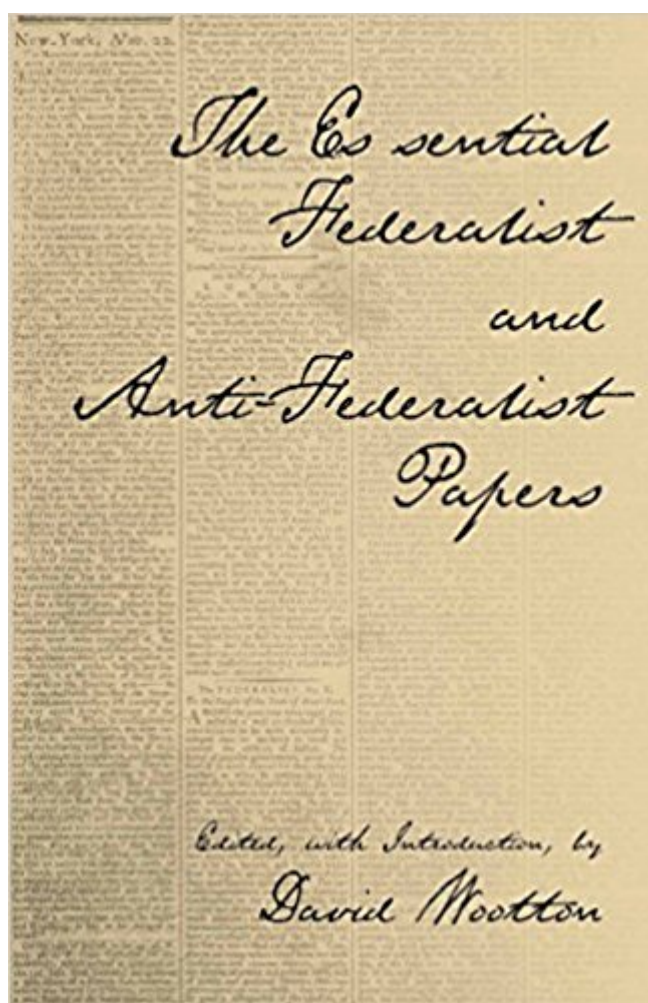


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# The Essential Federalist And Anti-Federalist Papers (Hackett Classics)



## Synopsis

Here, in a single volume, is a selection of the classic critiques of the new Constitution penned by such ardent defenders of states' rights and personal liberty as George Mason, Patrick Henry, and Melancton Smith; pro-Constitution writings by James Wilson and Noah Webster; and thirty-three of the best-known and most crucial Federalist Papers by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay. The texts of the chief constitutional documents of the early Republic are included as well. David Wootton's illuminating Introduction examines the history of such American principles of government as checks and balances, the separation of powers, representation by election, and judicial independence— including their roots in the largely Scottish, English, and French new science of politics. It also offers suggestions for reading *The Federalist*, the classic elaboration of these principles written in defense of a new Constitution that sought to apply them to the young Republic.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An excellent edition of the key writings surrounding the adoption of the American Constitution. The learned Introduction brings to life the key intellectual debates at the heart of modern constitutionalism as well as those concerning the American Constitution. A fine critical edition."

--Frederick Rosen, University College London" This is an excellent collection that fills a need--of all the document collections on the founding era, there is no one-volume collection with both Federalist

and Anti-Federalist opinions--and none so affordably priced! I look forward to adopting this book in my general U.S. history and advanced U.S. legal history courses." --Christopher Capozzola, History Department, MIT"A very useful, affordable edition of Federalist and Anti-Federalist writings. . . . The introductory essay is beautifully written and offers useful insights." --Margaret Groarke, Manhattan College

David Wootton is Anniversary Professor of History, University of York.

I use this in my undergraduate history courses to provide a window into the reason the Constitution was controversial. Wootton offers a solid introduction to the issues and the documents, and has included a terrific set of antifederalist documents that illuminate the mind of those who opposed the Constitution. The Federalist papers are representative of the key arguments. Some would argue that all the Federalist Papers should be provided, but that is not his purpose and for my use this is a more than adequate selection. Instead, Wootton includes additional defenses of the Constitution from Noah Webster and James Wilson. One of my favorite exchanges (though not provided in adjacent readings) is Wilson's defense and the Address of the Minority, both aimed at a Pennsylvania audience and presenting good encapsulations of common viewpoints. As a result, this book contains a broader and more representative set of voices on both sides of the ratification argument than is provided in other brief treatments. The introductory section is substantial and balanced, but the documents are left to stand for themselves without comment or explanation--which of course they certainly can and do, but for my use a stronger editorial presence would be useful. I find undergraduates can struggle with the rhetorical style of the 18th century. But as a documentary resource this is best of breed in a short, inexpensive collection. Kudos.

I will use this time to apologize for jumping to conclusions. Although I am still a bit upset that not all the Federalist papers are in this book, I must say that Wootton's introduction alone is probably worth the price of the book. He takes you through the history of libertarian thought from when it is first documented on this planet (oddly not too long ago) to the writing of the Constitution itself. He also does a fabulous job of getting into the heads of several of the Founders and shows you their thought process in developing our founding document. I am quite glad that I got this edition now. I bought this book to have all the Federalist Papers in one place. Just a warning, they are not all in this book. The author conspicuously leaves out Federalist #29 and #46. My guess is because a Brit has no use for how the Second Amendment came about. However, since it contains the writings of

several anti-Federalists as well, it should serve for some good reading. All told, I believe this book is a great place to start in researching the hows and whys of the Constitution of the United States.

Nice set of excerpts from the Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist papers. The more I read, the more I realize how incredibly foresighted George Mason, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee and others were in their recognition that the Constitution, for all its good, would ultimately result in an over powerful and over bearing Federal monster. Today we live their fear, and don't even realize it. Unless you are politically minded and a history buff, you will likely be bored reading these, but they are a very important part of the development of our nation and our laws.

This is a good collection for academic reference work. There are some minor errors that the editors missed relating to the structure and format of some of the essays and associated footnotes. It's not a collector's edition by any means - I only recommend the quality of the book's construction for aforementioned academic purposes - in other words, it's great if you're going to use it a lot and intend to put some wear and tear on it.

Paper-back. When the pages were turned, the glue at the binding cracked and broke. While the book remains readable it is now a collection of loose pages and not a "book."

I really liked this book and have ordered some more from friends. It portrays varying views of the Federalist and Anti-Federalists and gave me new found admiration for some of the Anti-Federalist arguments that predicted a lot of what is happening today with an ever expanding Federal government which knows little to no boundaries.

During the political season, it seems well to consider what kind of country we were from the outset. Reflecting on the Federalist Papers gives us some perspective on the careful, even laborious groping for a balanced constitution, and a chance to read Jay, Hamilton, and Madison in their original voices. A good, sober antidote to the senseless campaign ads of 2012. We see the development of the power balance between the executive and the legislative branches.

Though this is a well bound, nicely printed, easy to read format, the advertisement of 'complete works' is not accurate. Within the section of the book dedicated to the Anti Federalist Papers, only 'selections from' particular communications are available. I have several (6) different collections of

the Anti Federalist papers and, BY FAR, the most accurate offering is that of Ralph Ketcham.

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