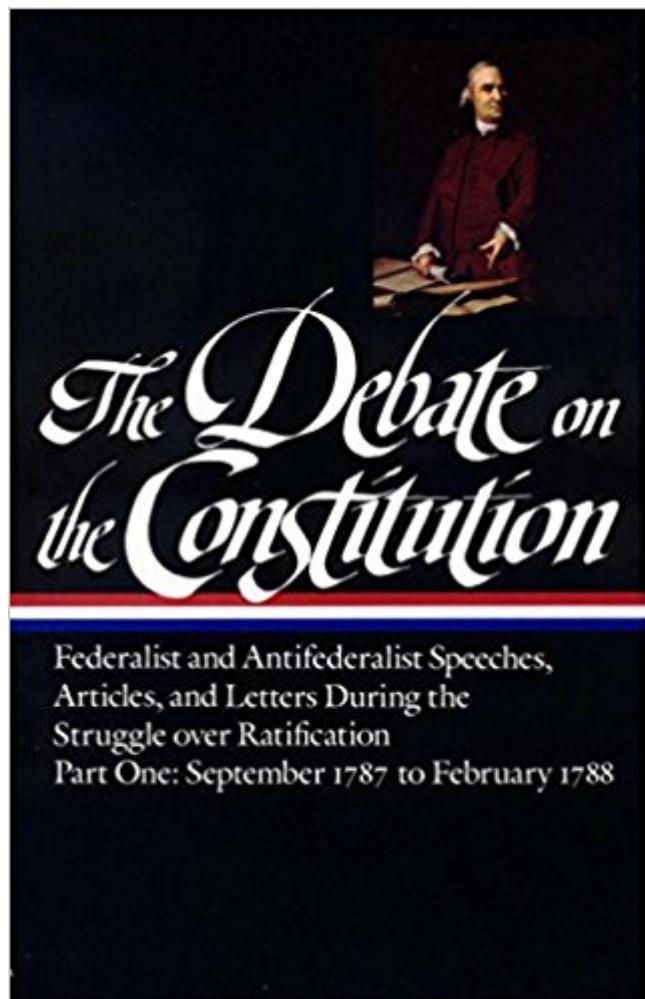


The book was found

The Debate On The Constitution : Federalist And Antifederalist Speeches, Articles, And Letters During The Struggle Over Ratification : Part One, September 1787-February 1788 (Library Of America)





Synopsis

Here, on a scale unmatched by any previous collection, is the extraordinary energy and eloquence of our first national political campaign: During the secret proceedings of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, the framers created a fundamentally new national plan to replace the Articles of Confederation and then submitted it to conventions in each state for ratification. Immediately, a fierce storm of argument broke. Federalist supporters, Antifederalist opponents, and seekers of a middle ground strove to balance public order and personal liberty as they praised, condemned, challenged, and analyzed the new Constitution. Gathering hundreds of original texts by Franklin, Madison, Jefferson, Washington, and Patrick Henry—“as well as many others less well known today”—this unrivaled collection allows readers to experience firsthand the intense year-long struggle that created what remains the world’s oldest working national charter. Assembled here in chronological order are hundreds of newspaper articles, pamphlets, speeches, and private letters written or delivered in the aftermath of the Constitutional Convention. Along with familiar figures like Franklin, Madison, Patrick Henry, Jefferson, and Washington, scores of less famous citizens are represented, all speaking clearly and passionately about government. The most famous writings of the ratification struggle—the Federalist essays of Hamilton and Madison—are placed in their original context, alongside the arguments of able antagonists, such as “Brutus” and the “Federal Farmer.” Part One includes press polemics and private commentaries from September 1787 to January 1788. That autumn, powerful arguments were made against the new charter by Virginian George Mason and the still-unidentified “Federal Farmer,” while in New York newspapers, the Federalist essays initiated a brilliant defense. Dozens of speeches from the state ratifying conventions show how the “draft of a plan, nothing but a dead letter,” in Madison’s words, had “life and validity...breathed into it by the voice of the people.” Included are the conventions in Pennsylvania, where James Wilson confronted the democratic skepticism of those representing the western frontier, and in Massachusetts, where John Hancock and Samuel Adams forged a crucial compromise that saved the country from years of political convulsion. Informative notes, biographical profiles of all writers, speakers, and recipients, and a detailed chronology of relevant events from 1774 to 1804 provide fascinating background. A general index allows readers to follow specific topics, and an appendix includes the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution (with all amendments).

