

Directions: The excerpts below were written by Alexander Hamilton during the debate over ratification of the Constitution. Read the excerpts. Then answer the questions that follow.

*Annotate
Here*

The Federalist No. 13

Nothing can be more evident than that the thirteen States will be able to support a national government better than one-half or one-third, or any number less than the whole. The reflection must have great weight in obviating every objection to the proposed plan, which is founded on the principle of expense.

The Federalist No. 30

Money is considered as the vital principle of the body politic, as that which sustains its life and motion and enables it to perform its most essential functions. A complete power therefore to provide a regular and adequate supply of it, as far as the resources of the community will permit, may be regarded as an indispensable ingredient in every constitution.

The Federalist No. 31

[T]he safest course [is] to . . . confine our attention wholly to the nature and extent of the powers as they are delineated in the Constitution. Every thing beyond this must be left to the prudence and firmness of the people, who . . . will always take care to preserve the constitutional equilibrium [balance] between the general and the State governments. Upon this ground . . . it will not be difficult to obviate [overcome] the objections which have been made to an indefinite power of taxation in the United States.

1. Identifying According to evidence presented in the excerpts, what is Hamilton's purpose for writing?

2. Specifying What important issue during this time period shaped Hamilton's ideas as expressed in the excerpt from *The Federalist*, No. 30?

Applying the Skill

Directions: Use the excerpt to answer the questions below. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- What main objection that others had to the Constitution does Hamilton address?
 - The states might become too powerful.
 - The states might not have equal representation.
 - The union might not be strong enough to last.
 - The national government might abuse its power to tax.
- What can you infer about the "proposed plan" to which Hamilton refers in *The Federalist*, No. 13?
 - It requires all states to help support the national government.
 - It will cost more money than all the states combined can afford.
 - It has the support of only thirteen states.
 - It needs the support of only one-third of the states to pass.
- According to the excerpts, which of the following best describes the political concerns of most Americans during this time?
 - People were fed up with high taxes.
 - People were wary of a strong central government.
 - People did not understand the Constitution.
 - People wanted the government to spend more money.