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Federalist and Antifederalist: The Origin of the Terms > From Tories and Whigs to
Federalists and Antifederalists

A Republican

Portsmouth *New Hampshire Spy*, 13 October 1787

(excerpt)

. . . We have for a long time distinguished the friends and enemies to their country by using the epithets of *whig* and *tory*, which (in my opinion) ought no more to be mentioned, but as a substitute, make use of the terms *Federal* and *Antifederal*,¹ the latter so opprobrious a name as only fit for a daemon! But yet I fear we have a few such among us—some from the base principle of wishing the existence of *tender acts* and *paper money*, to defraud their creditors—some from an idea of being once more under the *old government*, as they term it—some merely for the sake of opposing because they had no hand in framing it—and others of a levelling disposition, preferring anarchy and confusion to good government. But the *Federal Man* will, with heart and hand, assist in establishing the Constitution, as being the best adapted to the exigencies of the several states of any thing that that could be devised, and at the same time treat all those that oppose it as *traitors* to their country.

1. The *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 12 September, printed the following two-sentence item: “The former distinction of the citizens of America (says a Correspondent) into whigs and tories, should be lost in the more important distinction of *fœderal* and *antifœderal* men. The former are the friends of liberty and independence—the latter are the enemies of liberty, and the secret abettors of the interests of Great-Britain.”

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XXVIII: New Hampshire (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2017), 15–16.