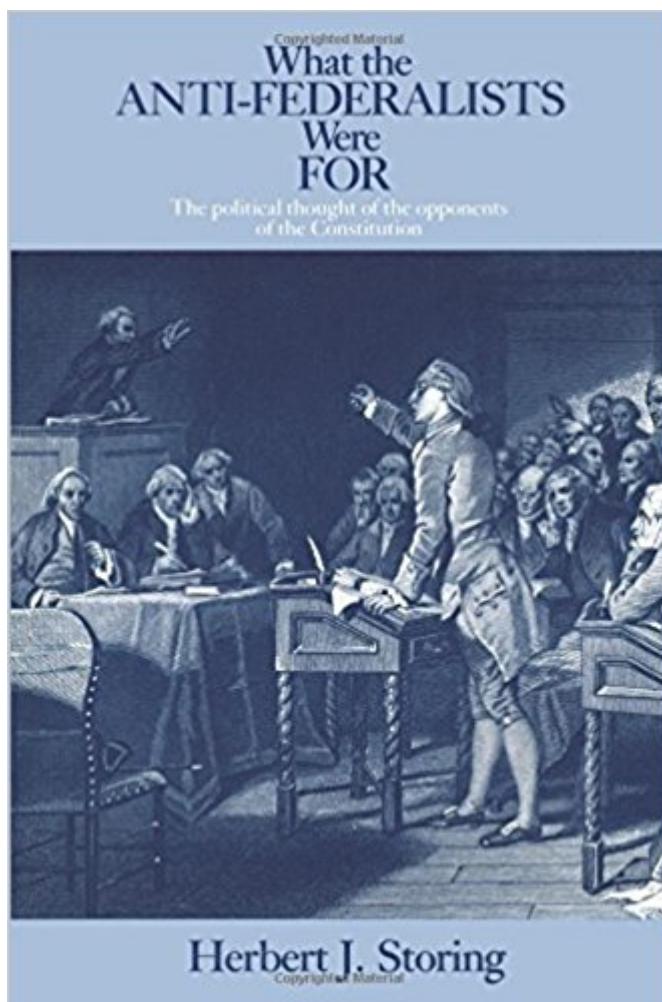


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# What The Anti-Federalists Were For: The Political Thought Of The Opponents Of The Constitution



## **Synopsis**

The Anti-Federalists, in Herbert J. Storing's view, are somewhat paradoxically entitled to be counted among the Founding Fathers and to share in the honor and study devoted to the founding. "If the foundations of the American polity was laid by the Federalists," he writes, "the Anti-Federalist reservations echo through American history; and it is in the dialogue, not merely in the Federalist victory, that the country's principles are to be discovered." It was largely through their efforts, he reminds us, that the Constitution was so quickly amended to include a bill of rights. Storing here offers a brilliant introduction to the thought and principles of the Anti-Federalists as they were understood by themselves and by other men and women of their time. His comprehensive exposition restores to our understanding the Anti-Federalist share in the founding its effect on some of the enduring themes and tensions of American political life. The concern with big government and infringement of personal liberty one finds in the writings of these neglected Founders strikes a remarkably timely note.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

First off, I'm not a theory/philosophy person AT ALL but I've been assigned this book in two graduate level political science courses. While I don't particularly like the material (important but mind numbingly dry), this is a fantastic book for understanding the Anti-Federalists' position about the role of government in America. The Federalist papers are often the only readings assigned in American Government classes which is a shame. This book provides a fantastic overview of the opposition's position and explains a lot about the context of the debate. Well worth reading if you

are interested in the topic.

Somewhat densely packed, this is the scholarly, definitive view of the thinking of both groups debating the ratification of the Constitution. In explaining what the Anti-Federalists thought he goes into great depth on the Federalists too. New scholarship, and better writing styles by more current authors, will supplement what Storing wrote in this introduction to the three volume collected Anti-federalist writings. In one slim paperback.

Great read! I think every American should read this book and get a new understanding of American Politics.

I use this book in my university course on the American Political Thought and the Constitution. It is well written, extensively researched, and adds a great deal to the course. Most of the time the Anti-Federalists are given short shrift in these sorts of courses, but they were instrumental in forcing through a Bill of Rights, and were amazingly prophetic concerning the eventual concentration of power in the national government

Given the virtually unlimited power of the Federal government as we now know it, it's refreshing (and vitally important) for us to understand what the REST of the Founders supported. Our current situation is exactly what they feared, with good reason. Every American needs to read this book to understand what our options were...and still are!

Awesome book to supplement the Anti-federalist book by Storing. It clearly sorts out the positions of the Anti-federalists and the counter arguments of the Federalist.

They had well founded fears of Statism! Observe the over-reach of federalism today!

Cannot recommend this book highly enough. If you want to know what the Anti-Federalists were thinking, why they ultimately lost the debate, and their proper place in the history of the Founding, this is the book to read. Easy read and short, but full of great information.

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