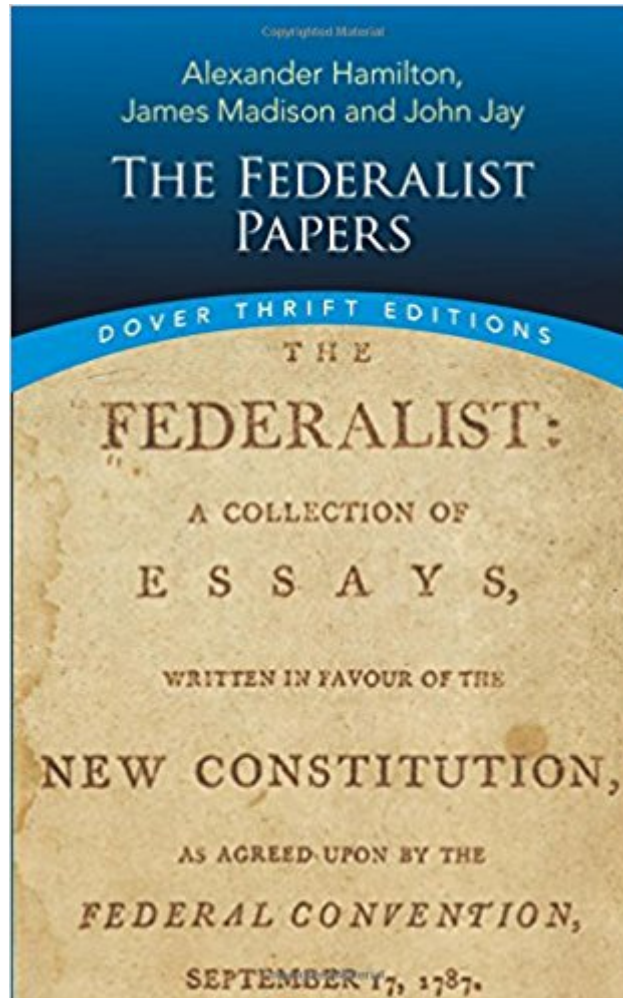




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The Federalist Papers (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

An excellent reference for anyone who wants a better understanding of the Constitution, this compilation of eighty-five articles explains and defends the ideals behind the highest form of law in the United States. The essays were written and published anonymously in New York newspapers during the years 1787 and 1788 by three of the Constitution's framers and ratifiers: Alexander Hamilton, General George Washington's Chief of Staff and first Secretary of the Treasury; John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the United States; and James Madison, father of the Constitution, author of the Bill of Rights, and fourth President of the United States. Thomas Jefferson hailed The Federalist Papers as the best commentary ever written about the principles of government. Milestones in political science and enduring classics of political philosophy, these articles are essential reading for students, lawyers, politicians, and those with an interest in the foundation of U.S. government and law.

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Customer Reviews

"This country and this people seem to have been made for each other, and it appears as if it was the design of Providence, that an inheritance so proper and convenient for a band of brethren ... should never be split into a number of unsocial, jealous, and alien sovereignties." So wrote John Jay, one of the revolutionary authors of The Federalist Papers, arguing that if the United States was truly to be a single nation, its leaders would have to agree on universally binding rules of

governance--in short, a constitution. In a brilliant set of essays, Jay and his colleagues Alexander Hamilton and James Madison explored in minute detail the implications of establishing a kind of rule that would engage as many citizens as possible and that would include a system of checks and balances. Their arguments proved successful in the end, and The Federalist Papers stand as key documents in the founding of the United States. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The Federalist Papers stand as key documents in the founding of the United States." --.com editorial review" In 1787 and 1788, these articles argued, with great clarity and prescience, for the ratification of the Constitution and for a strong federal government." --Audiofile --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

