

The Federalist 51

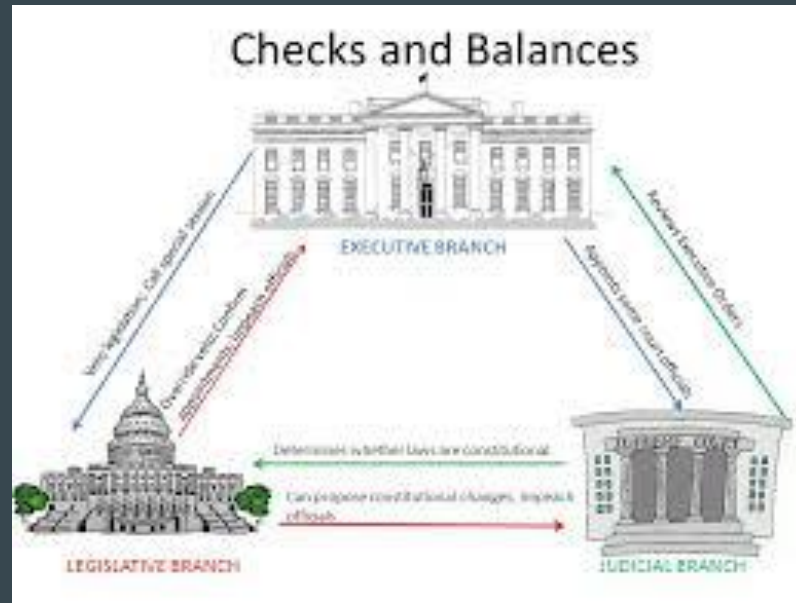


Written By James Madison

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The Thesis of Federalist 51

The purpose of Federalist 51 was to argue for the idea of Checks and Balances can be created within a national federal government. The paper goes on to explain the purpose and importance of having the separation of powers in the system of Federalism.



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

If people were just, and we lived in a Utopian society, there would be no need for a government to enforce laws and govern the people of the nation. However, this is not the case and a government must be implemented in order to ensure the peace and freedom of the people of nation.



**"IF MEN
WERE
ANGELS,
NO
GOVERNMENT
WOULD BE
NECESSARY."**

JAMES MADISON (1751-1836)

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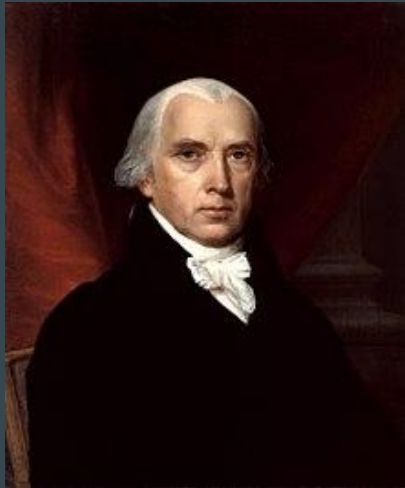
How the Constitution Protects the Balance of Power

1. The Constitution separates the government into three branches all with checks and balances. They all control each other, no branch could abuse their power with the checks and balances implemented.
2. People will appoint public officials. “Power to the People”.
3. If the nation was united, there would be a broader range of interests. Which would therefore protect the interest of the minority as their voice becomes non-negligible due to their numbers across the nation. The different sects and groups will represent their interests equally.



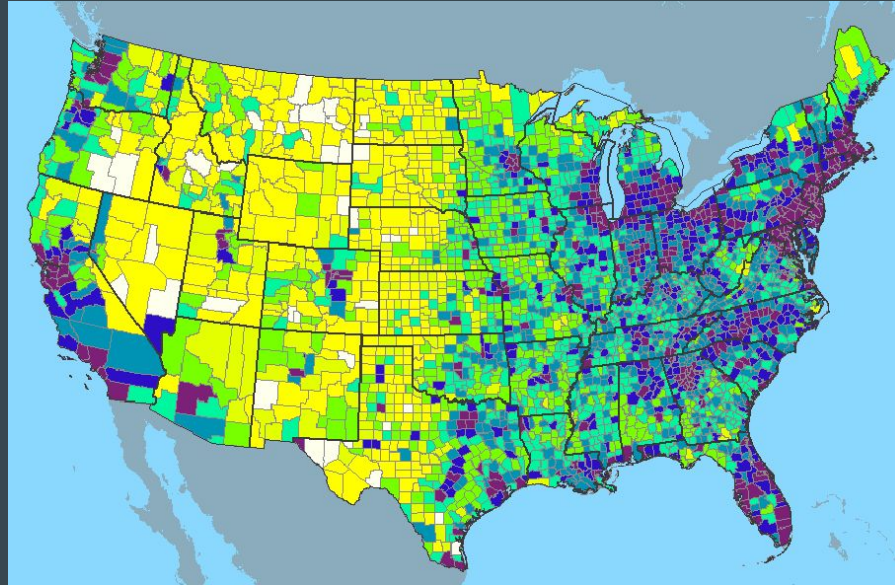
Strongest Branch of the Government, How to Limit Power

Madison argues that the legislative branch is the strongest because it is basically the people's voice in a Republican government. So in order to limit the power of the legislation is to divide the branch (bicameralism) and elect under two different modes of election. Also, have them be as little connected as possible.



