**Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists**

***Part A.*** *Read the article below that describes the different viewpoints of the Founding Fathers about the new Constitution. Highlight the viewpoints of the Federalists (who supported the Constitution) in BLUE. Highlight the views of the Anti-Federalists (who were against the Constitution) in RED.*

After much discussion about the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation, the Founding Fathers gathered to discuss the next step for the new nation. Immediately, differences in opinion divided the room between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists.

Their ideas about the roles of the government differed. The Federalists wanted a stronger national government and the ratification of the Constitution to help properly manage the debt and tensions following the American Revolution. (ex: Shays’ Rebellion). The Anti-Federalists were those who opposed the development of a strong federal government and the ratification of the Constitution in 1788, preferring instead for power to remain in the hands of state and local governments.

Some of the most prominent Federalists were Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison. Many of the Federalists lived in largely urban areas. The Anti-Federalists lived in more rural areas. Some of the most famous Anti-Federalists were Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and Samuel Adams. The main difference between the two viewpoints was about the Constitution and the inclusion of the Bill of Rights. The Federalists proposed and supported the Constitution and they did so in a set of essays called the Federalist Papers. The Federalist Papers is a set of essays written in support of ratifying the Constitution (the new document that would replace the *weak* Articles of Confederation. The Anti-Federalists opposed the Constitution, until inclusion of the Bill of Rights. They published the Anti-Federalists Papers -a set of essays explaining the dangers from tyranny not properly addressed in the Constitution.

In the end, both groups realized that the Articles of Confederation was a weak document that needed to be either amended or replaced. Even though the Anti-Federalists argued for a bill of rights, the Federalists believed that it would be impossible to list ALL the rights people were entitled to. The Anti-Federalists believed that the new document needed to list specific rights and as a result, the U.S. Constitution was ratified, with the inclusion of the Bill of Rights.

***Part B.*** *Compare the different viewpoints by completing the chart below with the information attained from the article.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **QUESTIONS** | **FEDERALIST**  **VIEWPOINTS** | **ANTI-FEDERALIST VIEWPOINTS** |
| 1) What is the role of government? |  |  |
| 2) In what area of the country did most of them live? |  |  |
| 3) What did they think about creating a new Constitution? |  |  |
| 4) Who were their most famous supporters? |  |  |
| 5) What did they publish? |  |  |
| 6) What did they think about a Bill of Rights? |  |  |

***Part C.*** *After completing the first two parts, answer the following multiple choice questions below.*

7) What was the Anti-Federalists’ greatest concern about ratifying, or approving, the U.S. Constitution?

A) The lack of a federal court system

B) The lack of legislative veto power

C) The lack of a strong military

D) The lack of a bill of rights

ANSWER:

8) This government created a weak system of government with most of the power belonging to the states and a central government that could do very little. What does this best describe?

A) The Constitution

B) The Articles of Confederation

C) The Declaration of Independence

D) The Federalist Papers

ANSWER:

9) Below is a passage from *Anti-Federalist Paper #84* written by Brutus.

*With equal truth it may be said, that all the powers which the bills of rights guard against the abuse of, are contained or implied in the general ones granted by this Constitution.”*

Based on the passage, why did the Anti-Federalists support the inclusion of a bill of rights?

A) To give unlimited powers to the federal government

B) To limit the power of the federal government

C) To give unlimited powers to the people

D) To limit protection of the people

ANSWER: