

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. The driving force behind creating this government was the desire to secure individual rights, as stated in the *Declaration of Independence*, however, it also resulted in the continuation of slavery. Here’s how the two went together:
 - a) To secure *individual rights*, the Founding Fathers had fought for *independence* from England. (The mother country had shown that it would not respect the rights of the colonists, therefore they needed to create a separate country.)
 - b) To maintain *independence*, the Founding Fathers knew that the colonies must be *united*. History is full of examples of cultures that were ruined because separate groups of the same people refused to unite. (The tribes of Europe were one example of people who had not united and thus fought many wars against one another.)
 - 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 in the case of thirteen colonies (five of which had abolished slavery but eight of which still had slavery) required that *the inheritance of slavery be maintained* in the states that wanted 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 resolve the contradiction, 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 the Constitution were known as “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 additional laws that would insure that the government would be prevented from invading people’s 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 and third amendments say that the people may “bear arms” and that the government may not force them to keep soldiers in their homes.
5. The fourth amendment says that the government may not invade or seize people's property, except in very limited cases with the special permission of judge.