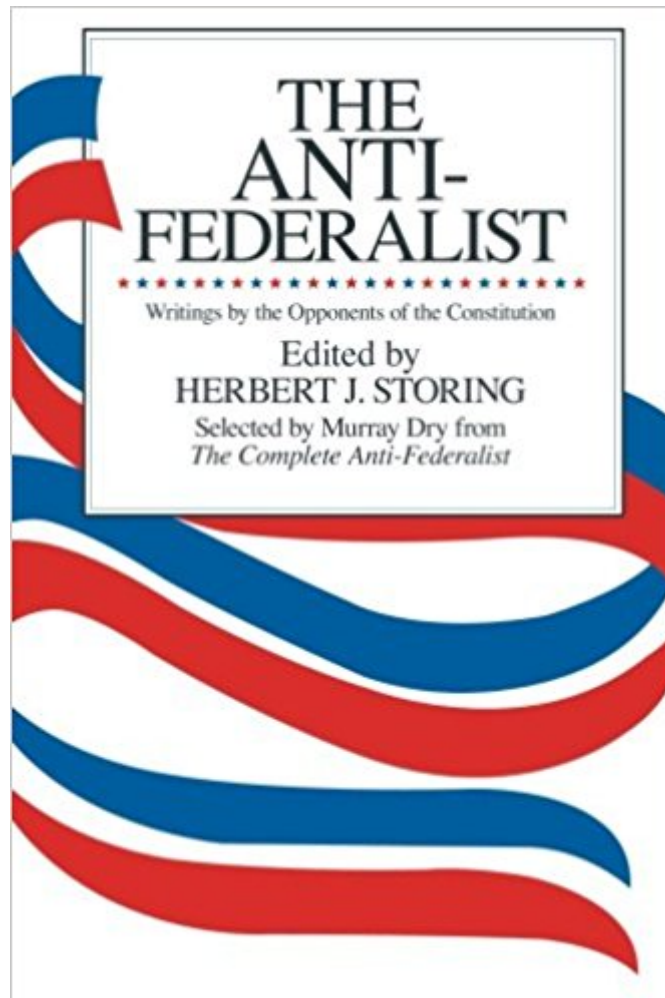


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# The Anti-Federalist: Writings By The Opponents Of The Constitution



## Synopsis

Herbert J. Storing's *Complete Anti-Federalist*, hailed as "a civic event of enduring importance" (Leonard W. Levy, *New York Times Book Review*), indisputably established the importance of the Anti-Federalists' writings for our understanding of the Constitution. As Storing wrote in his introduction, "If the foundation of the American polity was laid by the Federalists, 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." This one-volume edition presents the essence of the other side of that crucial dialogue. It can be read as a genuine counterpart to the *Federalist Papers*; as an original source companion to Storing's brilliant essay *What the Anti-Federalists Were For* (volume I of *The Complete Anti-Federalist*, available as a separate paperback); or as a guide to exploring the full range of Anti-Federalist writing. *The Anti-Federalist* makes a fundamental source of our political heritage accessible to everyone.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The purpose of this abridgment of Herbert J. Storing's *The Complete Anti-Federalist* is to provide students of American political thought, especially those concerned with the American founding, with a one-volume companion to *The Federalist*. The writings and speeches have been chosen on the basis of the importance of their arguments and their prominence in the ratification campaign.

Herbert J. Storing (1928-77), who spent most of his professional life at the University of Chicago, was, at the time of his death, Robert K. Gooch Professor of Government and the director of the

Program on the Presidency, White Burkett Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia.  
Murray Dry, who prepared this abridgment, is the Charles A. Dana Professor of political science at Middlebury College.

Storing, one of the foremost experts on the Federalist / Antifederalist debates provides great insight into the thinking of the Antifederalists. His introduction to the sections provide key insights into Antifederalist thinking, illuminating the deep reservations they had over what they saw as a "radical" departure from the Federalist principles of the Articles of Confederation. A wonderful resource for those interested in colonial history and the genesis of our Constitution.

Outstanding collection of documents.

Good read!!

Get into pre-civil war politics. Read it.

Sure, it is abridged, but perhaps not all of us have the time to read all 7 volumes. I think it is pretty important that you read both sides of the argument (get a copy of the federalist papers as well, I got this one: 1441413049) There are strong reasons both for and against a strong federal government rather than a weaker one where states have most of the power. It is really quite enlightening to see both sides of the argument. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Patrick Henry are some of the most recognized names of the time, and they were all anti-federalists. Why were they against the constitution? 1) Too much power to the federal gov, at the expense of states 2) Executive branch was too powerful 3) The government could maintain an army even when not at war (military industrial complex ring a bell, anyone?) 4) "Necessary and proper" or elastic clause gave congress way too much power - seems like our congress today is doing much more than "necessary and proper" to use their enumerated powers. I'd have said at this point in time, seeing what has become of our federal government, the anti-federalists were right. Although I haven't read other editions, from what I have read of what others have to say, Herbert Storing's version in terms of unabridged is unrivaled. Seems like even the abridged version is quite good relative to other editors (from reviews I have read this seems to be the case).

Herbert J. Storing (1928-1977) was a professor of Constitutional History and Law at the University

of Virginia. This book is the Introduction to his 1977 complete seven-volume set of letters, pamphlets, and speeches in *The Complete Anti-Federalist*. The Introduction to his seven-volume set is also available separately: *What the Anti-Federalists Were For: The Political Thought of the Opponents of the Constitution* by Storing, Herbert J. published by University Of Chicago Press Paperback. One writer notes, "The senate, the great efficient body in this plan of government, is constituted on the most unequal principles. The smallest state in the union has equal weight with the great states of Virginia, Massachusetts, or Pannsylvania..." (Pg. 19) One writer criticizes the power of the judges: "(T)here is no power above them that can control their decisions, or correct their errors... in many cases their power is superior to that of the legislature." (Pg. 184) Another observes, "The powers of Congress under the new constitution, are complete and unlimited over the PURSE and the SWORD, and are perfectly independent of, and supreme over, the state governments." (Pg. 210) Another laments, "The non-attendance of eight or nine men, who were appointed members of the convention, I shall ever consider as a very unfortunate event to the United States. Had they attended, I am pretty clear, that the result of the convention would not have had that strong tendency to aristocracy now discernible in every part of the plan." (Pg. 37) A writer suggests, "It is not possible to collect a set of representatives, who are acquainted with all parts of the continent. Can you find men in Georgia who are acquainted with the situation in New Hampshire?" (Pg. 354) A writer argues, "A free republic will never keep a standing army to execute its laws. It must depend upon the support of its citizens." (Pg. 115) Another argues in favor of a Bill of Rights, "Ought not a government, vested with such extensive and indefinite authority, to have been restricted by a declaration of rights?" (Pg. 122) This abridgement is an excellent and broad introduction to the actual writings of the Anti-Federalists.

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