

# Federalist #70 Assignment

Read Federalist #70 and answer the following questions:

1. What does Hamilton mean when he refers to "energy"?
  1. In referring to energy, Hamilton means to say that it is a must for a well-functioning government to be active and to constantly be striving to better the country in some way, shape, or form. It is the Executive Branch, in particular the President, that is responsible for establishing the conditions prerequisite for this energy to arise and maintain itself.
2. What does Hamilton say about property rights?
  1. Hamilton contends that Energy in the Executive is essential in the protection of property. Property rights are of importance in Hamilton's view, and require no less energy of the executive in their maintenance than the protection of the community against foreign attacks or the administration of the country. In the writing, this is enumerated before the rights to liberty.
3. Why does Hamilton put property rights before rights to liberty?
  1. In guaranteeing and properly pursuing justice in regards to right to life and rights of property, a government establishes the conditions for and liberty itself to exist. The right to life and protection of property is thus placed before the right to liberty by Hamilton.
4. Is a plural executive the right thing or is it important to have only one executive?
  1. In Hamilton's estimation, the President, our Executive, must have energy and capability. It is only by doing so that we may have the unity required for well operating government. If power is vested in two or more individuals of equal distribution or if the Executive's power is made to answer to others, unity is destroyed. Hamilton points to Rome as an example of the failures that can be brought about by the plural executive or a bickering legislature. The ambition of a single individual is not to be feared more than plural executive structure.
5. Do you think we have adhered to Hamilton in our current system? Why/why not?
  1. We adhere to Hamilton in our current system in many ways. The Executive remains the single most powerful individual in the country, in the world, even, and is made to protect that which we most appreciate, our liberty. However, the past several decades have seen much debate over the proper role of the President and what powers he should hold. It is a breakdown of unity we are having glimpses of right now, I believe, as we see some try to subordinate the President to the Legislature, others try to divide power of the President to redistribute elsewhere. For now, at least, we hold to Hamilton.

Submit your completed assignment when you are finished.