



Federalist 10

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Period 6

Agree to disagree.





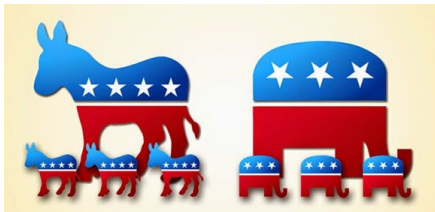
Summary of Federalist 10

Anti Federalists argued that a strong central Government would crush the rights of the citizens. Madison, turns this argument on its head, and says that any nation can be prone to the power of the all powerful majority. In his essay, he argues that we have to have a republic that is capable of controlling the violence and damage caused by factions while protecting the natural rights of all of its citizens, including the minority. Madison argued that factions are inevitable as long as men have different opinions, amount of wealth, and amount of property, they will fraternize with those most similar to them. Madison believed that the best way to eliminate one majority (faction) is to have a large republic with multiple weaker factions competing against each other to become the most popular. Essentially, agreeing to disagree.

1) How does Madison define “faction”? What are some examples of factions today?

“A number of citizens, whether amounting to a majority or minority of the whole, who are united and actuated by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adverse to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate interests of the community”

- Any single group that tries to dominate the political process.
 - Feminists, LGBT community, NRA, Sierra Club, Black Lives Matter, Pro-Lifers, Pro-Choicers, Corporations, Unions, etc.
- The Federalists Anti-Federalists were America’s first political factions.



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

- Removing it causes.
- Controlling its effects.



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

- Destroying the liberty which is essential to its existence.
 - Liberty is to faction as fire is to air. Liberty essential to political life.
 - The causes of factions are thus part of the nature of man and we must deal with their effects and accept their existence.
- Giving to every citizen the same opinions, same passions, and same interests.
 - The protection of these faculties is the first object of the government. It ensues a division of the society into different interests and parties.



"Liberty is to factions what air is to fire, an aliment without which it instantly expires".
- James Madison 1787

4) According to Madison, what is the primary cause of conflict?

- Unequal distribution of property and wealth.



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

- Different opinions concerning religion and government.
- Religion and government still conflict.
 - “Kavanaugh works to dismantle wall between church, state”.



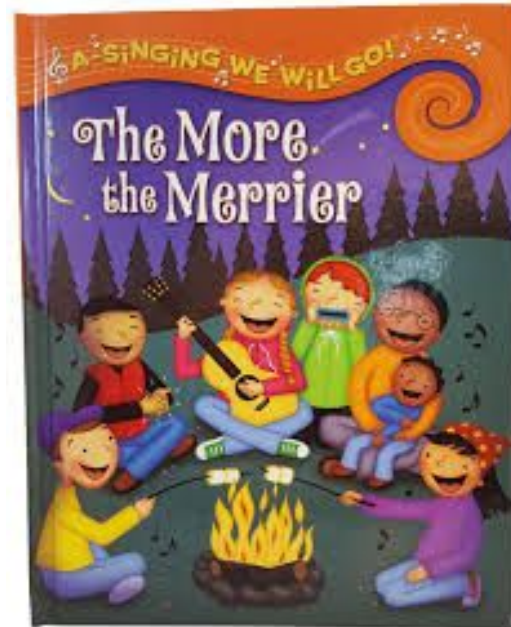
6) What are the two remedies for controlling the effects of factions?

- Large republic.
- Putting factions together; competition.



7) Why are factions more easily controlled in large republics?

- The more people you have, the wider variety of opinion; more competition.
 - By protecting and allowing an infinite amount of opinions, there will be no majority opinion.





8) How does federalism control factions?

- Larger republic equals more competition between factions.



FEDERALISM



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

- **Most-** A Republic is more capable of controlling effects of a faction than democracy.
 - In a republic democracy, there is a constitution or charter of rights protects certain inalienable rights that cannot be taken away by the government.
 - In a pure democracy, the majority is not restrained by a constitution so they can impose their opinion on the minority.
- **Least-** Concealment of information.
 - Madison does not disclose the purpose of Federalist 10; to convince others to ratify the constitution.
 - Readers are bombarded by ideologies but they may not know what to do with the new information.

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 on human nature is pessimistic because he believes people are driven by self-interest.
- In result, he advocated the separation of powers, federalism, and checks and balances.



Madison

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

- Some factions have gained more influence than others, but they have not fully gained control.
 - More money and political power can lead to more influence in government.





Sources

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