

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR CC.111

Week VIII: THE AMERICAN FOUNDING

Readings: *The Articles of Confederation*; *The Constitution of the United States of America*, *The Federalist Papers* 10, 49, 51, 57, 63, 69, 84

Read the Articles of Confederation together with the Constitution. What are the chief differences? What are the weaknesses of the Articles that necessitated a new form of government?

Federalist 10: What is a faction? Why are factions a problem in government? What are the two methods for removing the causes of faction? Why does Madison argue that the causes of faction cannot be removed? Why does pure democracy have no cure for the mischiefs of faction? To what extent will enlightened leadership solve the problems of factions? What is a republic? Why does a republic do a better job of controlling the effects of faction than a pure democracy? Why does a large republic do a better job of controlling the effects of faction than a small republic?

Federalist 51: What is the purpose of separating the powers of government? What is essential for the “preservation of liberty” and how should this “be so constituted”? Why should the departments not be dependent on each other to act? Explain this statement in the context of Madison’s argument: “If men were angels, no government would be necessary”. In a republican government which branch is the strongest? What are the three ways of “remedying this inconveniency”?

Federalist 49: What is wrong with appealing to the people to improve the Constitution?

Federalist 57: What are the advantages of representative government?

Federalist 63: How does the role of the Senate differ from that of the House? Should it?

Federalist 69: What is the character of the executive under the Constitution? How does the Presidency differ from a monarchy?

Federalist 84: Why should there be a Bill of Rights in the Constitution? What are the arguments against including one?

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