

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Conflicting Sovereignties: Early Republic Constitutionalism for College Students

Analyze the ideological friction between Mercy Otis Warren and Publius as a primary source analysis or seminar prep activity for elective history courses.

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**1. The 1780s 'Critical Period' was defined by the transition from republican localism to what political concept, championed by figures like James Wilson?**

**Answer:** B) Popular sovereignty over state-based sovereignty

James Wilson argued that sovereignty resided in 'the people' collectively rather than in the state governments, providing the theoretical basis for a stronger federal structure that bypassed state legislatures.

**2. True or False: Elbridge Gerry refused to sign the final draft of the Constitution due to the absence of a Bill of Rights and concerns over the 'unlimited' power of the Senate.**

**Answer:** A) True

Gerry, along with Mason and Randolph, was a prominent 'non-signer' who feared that the lack of explicit protections and the structure of the Senate would lead to an aristocratic junta.

**3. The \_\_\_\_ of 1798 synthesized the compact theory of government, arguing that states had the right to interpose or nullify unconstitutional federal laws.**

**Answer:** B) Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions

Authored anonymously by Jefferson and Madison, these resolutions asserted that the federal government was an agent of the states and that states could judge the constitutionality of federal acts.

**4. In the context of late 18th-century fiscal policy, how did Alexander Hamilton's 'Report on Public Credit' intend to use the national debt as a 'national blessing'?**

**Answer:** C) By tying the economic interests of the wealthy elite to the survival of the federal government

Hamilton believed that by funding the debt at face value, the federal government would secure the loyalty of domestic and foreign creditors, cementing the new state's stability.

**5. The \_\_\_\_ of 1800 is often cited by historians as a 'bloodless revolution' because it demonstrated the first peaceful transfer of power between opposing political factions.**

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**Answer:** C) Election

The Election of 1800 saw the defeat of the incumbent Federalists by the Democratic-Republicans, proving that the constitutional framework could withstand radical shifts in executive ideology.

**6. True or False: The 'Anti-Federalist' papers were a coordinated, single-authored effort designed to mirror the structural systematic approach of The Federalist Papers.**

**Answer:** B) False

Unlike the 'Publius' collaboration, the Anti-Federalist writings were various, uncoordinated essays from authors using diverse pseudonyms like 'Brutus,' 'Cato,' and 'The Federal Farmer.'

**7. Which specific judicial interpretation in 'Chisholm v. Georgia' (1793) led almost immediately to the ratification of the Eleventh Amendment?**

**Answer:** B) The assertion that individuals could sue states in federal court

The Court ruled that Article III allowed citizens of one state to sue another state, which states saw as a catastrophic blow to their sovereign immunity, prompting a constitutional correction.

**8. The \_\_\_\_ Compromise served as the foundational agreement regarding the bicameral structure of the legislature, balancing proportional and equal representation.**

**Answer:** A) Connecticut

Often called the Great Compromise, the Connecticut Compromise blended the Virginia and New Jersey plans to satisfy both large and small states.

**9. How did the 'Society of the Cincinnati' factor into the constitutional debates of the late 1780s?**

**Answer:** B) They represented the hereditary military elite that Anti-Federalists feared would dominate the new government

This hereditary society of Revolutionary War officers sparked fears of a nascent American aristocracy, fueling the rhetoric of those who wanted strict checks on a central government.

**10. True or False: The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 was passed under the Articles of Confederation and established the precedent that the federal government could regulate the expansion of slavery into new territories.**

**Answer:** A) True

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The Ordinance was a major legislative success of the Confederation Congress, prohibiting slavery in the territory north of the Ohio River and setting the stage for future sectional conflicts.