

Federalists v Anti-Federalists



DEBATE DEBRIEFING

Fear



Source of Fear

Provision to Calm the Fear

Fear of large states



Source of Fear

- Smaller states feared a loss of identity and sovereignty

Provision to Calm the Fear

- Great Compromise, establishing a bicameral legislature

Fear of people



Source of Fear

- Men of property feared mass democracy

Provision to Calm the Fear

- Only the House of Representatives was to be popularly elected

Fear of weak central government



Source of Fear

- Men of property were concerned about Shays' Rebellion, trade barriers, and lack of uniform currency

Provision to Calm the Fear

- Essential powers of national government were enumerated and “elastic clause” was added

Fear of central government



Source of Fear

- States feared loss of sovereignty

Provision to Calm the Fear

- Federalism split sovereignty: powers not delegated to national government were reserved for states

Fear of unwritten word



Source of Fear

- Relationship with the British who have no written constitution caused concern

Provision to Calm the Fear

- Constitution was written

Fear of other states



Source of Fear

- Afraid of border and trade disputes, invasions

Provision to Calm the Fear

- National government empowered to resolve difference between states and regulate interstate commerce

Fear foreign powers



Source of Fear

- All states were incapable of defending themselves, enforcing treaty agreements, or gaining foreign respect

Provision to Calm the Fear

- National government given a monopoly over the military powers of government

Fear strong executive



Source of Fear

- Experience with George III prior to the Revolution

Provision to Calm the Fear

- Established system of checks and balances with the three branches of government

Fear of losing individual rights



Source of Fear

- No written guarantee of individual rights

Provision to Calm the Fear

- Added Bill of Rights, or first ten amendments to the Constitution, at the insistence of Anti-Federalists