

THE FEDERALIST

The *Federalist* is a collection of 85 letters to the public over the pseudonym of Publius that appeared in the newspapers of New York City beginning on October 27, 1787 and that concluded on August 16, 1788. It was recognized that a clear-cut vote against the Constitution in any one of FOUR key states would destroy the writers' hopes for a "more perfect union." This effort was conceived by Alexander Hamilton as a supplement to his political activities at the New York constitutional convention.

The issue began on October 1, 1787 when protagonists New York Governor George Clinton and Alexander Hamilton exchanged letters in daily newspapers regarding the value of discarding the Articles of Confederation and adopting the newly written Constitution.

Ten days after the Philadelphia Convention adjourned, Gov. Clinton wrote his first letter attacking the Constitution to the New York Journal. On October 7, 1787, Alexander Hamilton responded to "Cato" with "Caesar."

John Jay [1745-1829] New York lawyer, authored the New York Constitution of 1777. negotiator of the Treaty of 1783 [peace and independence with Great Britain], Secretary of Foreign Affairs under the Articles of Confederation, and later to become the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Alexander Hamilton [1755-1804] New York lawyer who attended the convention irregularly but was the greatest supporter after the convention. First Secretary of Treasury.

James Madison [1751-1836] A Virginian and at the age of 36 was one of the youngest to attend the constitutional convention, kept thorough notes of the proceedings, was Jefferson's Secretary of State, and later President of the U.S. [1809-1817]. The "Father of the Constitution."

Authorship of these essays was generally as follows:

John Jay **wrote 5**

Madison wrote approximately 17 [Rossiter claims 26]

Hamilton wrote approximately 63 [Rossiter claims 51]

Hamilton/Madison jointly 3

The New York "Poughkeepsie Convention" voted to accept the Constitution -30 to 27-it **was** on the condition that a second convention would be called if N.Y.'s amendments were not accepted. The adoption of the Bill of Rights on December 30, 1791 reduced the pressure for such a convention.