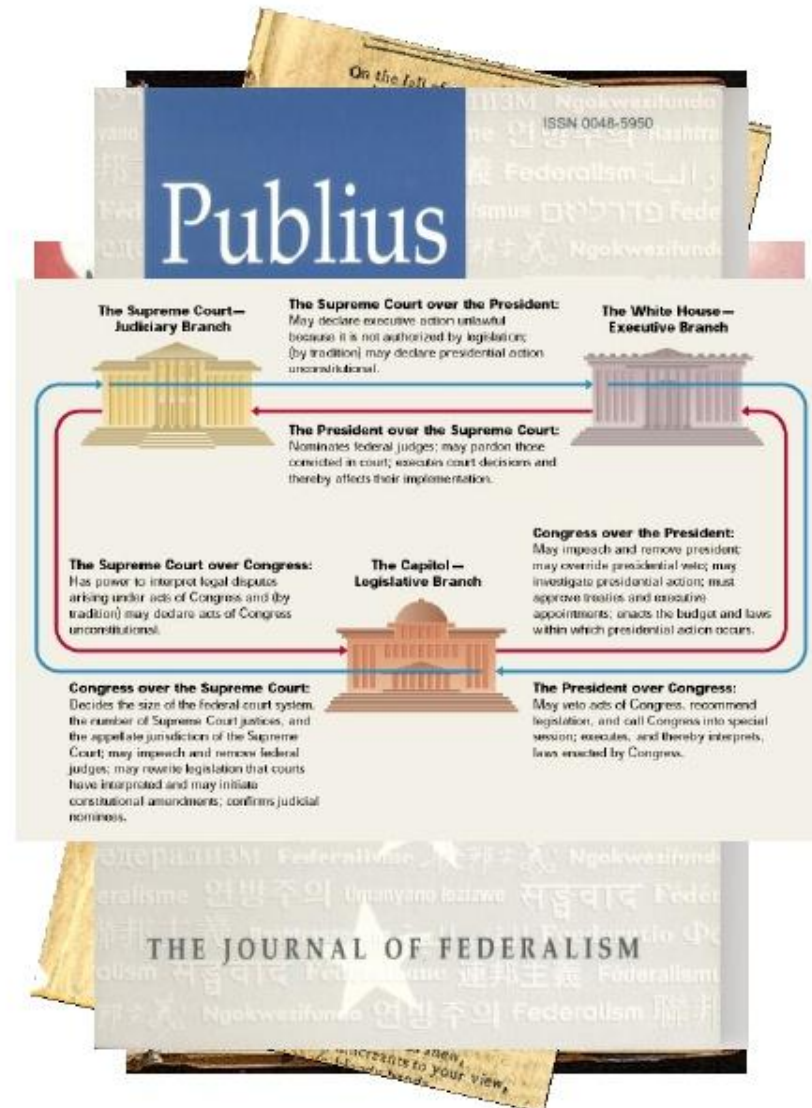
# Opposing Forces



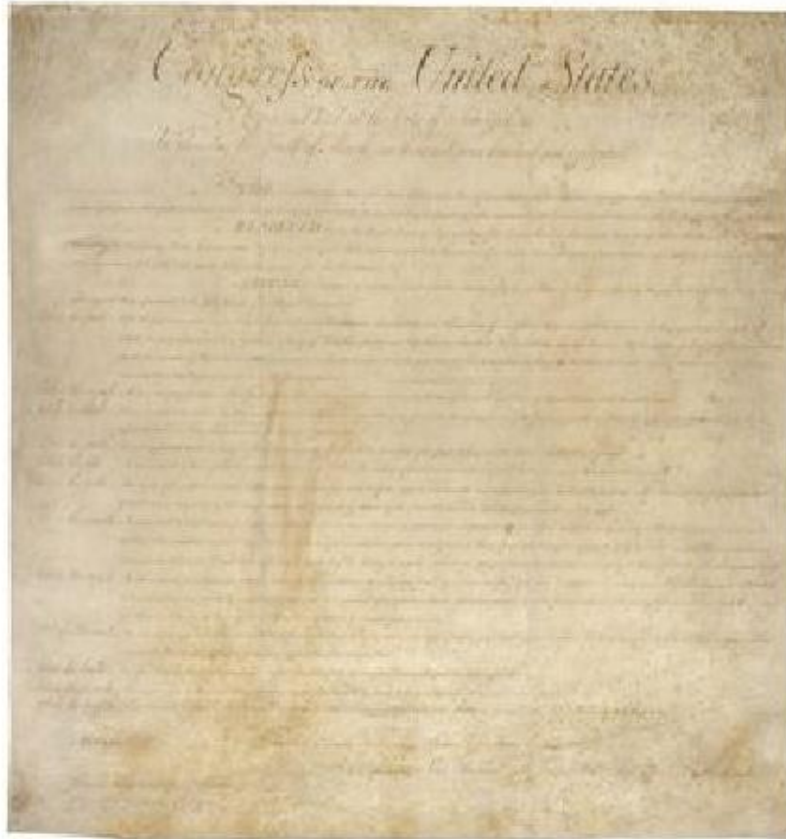
- **Federalists**
  - George Washington, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton
  - Received heavy support from urban centers
  - Merchants, skilled workers, and laborers saw the benefit of a national government that could regulate trade
- **Anti-Federalists**
  - Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams, and Richard Henry
  - Received support from rural areas, where people feared a strong government that might add to their tax burden

# The Federalist Papers

- Both sides waged a war of words over the adoption of the Constitution
- “The Federalist Papers”
  - Series of 85 essays defending the Constitution
  - Appeared in NY newspapers between 1787 and 1788
  - They were published under the pseudonym “Publius”
    - Were written by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay
  - Provided an analysis and explanation of Constitutional provisions and concepts



# Letter From the Federal Farmer



- Was the leading Anti-Federalist publication
- Written by Richard Henry Lee
  - He listed the rights the Anti-Federalists believed should be protected:
    - Freedom of Speech
    - Freedom of Press
    - Freedom of Religion
    - Guarantees against unreasonable searches of people and their homes
    - Right to a trial by jury