

Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists
Who's Who?

Biographies

James Madison (1751-1836)

Born in Virginia, James Madison was the oldest of 10 children. He attended the College of New Jersey (Princeton) and excelled in academic studies.



When the Revolutionary War began, he joined the side of the Patriots. In the early years of the United States, he served in several offices and greatly influenced America's government. Madison served as a member of the Congress under the Articles of Confederation. During his tenure, he became frustrated with the Congress' lack of power. Under the Articles, Congress had limited funds to pay the army because they did not have the power to levy taxes. Madison firmly believed the nation needed a national government that had the supremacy to govern the nation. At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, his plan for the legislative branch and other ideas were so vital that he has since been given the title, "Father of the Constitution." Madison felt as if the checks and balance system in the Constitution sufficiently prevented any abuse of power in the new government.

With the Constitution ratified, Madison was elected to the first Congress. He knew that many of the states ratified the Constitution based on the promise of a bill of rights. To fulfill that promise, Madison wrote one and encouraged Congress to pass it. Madison's bill serves today as the first ten amendments to the Constitution, our Bill of Rights.

Madison was also a proponent of the separation of church and state. He believed that the government should neither support nor oppose religion. He contributed to Thomas Jefferson's Bill for Religious Freedom in Virginia and worked against Patrick Henry's bill that would have awarded tax money to "teachers of the Christian religion."

Madison later served as secretary of state and the fourth President of the United States.

Patrick Henry (1736-1799)

Patrick Henry was born in Virginia in 1736. In the early years of his life, he struggled to be successful. He failed as both a storeowner and a farmer. It was not until he decided to study law and open a practice that Henry found what he could excel at.

Henry served in the Virginia legislature and the Continental Congress. From the onset of the Revolution, he identified as a patriot. He became famous for his impassioned speeches to Congress which included his



often quoted "give me liberty or give me death," statement. During the Revolution, he was elected governor of Virginia.

Even though he was invited to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Henry chose not to go. He was a staunch defender of the rights of individual states and desired a government that would operate closely with the people. He felt that the new

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Constitution could encroach on the rights of the states and limit the liberties of the people, especially since it lacked a bill of rights.

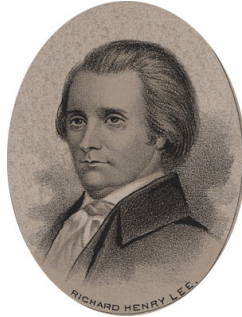
Richard Henry Lee (1732-1794)

Richard Henry Lee was born to a wealthy family in Virginia. Educated in England, he returned home and was elected to the Virginia legislature. An out-spoken

opponent of slavery, Lee also recognized the abuses of the British rule and raised a voice against the British government. As the conversation of revolution became more prominent, Lee was seen as a leader towards independence.

Lee served as a member of Congress under the Articles of Confederation. He helped to pass the Northwest Ordinance, setting up a system to govern the Northwest Territory (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota). The measure provided a pathway for territories to become states in the future.

At the time of the Constitutional Convention, Lee was a supporter of the existing system. He believed in the Confederation Congress and did not desire to reorganize or reinvent it. He had long opposed the misuse of power by the British government and feared that a new American government would do the same. The strength of a new national government was his greatest concern.



Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804)

Alexander Hamilton was born in the West Indies in 1757. He lost both his mother and father before he was thirteen years old and was forced to live with relatives. His family realized how intellectually inclined he was and sent him to King's College (Columbia University) in New York. He joined the Continental Army when the Revolutionary War began, eventually becoming an aid to George Washington. Following the war, he found a new profession in law and was elected to the Continental Congress.

Hamilton was an opponent of the Articles of Confederation. He felt the Articles could not successfully govern the country as they were too weak. The war created a great amount of debt for the new country, but the Articles could not even raise taxes to pay it off. Hamilton attended the Constitutional Convention as a delegate from New York. He lobbied for a national government capable of handling the challenges facing the new nation. He suggested that the

president and senators be elected for life. He also believed Congress, and not the states, should make all laws for the country. Many of his ideas were ignored by the Convention.



He later became the first secretary of the treasury under George Washington. Hamilton was killed in a duel in 1804.

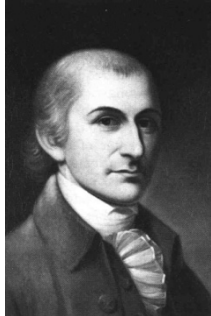
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John Jay (1745-1829)

John Jay was born in New York in 1745. He attended King's College (Columbia University) and soon began work as a lawyer. Though he was sympathetic to the patriot cause, he did not support breaking from England, at first. However, when the Revolution began, Jay fully supported the new nation.

A delegate to the Constitutional Congress, Jay was sent to Paris to aid writing the peace treaty of 1783. The Treaty of Paris, as it was called, ended the Revolutionary War and



forced Great Britain to recognize the United States. Before 1787, Jay served as the government's secretary for foreign affairs. As he met with foreign leaders, he quickly realized the limitations of the Articles of Confederation. One of his biggest issues with the Articles was that they gave Congress power to make treaties, but allowed no power to uphold the stipulations guaranteed in the treaties. Another problem that Jay recognized was Congress's power to borrow money, but not to raise taxes and repay what was borrowed. He did not attend the Constitutional Convention but was nevertheless pleased with the outcome.

Jay later served as the first chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and governor of the state of New York.

George Mason (1725-1792)

George Mason was born in Virginia in 1725. He came from a heritage of wealthy landowners. After the death of his father, Mason's uncle raised him and taught him

law. He went on to become one of the wealthiest men in Virginia.

In 1759, Virginia elected Mason to the colonial legislature. When the state constitution of Virginia was drafted in 1776, he wrote its Declaration of Rights. This list of rights became a model for the Bill of Rights added to the U.S. Constitution.



Mason attended the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Dissatisfied with the government under the Articles of Confederation, he pushed for an end to the slave trade in the new country. He also desired a Congress that was more democratic and run by the people. When the Constitution was drafted, he felt that what was written would lead to either a monarchy or the rule of a few, not the people as a whole.