Ashley Schweizer

Dr. Carver

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Paper #1: Federalist Paper 35

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After many discussions and reading Federalist Paper 35, I can say wholeheartedly I agree with Humiliation’s statement and agree with his reasonings behind it. Following the failure of the Articles of Confederation, framers such as John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison decided to draft up new laws and legislation. The Federalist Papers were written by these men between October of 1787 and August of 1788. Over 85 papers were written, but one of the more well-known paper happened to be Federalist Papers 35.

In this paper, Hamilton argues that the national government should have the power to tax the nation universally because taxation from the states could create inequality. Hamilton said “Power of taxation in the Union, I shall make one general remark; which is, that if the jurisdiction of the national government, in the article of revenue, should be restricted to particular objects, it would naturally occasion an undue proportion of the public burdens to fall upon these objects,” (Federalist Paper 35). I completely agree with this statement because if each state was given the power to levy taxes, the economy would be so diverse in a negative way. Hamilton offered the example of states relying on imports, “The federal power of taxation were to be confined to duties on imports, it is evident that the government, for want of being able to command other resources, would frequently be tempted to extend these duties to an injuries excess,” (Federalist 35) saying some states would suffer a huge cost from those states who had the advantage of controlling import taxes. This could discourage people from trading with other countries and hurt the American economy. This could also create a huge population shift because many people may move to where items are cheapest, and if property tax is 1.02% Florida, versus Georgia’s .82%, people are more likely to drift towards Georgia. Some states may have advantages that other states physically do not have such as location or oil mines, and use that against the other states creating inequality. If the United States were able to tax everyone equally, it would eliminate any tension or arguments between the states.

Anti-Federalist George Mason did not agree with Hamilton’s arguments, so he wrote Anti-Federalist Paper 35. In this, Mason stated “The mode of levying taxes is of the utmost consequence; and yet here it is to be determined by those who have neither knowledge of our situation, nor a common interest with us, nor a fellow-feeling for us,” (Anti- Federalist 35). Mason argued that taxation should be done by the states because they know what’s best for their states and how much the right amount to tax their people while taxation by the national government isn’t individualized at all, but rather generalized. He alludes to the dangers that could arise from giving the national government so much power and provides a solution for it, giving states the power. I still believe that Hamilton offers the better argument because having the nation tax everyone versus states, eliminates the possibility for discrimination or unfair advantages and promotes equality which is needed for the foundation of a new country.

Another issue that was addressed in the papers was membership in the House of Representatives. Federalist Alexander Hamilton argued that it was unnecessary for the House of Representatives to be made of all different classes of people because the house would include people who can represent for those not included. He stated, “They truly form no distinct interest in society, and according to their situation and talents, will be indiscriminately the objects of the confidence and choice of each other, and other parts of the community,” (Federalist 35). Hamilton gave the example of merchants and manufacturers, because merchants want to protect manufactures. They want to protect manufactures because they provide them with items merchants use to trade. I agree with this statement, because it would be almost impossible to have everyone represented in the House of Representative but what isn’t impossible, is having many professions who have partnerships with other professions. I relate this to our current House of Representatives, with a membership of 435 people. In the Constitution, it is stated “The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of several states,” (Article 1 Section 2 Constitution). Although this a large group of people, not every single class or profession is represented so the people must represent those who they think can best characterize their voice.

The Anti-Federalist felt that this was impossible and not in the best interest of the people. In Anti-Federalist Paper 55, the Federal Farmer stated that, “I think these positions will not be controverted, nor the one I formerly advanced, that a fair and [equal representation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representation_%28politics%29) is that in which the interests, feelings, opinions and views of the people are collected, in such manner as they would be were the people all assembled,” (Ant-Federalist Paper 55). He argued that not everyone’s voice will be heard or interest will be matched. I believe that it is impossible to get everyone’s opinions on everything and that is why Hamilton’s idea was perfect for the new United Nations because it still gave everyone a chance to be represented in a group, just not individualized. I think the anti-federalist argument is quite contradictory to their own legislation because with state government in control, not everyone got a say their either. Between the two, I agree most with Hamilton’s argument because it is more logical and do able.

Overall, I agree with Federalist Paper 35 because it helps create a united government that prevents the creation of tension between other unions. It provides a middle ground for all states and a strong centralized government that is needed to build a successful nation. Hamilton argued the two issues, House of Representatives and taxation well and had the best interest of the people in mind.

# Bibliography

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