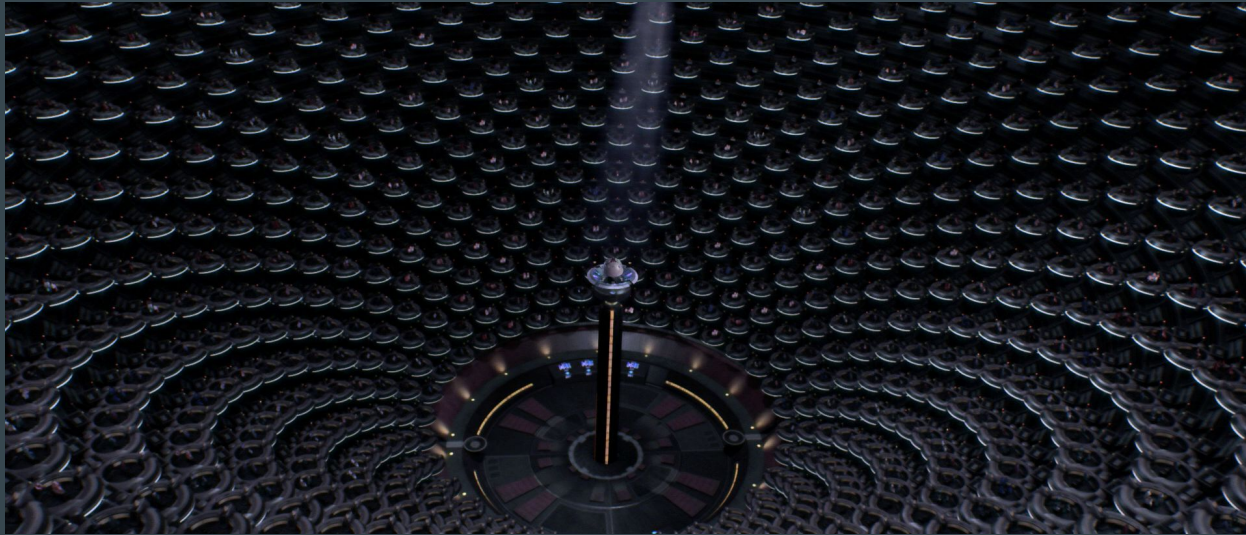
How are the Rights of the Minority Protected.

The rights of the minority are protected by the fact that there would be so many interest groups there would not be a clear cut majority. If there is no majority, then there isn't truly a minority.



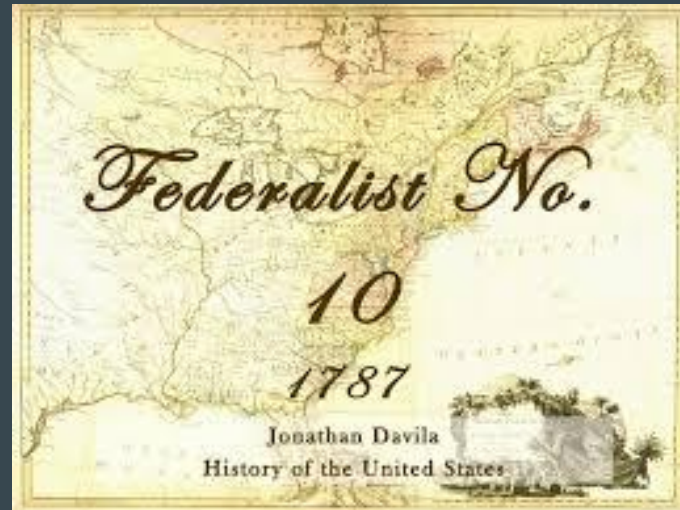
Large Republics More Capable of Self Government

Large Republics are more capable of self government because of the fact that there are more opposing groups. No group could completely take over the government, because there would be too much opposition. This allows for the government to be more fair, as everyone wants a compromise which truly represents justice in the republic.



Repetition From Federalist 10

Federalist 10 also described a republican government with many factions. Rather than try to get rid of factions, Madison accepted the factions and offered a way in which to control them. In Federalist 51 Madison goes on to explain how it would be divided and controlled in a system called Federalism. Divided between the factions, and divided between the state and federal levels.



Summary of Main Points in Concluding Paragraph

- American Society will be broken down into so many factions that it will contain a vast variety of interests.
- The security for civil rights is in the multiplicity of interests.
- “The extended republic... a coalition of a majority of the whole society could seldom take place on any other principles than those of justice and the general good.”

