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Federalist and Antifederalist: The Origin of the Terms > Opponents of the Constitution  
Resist Being Labeled Antifederalists

## Thomas a Kempis *Massachusetts Centinel*, 12 December 1787

*A certain antifederal paper of Monday had the following  
DEFINITIONS.*

“A FEDERALIST is a friend to a federal government.—An ANTIFEDERALIST is an enemy to a confederation: Therefore, the Friends to the new plan of *Consolidation* are antifederal; and its opposers are firm federal patriots.”

Thus we see, Mr. RUSSELL, the antifederal junto ashamed of their appellation, and wishing to remove its odium upon the federalists: But in vain is the endeavour—*the Ethiopian cannot change his skin—nor the leopard its spots.*

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