Book Information

Series: Library of America (Book 62)

Hardcover: 1214 pages

Publisher: Library of America (June 1, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0940450429

ISBN-13: 978-0940450424

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.4 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (29 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #178,262 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 inÂ Books > History > Americas > Canada > 20th Century #16 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Canadian #101 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Law > Constitutional Law

Customer Reviews

Editor Bernard Bailyn has assembled a first-rate collection of letters, circulars, pamphlets, speeches, and what would be the colonial equivalent of modern op-ed pieces that allows today's readers to witness the founding of a government through the eyes of (and with the voices of) those who were really there. But don't be fooled into thinking this is going to be the stilted, polite prose that often belongs to 18th century philosophers or debaters. Many of the pieces Bailyn has selected are remarkably spry and teeming with understated wit. Those who think that mud-slinging, negative campaigning, and assaults on the integrity of the opponent are modern day creations may be surprised to see that those in the 18th century could be just as nitpicky, petty, and ascerbic as their present day descendants -- and yet still remain surprisingly gentlemanly about the whole thing. Some letter writers absolutely seethe with irritation at their opposition, and by presenting his debaters in roughly chronological order, Bailyn ensures that for every "Oh yeah?" uttered by a Federalist, there will soon be a responsive "Yeah!" from the anti-Federalist side. It all makes for lively and informative reading, and one wonders if such a critical debate could be carried out with such manners in today's media. It should come as no surprise that most of the Hamilton-Madison-Jay Federalist Papers are in here, as are the level-headed, persuasive anti-Federalist arguments of James Wilson and George Mason.

"The Debate on the Constitution" is a wealth of primary source material for true students of U.S. History. Caveat emptor though. If you fancy yourself an armchair historian because you've read a few of David McCullough's readable histories, then you may find yourself overwhelmed when you

try to tackle this collection of circulars, speeches, and articles. To truly appreciate the intellect imbued in many of these passages, one should probably have a background in Hume, Montesquieu, Locke, Blackstone and a host of others. If you read this volume and cannot grasp the beauty of Madison's "The Federalist X" or the sheer logical brilliance of Hamilton's "The Federalist XXXII - XXXIII," then you may need to give yourself a primer on the theoretical underpinnings of colonial history before you digest the rest of this work. What Bailyn does collect here is not to be ignored. There are very few omissions that one should go out and hunt down in order to see the entire effort of contorting the nascent Constitution. If you find yourself siding with George Mason and James Monroe more often than James Wilson and Alexander Hamilton, then it would behoove you to pick up the entire collected works of the anti federalists, but it is not necessary to get a thorough panoramic of the debate. On the negative side (small negative side, mind you), Bailyn uses a format that I have never enjoyed for works of this length: endnotes rather than footnotes. I have studied formative U.S. history for over a decade, and I still needed to read several of the notes.

Most readers should read all of the notes. Therein lies the problem.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Debate on the Constitution : Federalist and Antifederalist Speeches, Articles, and Letters During the Struggle over Ratification : Part One, September 1787-February 1788 (Library of America) The Debate on the Constitution Part 1: Federalist and Antifederalist Speeches: (Library of America #62) Wedding Speeches - A Practical Guide for Delivering an Unforgettable Wedding Speech and Toasts: Father of The Bride Speeches, Mother of the Bride Speeches, ... Groom Speeches (Weddings by Sam Siv Book 2) Wedding Speeches: Mother Of The Bride Speeches: On This Special Day Speeches for the Mother of the Bride (Wedding Speeches Books By Sam Siv Book 3) 15 Documents and Speeches That Built America (Unique Classics) (Declaration of Independence, US Constitution and Amendments, Articles of Confederation, Magna Carta, Gettysburg Address, Four Freedoms) Wedding Speeches: Father Of The Bride Speeches: How To Give The Perfect Speech At Your Perfectly Wonderful Daughter? s Wedding (Wedding Speeches - Books By Sam Siv) (Volume 2) The US Constitution: A Pocket Reference w/Constitution, Bill of Rights, Amendments, Declaration of Independence, History of the Constitution, Questions ... Quotes, and Free Download for 10 works Thomas Paine : Collected Writings : Common Sense / The Crisis / Rights of Man / The Age of Reason / Pamphlets, Articles, and Letters (Library of America) The Constitution of the United States of America, with all of the Amendments; The Declaration of Independence; and The Articles of Confederation, annotated (Breathitt Classics) Settler Sovereignty: Jurisdiction and Indigenous People in America and Australia, 1788-1836

(Harvard Historical Studies) How to Write Articles for News/Mags, 2/e (Arco How to Write Articles for Newspapers & Magazines) Funny Wedding Speeches - 77 Collections For the Bride, Groom, Parents, Grandparents, Bridal Party, and Friends: Wedding Speeches (Wedding Plans Book 1) The Constitution of the United States, Declaration of Independence, and Articles of Confederation The Constitution, The Declaration of Independence, and the Articles of Confederation The Constitution of the United States, Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, and Articles of Confederation: The Essential American Papers The U.S. Constitution with The Declaration of Independence and The Articles of Confederation IT NEVER SNOWS IN SEPTEMBER: The German View of Market-Garden and the Battle of Arnhem, September 1944 Cooking for One: 365 Recipes For One, Quick and Easy Recipes (Healthy Cooking for One, Easy Cooking for One, One Pot, One Pan) The Constitution and the Declaration of Independence: A Pocket Constitution Prakriti: Your Ayurvedic Constitution (Your Ayurvedic Constitution Revised Enlarged Second Edition)

[Dmca](#)