

## Federalists versus Anti-Federalists

The **ratification** of the *Constitution of the United States of America* was a slow process in many states as the people of the nation were split between the ideas of the new government, namely Federalists and Anti-Federalists. The two, often opposite, political stances are seen in the following table.

Federalists Points of View	Anti-Federalists Points of View
Wanted a strong, central government	Wanted a weak, national government
An effective national government provided order and protected the rights of the people	A strong national government threatened the rights of the States and the rights of the people
The national government wanted to dismiss the Articles of Confederation and stressed the need for a new constitution	They wanted to keep the Articles of Confederation and only make a few minor changes to the original document.
The central government must have more power than the states. A bicameral congress will represent the states' interests.	Power must remain with the states and the local governments in order to keep a government by the people.
Created an independent executive and judiciary branch of the government to share power with the legislature.	They did not trust the system of executive and judiciary, they only wanted to keep the legislative system of government for the people.
Terms of office must be longer than one year. This will enable a more stable government.	They believed longer terms of office would lead to more government control over the people.
A larger republic would allow a greater protect of rights and liberties for the people.	A smaller republic would benefit the peoples' rights and liberties much better.
A strong, central government was needed to better manage the nation's economic and financial policies and the problem of a large national debt.	There should be no nation al systems of taxation and the states should control their own finances, not the national government.
Without a strong, central government, there would always be the fear of mob rule and anarchy.	Believed the Constitution would create a loss of liberty and there would be a return to tyranny and corruption again.
Strongly believed in the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances.	A central government was not according to the ideals of the American Revolution
Believed a Bill of Rights was <b>not</b> necessary as the government's role and powers were fully described in the <i>Constitution</i> .	Demanded a Bill of Rights had to be added to the Constitution to protect the people against abuses of power by the federal government.