James Madison Legacy Project Online Course: Review and Discussion and Research Questions

UNIT 2

Lesson 14

Section 1, Review Questions

Instructions: Indicate whether each of the following statements is true or false.

1. The Federalists used both logistical and rhetorical strategies to get the Constitution ratified in the states.
2. Supporters of the Constitution in eastern Pennsylvania called a convention and ratified the Constitution before opponents from western Pennsylvania had a chance to mobilize, select, and send delegates.
3. When opponents of the Constitution in Virginia wanted to debate every clause, Federalists agreed because the opponents would debate James Madison who was an expert on every clause it contained.
4. The Federalists encouraged supporters in every state to hold ratifying conventions as soon as possible to prevent the Anti-Federalist having time to organize their opposition.
5. Both the Federalists and Anti-Federalists published hundreds of essays supporting and opposing ratification.
6. The essays include in The Federalist were meant to present objective grounds for ratification.
7. The Federalist was addressed to the people of Virginia, but it was widely read throughout the states.
8. The Federalist was written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay.

Section 2, Review Questions

Instructions: Indicate whether each of the following statements is true or false.

1. In Federalist 10, Madison attempted to rebut the Anti-Federalist claim that people’s liberty and a republic cannot be preserved in a nation as large and diverse as the United States.
2. Madison defines a “faction” as any group within a society that pursues an interest contrary to the common or public good.
3. Madison claimed that a well-designed union should be able to either break or control the influence of factions.
4. Madison claimed that liberty and diversity are two of the principle causes of factions.
5. Madison argued that in order to preserve liberty it is better to deal with factions by controlling their influence than by destroying liberty.
6. Madison claimed that the deepest causes of faction are economic and the conflict, for example, between creditors and debtors and buyers and sellers.
7. Madison claimed that minority factions were not a threat to the common good since they could be outvoted.
8. Madison claimed that the diversity within the society in a democracy would prevent the development of a majority faction.
9. Madison claimed that the solution to the shortcomings of majority rule in a democracy could be remedied by placing the control of government in the hands of representatives in a republic who would refine their constituents’ views and decide matters in consideration of their interests and the common good.
10. Madison agreed with the Anti-Federalists that a republic should be small so the people and their representatives could know and interact with each other easily.
11. Madison claimed that the more constituents a representative had, the less likely it was for them to be corrupted.
12. Anti-Federalists argued that a republic should be small enough so people and their representatives could know and interact with each other.
13. Anti-Federalists argued that a republic could not function well in a country as large and diverse as the United States.
14. Madison argued that the larger a republic is, the less likely it is for any one faction to become a majority and jeopardize the liberty of the people.

Section 2, Discussion and Research Questions

Instructions: Respond briefly to each of the following questions.

1. How relevant do you think Madison’s arguments in Federalist 10 are to the U.S. government today? To what extent, if any, do majority or minority factions appear to threaten the common good?
2. What evidence is there, if any, to support Madison’s claim that in small republics majority factions are more likely to form and act to the detriment of minorities?

Section 3, Review Questions

Instructions: Indicate whether each of the following statements is true or false.

1. The Federalists argued that the real choice was between remaining with the Articles of Confederation or accepting the new constitution.
2. The Federalists claimed that to have another convention that would result in the drafting of another constitution that opponents would like better than the constitution they proposed was highly unlikely.
3. The Federalists agreed to the opponents demand to amend the constitution they proposed in order to get it ratified.
4. The Federalists agreed to add a bill of rights as amendments to the constitution in order to overcome objections to its ratification.
5. The Federalists claimed that the virtue of citizens could be relied upon to protect the rights of individuals and the common good.
6. Alexander Hamilton argued that a bill of rights was not necessary for, among other reasons, some essential rights were already included in the Constitution.

Section 3, Discussion and Research Questions

Instructions: Respond briefly to each of the following questions.

1. Do you agree or disagree with Hamilton’s claim that it would be dangerous to add a bill of rights to the Constitution since it could imply that rights not listed would not be protected? Explain your position.
2. In what other documents beyond the Constitution can the rights of Americans be found?
3. What governmental institution has done the most to establish the rights of American citizens? What evidence do you have to support your position?
4. What role has civil society played in establishing and expanding the rights of American citizens? Provide examples in your response.

Section 4, Review Questions

Instructions: Indicate whether each of the following statements is true or false.

1. Many small states were quick to ratify the Constitution because the Great Compromise and the Electoral College gave them the advantage of being over represented in relation to the larger states.
2. Virginia and New York were among the first states to ratify the Constitution.
3. In order to get Virginia to ratify the Constitution, James Madison promised that amendments constituting a bill of rights would be proposed in the First Congress.
4. After Virginia ratified the Constitution, New York ratified it with little opposition.

Section 4, Discussion and Research Questions

Instructions: Respond briefly to each of the following questions.

1. What appear to have been some of the major factors that contributed to the success of the ratification effort?
2. What appear to have been some of the most important acts of James Madison that shaped the Constitution and promoted its ratification?