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US Constitution and the Bill of rights

Introduction

The Articles of Confederation was the first written constitution in the US since it was drafted in 1777 by the US congress with James Madison, James Wilson and Gouverneur Morris and ratified four years later by all the states. The congress proposed the Bill of Rights in 1789 as they met in the Federal Hall, New York, where James Madison was given the mandate as the principal drafter of the Bill of Rights. Therefore the paper seeks to expound more on the relationship between the US Constitution together with the Bill of Rights, thus describing how US constitution endorsed by Federalists was contested by anti-Federalists who demanded the ¹Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights and the constitution are essential in American freedom since they both contain the same idea, which is; the government is created to protect certain fundamental rights in people. The Bill of Rights and the constitution are similar documents since they were both designed to form a government. The constitution was amended ten times therefore leading to the formulation of the Bill of Rights. Normally, the Bill of Rights sets limits on how the government can perform its operations whereas the constitution was formed creating and constraining a powerful government that absorbed the powers from the different states. Both the US Constitution as well as the Bill of Rights are liberty symbols that give Americans the chance to

achieve their objectives and ensure that equality is portrayed in the law's eyes. The Bill of Rights specified whereas the constitution implied the American citizens' fundamental freedoms

Anti-Federalists were essential in making the constitution since they opposed its ratification, stating that the constitution moved the equilibrium between liberty and power too far. The anti-Federalists comprised of state politicians who did not want to see their influence fade, like Patrick Henry and Samuel Adams. The anti-Federalists believed that the new government would not succeed under the influence of creditors and merchants who are antagonistic to ordinary citizens' interests. They contested the federalist constitution stating that popular self-government would succeed in small societies where the leaders interacted daily with the ruled. Anti-Federalists also claimed that only wealthy men would have the ability to win the national government elections, therefore dominating the common people. They also contested the constitution stating that it threatened institutional freedom and ensured the government's limited nature. "Anti-Federalists used the word liberty as their watchword, therefore printing them in caps as they went to the polls" (Foner 536).

Anti-federalists also showed that the new constitution lacked the Bill of Rights, therefore leaving unprotected rights like freedom of speech and trial by jury, therefore undermining people's rule. "Patrick Henry commented on the Bill of Rights' absence, stating that it was the most absurd thing to the human race since the state constitutions had a Bill of Rights" (Foner 537). They had to surrender alongside their power to the created federal government. Many small farmers in the rural areas supported the anti-Federalism movements that would ensure their voices were heard. Anti-Federalists wanted the Bill of Rights since it was important to ensure that individuals' liberty would be safeguarded by placing limits on the powers given to the federal government. They also wanted the Bill of Rights to ensure that the country was not ruled

like a kingdom where the central government was so powerful that the common people feared them.

Conclusion

Having discussed the relationship between the US constitution and the Bill of Rights, how the US constitution endorsed by Federalists was contested by anti-Federalists who demanded the Bill of Rights, the anti-federalists ensured that American citizens are given equal and fair judgment through the Bill of Rights, promoting individual liberty. They struggled, and although the first ratification proposed by the anti-federalists was rejected, the Bill of rights was amended to the constitution, therefore giving Americans the freedom and rights they boast of today.

Work Cited

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