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

## A Farmer III (Part 1)

### Baltimore *Maryland Gazette*, 7 March 1788 (excerpt)

There are but two modes by which men are connected in society, the one operates on individuals, this has always been, and ought to be called, *national government*; the other which binds States and governments together (not corporations, for there is no considerable nation on earth, despotic, monarchical, or republican, that does not contain many subordinate corporations with various constitutions) this last has heretofore been denominated a *league or confederacy*. — The term *fœderalists* is therefore improperly applied to themselves, but the friends and supporters of the proposed constitution. — This abuse of language does not help the cause, — every degree of imposition serves only to irritate, but can never convince. — They are *national men*, and their opponents, or at least a great majority of them, are *fœderal*, in the only true and strict sense of the word. — . . .

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