

A Guide to the Meaning of the Term "Federalist" in the Early United States

Name	Time period	Description	Leading figures	Example of how someone can be a Federalist in some senses of the word and not in others:	Opposed by
Federalists	1787-88	Individuals who supported adoption of the new Constitution	George Washington; Benjamin Franklin; John Adams; Alexander Hamilton; James Madison; Thomas Jefferson; John Jay; etc.	Hamilton, Madison, and Jefferson are all Federalists in this sense.	The Antifederalists
<i>The Federalist</i> (aka <i>The Federalist Papers</i>)	1787-88	A series of 85 newspaper essays explaining the Constitution and supporting its adoption (many other such articles existed, written by many authors; these are the most famous)	Alexander Hamilton; James Madison; John Jay	Hamilton and Madison are Federalists in this sense, being authors of <i>The Federalist Papers</i> ; Jefferson is not.	Various Antifederalist publications, sometimes known as the Anti-Federalist Papers
The Federalist Party	1789-ca. 1816 (disappeared from the national scene by 1820; remnants survived in New England until ca. 1830)	A political party that in the 1790s supported trade, manufacturing, a strong central government (weaker state governments), and Britain rather than France; views on government will reverse after 1800	Alexander Hamilton; John Adams; John Jay; George Washington	Only Hamilton is a Federalist in this sense; Jefferson and Madison are not, being instead members of the opposing Republican Party.	The Republican Party, aka the Jeffersonian Party, aka the Democratic-Republican Party