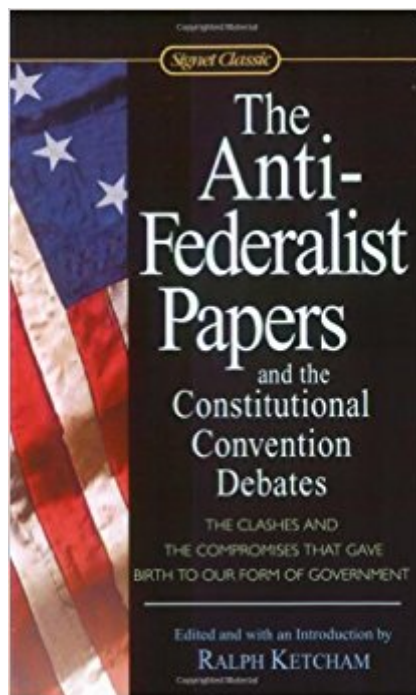




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The Anti-Federalist Papers And The Constitutional Convention Debates (Signet Classics)



Synopsis

The dissenting opinions of Patrick Henry and others who saw the Constitution as a threat to our hard-won rights and liberties.

Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Signet (May 6, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780451528841

ISBN-13: 978-0451528841

ASIN: 0451528840

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 1 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (85 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #24,462 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Law > Constitutional Law #20 inÂ Books > Law > Constitutional Law > General #47 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Classics

Customer Reviews

Everyone is probably familiar with what the Anti-Federalist papers are, and the other reviews do a great job of explaining this aspect for those who aren't, so there is no great need to do it again. Needless to say, familiarity with the basic Anti-Federalist arguments and their general themes is essential to understanding the foundation from which the Constitution arose and the twists its historical development would undertake. Believe it or not, but strains of Anti-Federalism are apparent even in today's politics, like the arguments for state power found in debates about topics like abortion or gay-marriage. The biggest question to ask before buying this book, then, isn't why the information is important, but why you should pay money for something that can be found for free online. There are several reasons, for which I give this edition 4 stars: First, it is an accompaniment to the Signet Classics edition of the Federalist Papers, and has a variety of cross-references to it. If you have both, it makes the search for certain topics and both sides' arguments in its regard much easier. Second, it has a great introduction. The problem with approaching the Anti-Federalists without any editorial priming beforehand (whether from an introduction, a class, or both) is that one becomes liable to think of the group as nothing but a rag-tag group of guys with as many different opinions as there are men professing them, whose only point of unity is their opposition to

Federalism. Their negative name--the "Anti-"Federalists--implies this, after all, and Madison himself tries to play off this point in one of his papers.

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