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

## The Impartial Examiner II

### *Virginia Independent Chronicle*, 28 May 1788 (excerpt)

. . . In conformity with the stile of the *proposed constitution*, the favorers of it have, with a peculiarity of self-applause, ascribed to themselves the distinction of fœderalists; while those, who oppose the plan are marked with the epithet of anti-fœderal.

The strong desire, which has been manifested, for a union between the American states, since the revolution, affords an opportunity of making the distinction, as they imagine, to their advantage.—As *fœderalists*, in their opinion, they must be deemed friendly to the *union*:—as *anti-fœderal*, the opposers must, in their opinion too, be considered unfriendly. Thus on the sound of names they build their fame.

For those gentlemen, however, let it be observed that the opponents seem to act on the broader scale of true *fœderal principles*. The advocates for the new code wish all sovereignty to be lodged in the hands of Congress. This is not to connect thirteen independent states—but to form one extended empire by compounding the whole, and thus destroying the sovereignty of each. The other party desire a continuance of each distinct sovereignty—and are anxious for such a degree of energy in the general government, as will cement the union in the strongest manner. This they consider as one of the greatest blessings, which can attend their country.

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