

## Comparing / Contrasting AOC & Constitution, Federalist & Anti-Federalist

### Comparison

Historical thinking involves the ability to identify, compare, and evaluate multiple perspectives on a given historical event in order to draw conclusions about that event.

It also involves the ability to describe, compare, and evaluate multiple historical developments within one society, one or more developments across or between different societies, and in various chronological and geographical contexts.

### Historical Argumentation

Historical thinking involves the ability to create an argument and support it using relevant historical evidence. Creating a historical argument includes defining and framing a question about the past and then formulating a claim or argument about that question, often in the form of a thesis. A persuasive historical argument requires a precise and defensible thesis or claim, supported by rigorous analysis of relevant and diverse historical evidence. The argument and evidence used should be framed around the application of a specific historical thinking skill (e.g., comparison, causation, patterns of continuity and change over time, or periodization).

### From the Period 3 Content Outline:

**Key Concept 3.2: The American Revolution's democratic and republican ideals inspired new experiments with different forms of government.**

- II. **After declaring independence, American political leaders created new constitutions and declarations of rights that articulated the role of the state and federal governments while protecting individual liberties and limiting both centralized power and excessive popular influence.**
  - A) **Many new state constitutions placed power in the hands of the legislative branch and maintained property qualifications for voting and citizenship.**
  - B) **The Articles of Confederation unified the newly independent states, creating a central government with limited power. After the Revolution, difficulties over international trade, finances, interstate commerce, foreign relations, and internal unrest led to calls for a stronger central government.**
  - C) **Delegates from the states participated in a Constitutional Convention and through negotiation, collaboration, and compromise proposed a constitution that created a limited but dynamic central government embodying federalism and providing for a separation of powers between its three branches.**
  - D) **The Constitutional Convention compromised over the representation of slave states in Congress and the role of the federal government in regulating both slavery and the slave trade, allowing the prohibition of the international slave trade after 1808.**
  - E) **In the debate over ratifying the Constitution, Anti-Federalists opposing ratification battled with Federalists, whose principles were articulated in the Federalist Papers (primarily written by Alexander Hamilton and James Madison). Federalists ensured the ratification of the Constitution by promising the addition of a Bill of Rights that enumerated individual rights and explicitly restricted the powers of the federal government.**

# Comparing / Contrasting Federalist & Anti-Federalist

## The Constitutional Debate...

The American Revolution was a costly war and left the colonies in an economic depression. The debt and remaining tensions—perhaps best summarized by a conflict in Massachusetts known as Shays' Rebellion—led some founding political members in the U.S. to desire for more concentrated federal power. The thought was that this concentrated power would allow for standardized fiscal and monetary policy and for more consistent conflict management.

However, a more nationalistic identity was the antithesis of some founding political members' ideals for the developing states. A more centralized American power seemed reminiscent of the monarchical power of the English crown that had so recently and controversially been defeated. The potential consequences of centralized fiscal and monetary policy were especially frightening for some, reminding them of burdensome and unfair taxation. Anti-federalists were closely tied to rural landowners and farmers who were conservative and staunchly independent.

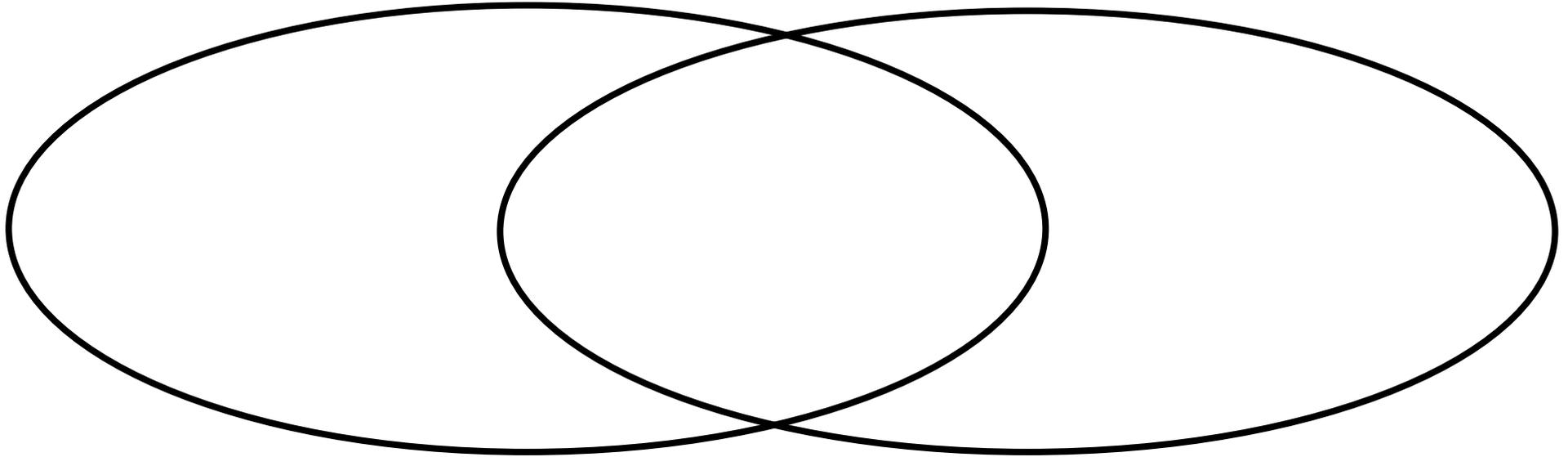
The most important parts of this debate were decided in the 1700s and 1800s in U.S. history, and the Federalist Party dissolved centuries ago, but the battles between federalist and anti-federalist ideologies continue into the present day in left and right wing American politics.

	Anti-Federalist	Federalist
<b>Introduction</b>	In U.S. history, <b>anti-federalists</b> were those who opposed the development of a strong federal government and the ratification of the <b>Constitution</b> in 1788, preferring instead for power to remain in the hands of state and local governments.	In U.S. history, <b>federalists</b> wanted a stronger national government and the ratification of the <b>Constitution</b> to help properly manage the debt and tensions following the American Revolution.
<b>Position on Fiscal and Monetary Policy</b>	Felt that states were free agents that should manage their own revenue and spend their money as they saw fit.	Felt that many individual and different fiscal and monetary policies led to economic struggles and national weakness. Favored central banking and central financial policies.
<b>Position on Constitution</b>	Opposed until inclusion of the <b>Bill of Rights</b> .	Proposed and supported.
<b>Prominent Figures</b>	Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams.	<b>Alexander Hamilton</b> , George Washington, John Jay, John Adams, <b>James Madison</b> .

**NOTE: These are factions related to the Constitutional Convention and the Constitutional Debate. These are NOT political parties. Throughout history, those who support a strong (large) central government can be described as federalist and those who prefer weaker (smaller) central government can be described as anti-federalist.**

## Comparing / Contrasting Federalist & Anti-Federalist

Directions: Using your prior knowledge, new knowledge gained from the reading assignment, and the additional facts provided, complete the Venn diagram by filling in as many characteristics and facts in order to compare and contrast the Federalists and Anti-Federalists. When your Venn is complete, then proceed to the questions below.



Are there more similarities or differences between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists? Explain *WHY*.

**Thesis Practice**  
Using your thesis formula, comparison historical thinking skill, and historical knowledge of the Critical Era, addresses the following prompt by writing a complete introduction. Make sure to include your analysis of the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution in your analysis. Compare and Contrast the goals and viewpoints of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists during the Critical Era, 1783-1791. To what extent were the Federalists more successful in reaching their goals?

# Comparing / Contrasting AOC & Constitution

