

The Words Have It!

Who made the following statements? A Federalist or an Antifederalist? Write in an F if you think the statement reflects the opinion of a Federalist and an A if you believe only an Antifederalist could feel that way. For longer versions of the represented documents, read the following: Federalist Papers (1788), George Mason: "Objections to This Constitution of Government" article (1787), Richard Henry Lee: Letters from a Federal Farmer to the Republican (1787).

"... the Constitution adopts, in their full extent, the common and statute law of Great Britain, by which many other rights, not expressed in it, are equally secured."

"There is no declaration of any kind, for preserving the liberty of the press, or the trial by jury in civil causes; nor against the danger of standing armies in times of peace."

"This consolidation of the states has been the object of several men in this country for some time past... Whether [such a change] will not totally destroy the liberties of this country—time can only determine."

"In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself."

"[Great Britain] is become a great, mighty, and splendid nation; not because their government is strong and energetic, but, sir, because liberty is its direct end and foundation"

"For representation, Sir, is the true chain between the people and those to whom they entrust the administration of the government"

Now answer the following questions:

1. If you were living in 1788, would you have been a Federalist or Antifederalist? Why?

2. If the states had all ratified the Constitution without the guarantee of a bill of rights, do you think we would have eventually created the Bill of Rights anyway?