

I. Federalism and the Compromise on Rights

1. The system of government the Founding Fathers created to unite the separate states is called “federalism.” A “federal” government is one where power is divided between a central government and multiple regional governments.
2. Here is how the compromise to create the federal government created a contradiction (the presence of two opposites at the same time) in American government:
 - a) To secular *individual rights*, the Founding Fathers said American needed to be *independent*.
 - b) To maintain *independence*, the Founding Fathers knew that the colonies must be *united*. (If they were separate, they would eventually become enemies.)
 - c) To be *united*, the thirteen separate states would have to *compromise* over their differences. (Bargaining between people who disagree almost always requires compromise, where each side gets some of what they want, but not all.)
 - d) A *compromise* to create unity required that the states that wanted to keep *slavery* were allowed to keep it.
3. The chain of logic from *individual rights* — to *independence* — to *unity* — to *compromise* — to *slavery* created the contradiction between *rights and slavery*.
4. To bring an end to slavery, the Founding Fathers had abolished slavery in five states prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territory, and arranged to end the *slave trade* in 1808.

J. Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists

1. Once the leaders of the separate states had accepted the Constitution they had to return to their states and convince the people to accept it as well.
2. Those who supported the Constitution and a *federal* government were known as “Federalists.” Those who opposed it were “Anti-Federalists.”
3. Patrick Henry was among the most famous Anti-Federalists. He believed that a large central government would always tend to attack people's rights.
4. The most famous Federalists were James Madison, John Jay, and Alexander Hamilton. Together they wrote the famous “Federalist Papers.”

K. The Bill of Rights (1789)

1. Anti-federalists like Patrick Henry had argued that a federal government would eventually attack people's rights, so the Federalists had agreed to create a special set of additions to the Constitution to protect rights.
2. The first ten such additions, called “constitutional amendments,” were written largely by James Madison, the “Father of the Constitution.” They are known as the “Bill of Rights.”
3. The first amendment says that the government cannot interfere with people's religious beliefs, their freedom of speech, or their right to assemble to protest the government's actions.
4. The second amendment says that the people may “bear arms,” which means the right to self-defense.