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Federalist and Antifederalist: The Origin of the Terms > Federalists as Consolidators

Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*, 25 April 1788 (excerpt)

. . . Another correspondent observes, that the party who calls themselves *federalists* will soon change their name, since the term *federalism* has been so clearly proved, in an ingenious essay in the Freeman's Journal, to mean a conspiracy, and this without any strained construction. It may be presumed that the bulk of the *federalists* would not be well pleased to have themselves called conspirators, in common conversation, and yet this is a necessary consequence of being denominated *federalists*.

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