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Q.1 Compare and contrast the theories of government held by Federalists and Anti-Federalists?

I. Introduction:

The Federalists and Anti-Federalists had different views on government, especially regarding the structure, power, and role of a central authority. On the one hand, Federalists believed in a strong central government, supported new Constitution, feared weak central government would lead to chaos, economic instability, and foreign domination. Moreover, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay were prominent federalists. On the other hand, anti-federalists favoured strong government and a limited central government, opposed the constitution and they insisted on the inclusion of a bill of rights to ensure protections against government overreach and to safeguard personal liberties. However, these differences played a key role

in the debates regarding the ratification of the U.S. constitution in the late 18th century.

2. Federalists Government:

(i) Beliefs About Central Government:

Federalists supported a strong central government to maintain order, promote economic stability, and protect national security.

Besides, they viewed the articles of confederation as weak to handle the needs of a growing nation.

(ii) Support for the New Constitution:

Federalists supported the new constitution, which created a federal system with checks and balances to prevent any one branch from gaining too much power.

(iii) Key Figures:

Alexander Hamilton, James

DATE: _/ _/ _

Madison, and John Jay were prominent federalists. They also authored the Federalist Papers to defend and explain the constitution.

(iv) Concerns of Federalists:

They feared that a weak central government would lead to chaos, economic instability, and foreign domination.

(v) Views on Rights:

Initially, the federalists opposed the bill of rights, considering it unnecessary because the constitution already limited the government's powers. However, later on, they supported it to appease anti-federalist concerns.

3. Anti-Federalists Government:

(i) Beliefs About Central Government:

Anti-federalists favoured strong state system and a limited central government.

central government. They had a fear that a powerful federal government would become tyrannical.

(ii) Opposition of the Constitution:

Anti-Federalists opposed the constitution as it was initially proposed. They believed that it would give much power to the national government, and it lacked explicit protections for individual liberties.

(iii) Key Figures:

Patrick Henry, George Mason, and Samuel Adams were notable Anti-Federalists who played a key role in anti-federalist approach.

(iv) Concerns of Anti-federalists:

Anti-federalists worried about the potential for corruption, the erosion of states' rights, and the absence of a Bill of Rights to protect individual freedoms.

(5)

DATE: ___/___/___

(v) Views on Rights:

Anti-Federalists insisted on the inclusion of a Bill of Rights to ensure protections against the overreach of government and to safeguard personal liberties.

4. Comparison and Contrast

Aspect	Federalists	Anti-Federalists
Government Power	Strong central government	Strong state governments
Constitution	Supported as written	Opposed and demanded amendments
Bill of Rights	Initially opposed, later supported	Essential for individual liberties
Economic Vision	National economy, centralized policies	Localized control, protection of states' rights
Key Figures	Hamilton, Madison, Jay	Henry, Mason, Adams
Main Fear	Weakness leading to disorder	Tyranny from central authority.

5, Conclusion:

To conclude, the federalists and anti-federalists were having distinct governments and approaches especially regarding the structure, power, and role of a central authority. Ultimately, the debates between these two groups shaped the U.S. constitution and led to adoption of the Bill of Rights, bridging the gap between their opposing visions for government.