

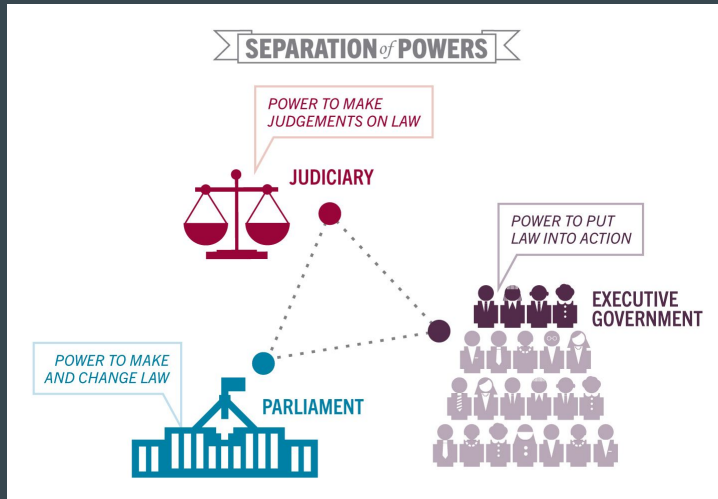
# Federalist 51: James Madison



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# The Thesis

Federalist 51 focuses on the need for Checks and Balances in Government while reminding people that separation of powers is important in preventing too much power to an individual.



## “If men were angels, no government would be necessary?”

If people were honest and virtuous there would be no need for rules or laws.

Each man would govern himself and help those in need.

There would be no need for higher or greater control over man.

The meaning “if men were angels” refers to the thought that if everyone were to treat each other in a mannerable fashion there would be no need for governance.

# Examples of how the constitution protects the proper balance of power

The constitution separates the government into three branches, Executive, Legislative, and judicial.

Each branch checks each other to ensure that no one had more power than the others.

The constitution also states that people elect the officials which gives the people power.

## The branches of government and the steps taken to prevent them from becoming too powerful

The majority of the steps taken to prevent one of the branches of government is checks and balances. “The constant aim is to divide and arrange several offices in such a manner that each may be a check on one another.

The Three branches of government have the ability to balance each other out through the use of checks and balances. These checks and balances have the ability to offset the power of any other branch maybe acquiring.

# Branches of Government

Madison also states that it is “impossible” to evenly distribute power amongst the three branches of government. The legislative branch is the most powerful because its authority is in dominion of the other branches. The solution to the asymmetrical power that the legislative branch held it was separated into two houses.

# How are the rights of the minority protected?

Minority Rights are protected by various branches of the government. Democracy protects minority rights by ensuring that there is equal participation in democratic processes.

Minority rights are also protected by the sociological fact that a large government contains a multitude of interests that at times may be offsetting to one another. Society, in America, has so many different ideologies and differing ideas that a majority or even minority ruling supreme would be unlikely.

# Why are large Republics more capable of self government?

A large group will be able to self govern because there would be more diverse groups opposing each other politically rather than a small society and having one major Republic take over and becoming too strong and powerful.

Different perspectives provide a more equal society and their view on politics. As stated earlier the multiple facets of society averts the possibility of a one idea-ed system becoming overly supreme.



# How does Madison repeat and complete the arguments in Federalist 10?

In Federalist 10 Madison states that factions are allowed to promote their beliefs while at the same time being contained so that they do not overpower the minority.

As stated in Federalist 51, Checks and Balances are in place so that no political party or branch becomes too strong or powerful.

# Sources

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