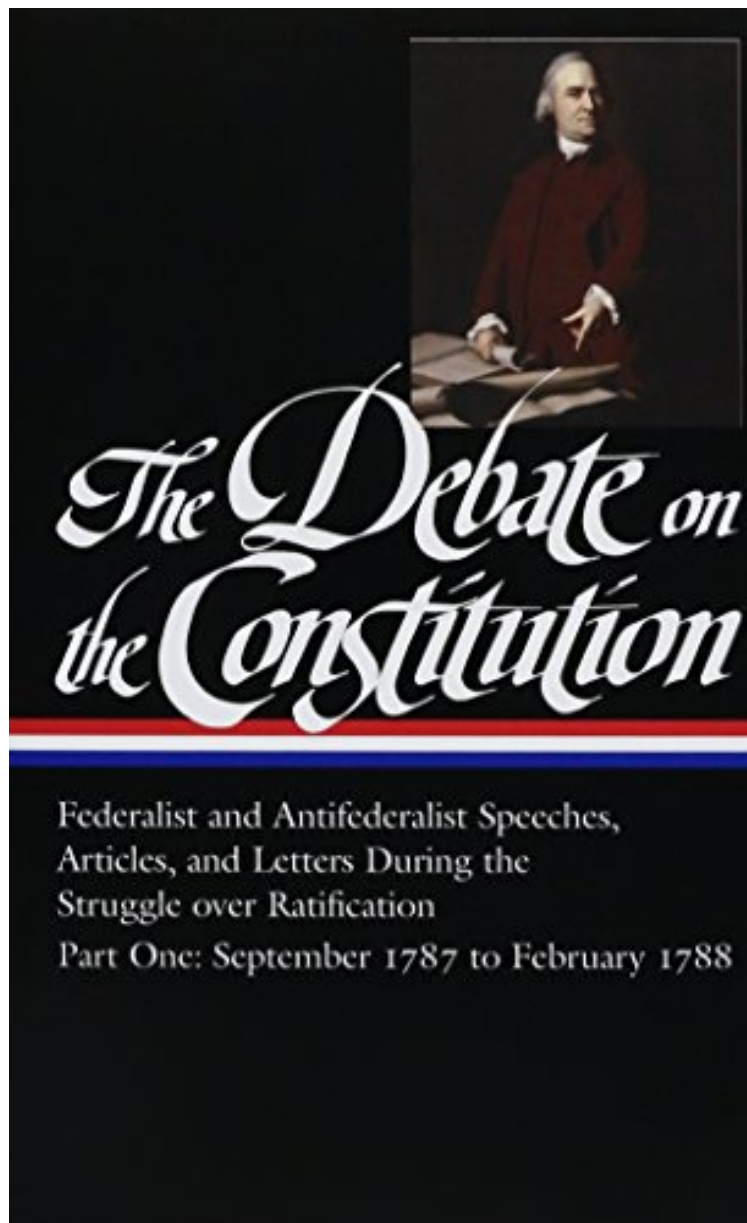


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#202385 in Books Bailyn, Bernard (EDT) 1993-06-01 1993-06-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.16 x 1.47 x 5.121, 1.69 #File Name: 09404504291214 pages | File size: 43.Mb

Various : 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) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *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)*:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. "In Order To Form a More Perfect Union".....By StrawgoldPut together by Bernard Bailyn, this splendid collection of writings, thoughts, and passionate assertions are not merely the result of today's historians putting together their "takes" (however valuable) on the subject of something so immense as the formation of the American Constituion; they are made vastly more precious to those of us - the posterity they speak of - because these intense words come to us out of the centuries past direct from the people who were living it. And, through these pages, it's still alive; and reborn to those of us who seek the collective wisdom behind how it came to be. These are the feelings and thoughts of those who were there, before the fact, trying to make sure that everything that could be thought of beforehand was also thought "through" with regards to the serious ramifications of their actions. They were the poster children for "the ounce of prevention being the pound of cure". Liberty and it's preservation was fresh in their minds. Today, we take it for granted; a danger; and they knew that would happen too unless something stood between us and the danger zone. It had to be done right the first time because it was likely going to be impossible to go back and do it again. Danger was all around them. There was danger in the Federalist proposals, danger in the anti-Federalist counter-arguments. On one hand, after reading these epistles, we can plainly understand the pitfalls feared, because we see the results today. But we also can visualize the need to unite in one central nucleus or risk it all through fragmentation and self-interests of the independent states, under full sovereignty. The old saying "United we Stand, Divided we might Fall" rings true as we absorb. It was indeed, a gathering of our mighty, men (with women behind the scenes) who not only dared to speak frankly, but had the courage to do so as they exercised their newly found - if yet unsanctioned - rights afforded by the hard-won revolt against a monarchy. The reader fully understands the dissenter's fears that centralized power may gradually overwhelm the people's rights just as despotic power had done against it's citizens through so many previous centuries. If these voices had not been there, perhaps no bill of rights would have been developed to ride beside the Constitution; and most of us realize what this oversight might have meant for us today. But we had all of them; and they thought, fought, debated, disagreed, but ultimately, they put aside their differences, came together and "did the work of the people", forming "the more perfect Union" despite (or maybe because of) their human frailties. Unlike what we see happening today. (I just had to throw that in) Benjamin Franklin's speech is the first one in the collection and perhaps rightly so - his age at the time had to nail him the top spot. He was 83 and I sincerely hope my own mind is as clear at that age even though never as brilliant. Tenche Cox, proponent of the constitution, published through *Indepenent Gazetteer* in Philadelphia; Cato, an outspoken anti-Federalist, published through *New York Journal*; and of course, Patrick Henry was taking a lot of heat from the Federalists for his abject refusal of the idea. James Madison, Alexander Hamilton whom I suspect George Washington used as his mouthpiece; Thomas Jefferson, John Adams; and lesser acclaimed writers who were fully as articulate in their delivery of their arguments. It's an incredible journey back to our roots and I can never do justice to all of it - or all of them - here is this review, as it must be read, absorbed and internalized by the individual reader. Another amazing collection of American brilliance in written speech form, the Library of America's "American Speeches - Political Oratory from the Revolution to the Civil War" is, without doubt, the ultimate premiere of free thought collections you will ever read gathered together all in one spot. If you love American History of the Revolutionary period, and want to be astounded by the calibre of courageous people that lived for us during that time, men and women, creeds and colors alike, blazing trails via the power of words through the virtual untested wilderness of liberty for us, this book will provide an invaluable addition to your library. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By David A. Bensongood2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Background By Arthur Jenkins Too often our schools only teach the Federalist Papers if they teach the debate at all. This series corrects that deficit. The only downside is I know they have curated the papers and I wish the editors gave us the basis for their inclusion/exclusion decisions.

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 worlds 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).

"The best resource for understanding the morning headlines I've seen in a long time." Bill Moyers "An easily accessible set of sacred writings for America's civil religion, these two books are composed of the very stuff of history." The Chicago Tribune "Not only is it wonderful writing, it is wonderful thinking." Nina Totenberg, NPR About the Author BERNARD BAILYN is Adams University Professor and James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History, emeritus, at Harvard University. He is the author of many acclaimed works, including *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution* and *Voyagers to the West: A Passage in the Peopling of America on the Eve of the Revolution*.