What a blessing to have an as-it-was-happening commentary on The Constitution of the United States. We have the Constitution's author, James Madison, in defense of the Constitution. And knowing that the Supreme Court has cited The Federalist Papers in its decisions gives them additional credence. Each provision of the Constitution is explained and defended. Historical facts about previous governments are reasons for specific provisions. Brilliant men of the Enlightenment created a new type of republic. This new government, created in a time of peace, would depend upon and require rational thought instead of unpredictable monarchs/oligarchs reacting to public convulsions. I am struck by papers #42 thru #47. They define the shared power between the Sovereign States and the proposed federal Union; this tension is nearly gone today. Paper #68 explains the original (and now abandoned) Electoral College. And, paper #10 warns us that democracies are short in life and end violently. The republic born in 1791 (with the Bill of Rights) is unique in human history. A miracle! Today, the US is a shadow of itself. What does a republic deriving its power from the consent of WE THE PEOPLE look like? Read the Federalist Papers.

For those among us who think or believe that we have been under the same Constitution since we declared Independence, reading these essays, supporting the current constitution will help clear that up. James Madison believed, his belief following experience with the "Articles" under which the United States, that the Articles were designed to "oppress and vex". The opposition published opposing views and were written by serious men as well. I will not spoil the suspense by telling you where these gentlemen were from. This is an excellent opportunity to inform oneself about the

founding of the U.S. government.

I teach citizenship classes, so I enjoy knowing the background information. I'm reading in concurrently with the "Anti-Federalist Papers," chapter for chapter to see the arguing back and forth, and also the same tactics as what's going on in the now, 2016 election season: name calling, (they were just more polite back then) scare tactics, appeals to "common sense" examples from history (European). Just like Solomon said, "There is nothing new under the sun!" The writers of this book seem to be more articulate and convincing than the writers of the "Anti-Federalist Papers," hence, they won the type of government structure they were appealing for.

The Federalist Papers were written to recommend the adoption of the United States Constitution by the States. Each state was a sovereign government and the constitution would establish a government that would limit the powers each state could exercise. These are powerful commentaries on the Constitution and should be taught in high school to provide historic context on the separation of powers and the Bill of Rights.

Discussions about the recent Presidential election mention this book over and over, so I decided to pitch into it. The thought and language are brilliant. It will give you a better understanding of why the Federal system was set up the way it was. It will also give you an appreciation for how lucky we were to have this group of men set it up. Hamilton, Madison and Jay were geniuses. Be warned though - this is not an easy read and will take considerable time and effort. It's best read in small chunks. .But like most things, hard work brings great rewards.

• The Federalist Papers • (more correctly called • The Federalist •) is a series of 85 essays that seek to explain the United States Constitution and the American system of government. Written between 1787 and 1788 by Founding Fathers Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, these documents were published in order to persuade citizens to vote in favor of ratifying the Constitution. • The Federalist Papers • certainly rank alongside the Constitution and Declaration of Independence as the most important documents in American history. Anyone wishing to gain a deeper understanding of how and why the American system of government works the way it does should read these documents. They are not necessarily easy reading, though. Because they're written in a style common to 18th century writers, they can frequently be tedious to read. (Nobody will ever accuse Hamilton, Madison, or Jay of having a

particularly lively or interesting writing style.) I find this Dover Thrift Edition, which is edited by Jim Miller, especially useful. It is unencumbered by any scholarly explanations, and it contains very few footnotes. The print is large and easy to read. The words of the founding fathers who wrote them speak for themselves. However stiff and over-formal their writing style, Hamilton, Madison, and Jay present arguments in favor of the Constitution that are clear, cogent and persuasive. These essays are of immeasurable help in providing readers with a clear understanding of what the framers of the Constitution intended, and how the Federal system of American government works. Most highly recommended.

...for ANYone who doubts that the Framers wanted to establish GENUINE religious liberty (and not just a lip-service facade or sham of religious liberty) and that they intended for the the U.S. Constitution to establish a Wall of Separation between Church (religion) and State (government legislation) even though Thomas Jefferson's specific phrasing on that issue does not appear in the U.S. Constitution, because the necessity of that wall of separation is entailed in the logical content of what the Constitution does plainly say and in what the Framers say they intended as revealed and argued in 'The Federalist Papers.'

The presentation including footnotes was easy to follow and to understand. Of course the Papers are a vital part of American history and necessary to understand some of what is happening today, i.e. electoral college, local control of election laws.

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