

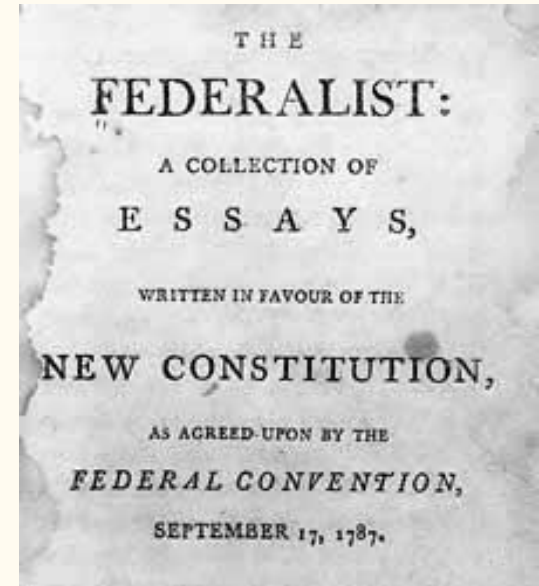
Federalist 10

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3rd Period AP Econ/Gov

Summary

Madison wrote Federalist 10 to defend the Constitution against the charge that a faction would soon gain control, substituting its own interest with national interest.

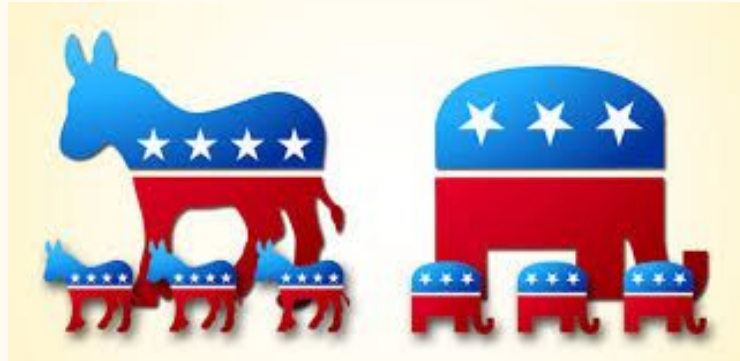
The way to resolve the problem of faction is a large republic with a multiplicity of interests, making it unlikely that a majority faction with form.



Question 1

How does Madison define "faction"? What are some examples of factions today?

Madison defines faction as any single group that tries to dominate the political process. Factions today would include the democratic and republican parties. Both try to dominate the political world when running for office positions.



Question 2

What are the two methods of curing the mischiefs caused by factions?

There are two methods for curing the mischiefs of faction: the one, by removing its causes; the other, by controlling its effects.



Question 3

What are two ways of eliminating the causes of the faction? Why are both unacceptable?

There are two ways to eliminate the causes of faction: the one, by destroying the liberty which is essential to its existence; the other, by giving to every citizen the same opinions, the same passions, and the same interests. The first is unacceptable because it could not be less folly to abolish liberty, which is essential to political life, because it nourishes faction. The second is unacceptable because different opinions will be formed and there will be a division of the society into different interests and parties.

Question 4

According to Madison, What is the primary cause of conflict?

According to Madison, the primary cause of conflict is the difference of opinions in religion, government, and attachment to different leaders. Mankind was divided into two parties, with mutual animosity so strong that it kindled their unfriendliness and the most violent conflicts.



Question 5

What issues divided mankind in 1787? Are those issues similar to the cause of today's divisions?

The different opinions regarding religion and government is what divided the nation in 1787. These issues are similar to the ones dividing society today.



Question 6

What are the two remedies for controlling the effects of factions?

If a faction consists of less than a majority, relief is supplied by the republican principle, which enables the majority to defeat its sinister views by regular vote.

When a majority is included in a a faction, the form of popular government, on the other hand, enables it to sacrifice to its ruling passion or interest both the public good and the rights of other citizens.



Question 7

Why are factions more easily controlled in large republics?

Factions are more easily controlled in large republics because it will be more difficult for unworthy candidates to practice with success the vicious arts by which elections are too often carried; and the suffrages of the people being more free, will be more likely to center on men who possess the most attractive merit and the most diffusive and established character.



Question 8

How does federalism control factions?

A larger republic means that more factions will compete, because there is a greater chance for differing in interest and the ability of more factions to form.



Question 9

What portions of Madison's argument are the most persuasive? What is the least persuasive?

The most persuasive portions of Madison's argument was when he discussed how a republic can easily control the effects of factions, for more effectively than a democracy. This can be seen by taking a look at history. His weakest argument is when he is explaining how one cannot eliminate factions because people will always have opinions. This is weak because while people will always have opinions, there are ways to silence, its just not very American that way.



ARGUMENT

Question 10

Does Madison have an optimistic or pessimistic view of human nature? How did this viewpoint impact the drafting of the Constitution?

Madison's view of human nature is pessimistic because he believes that humans do not work together and only care about what they want. His viewpoint impacted the drafting of the constitution by allowing the separation of powers, the system of checks and balances, and federalism to come into play.



Question 11

Was Madison right, or have factions sometimes gained control of our government?

Factions have sometimes gained control of our government. For example, Republicans and Democrats have dominated the presidential elections making sure either party has ultimate controls, without the weigh in of a third party candidate.

